

# Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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## Planning for NRP's future

Opportunities for community input are being planned to discuss a proposed framework to guide the focus, funding and governance of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

The framework was presented to the City Council's Committee of the Whole on December 20. It will now be taken directly to communities and other key stakeholders throughout Minneapolis for input this winter before going to the full Council.

The framework was put together by a work group assigned with helping establish a City position on the NRP. This group included representation from the Council and the Mayor's office, as well as the director of the NRP.

Taken together, the recommendations will preserve neighborhood groups' autonomy and provide funding to those groups for administrative support and provide discretionary funding. They also call for more resident oversight of the City's community participation efforts and reworking the City's organizational structure toward a greater alignment of neighborhoods' visions and City goals and processes.

The work group's charge was to frame options for:

- A proposed administrative structure to support community engagement activities;
- Expectations of services community or neighborhood organizations would provide through citizen participation contracts; and
- Extending or not a formal program of using discretionary funds for community-initiated projects.

Community meeting dates to discuss the framework have yet to be scheduled.

To view the full report of "Framework for the Future," go to the City's community engagement Web page: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp>.

Public and community leaders originally conceived of the NRP in the late 1980s as a way to invest in neighborhoods and quell the trend of people moving from urban areas into the suburbs. The program was established through state legislation in 1990 and is governed by a joint-powers agreement between five government jurisdictions that serve the people of Minneapolis: the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minneapolis Public Schools, and the Minneapolis Public Library.

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**Important  
Phone Numbers  
Ward 11 office  
673-2211  
35W/Crosstown  
Construction  
Hotline  
1-866-743-6590**



# Comprehensive Plan Update Open House

The City of Minneapolis is updating its long-term vision for growth and development. A working draft of "The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth" will be presented at a series of open houses in January.

This major update to the City's comprehensive plan looks ahead to 2030, describing how the Minneapolis of the future will look, feel and function. The plan describes how the city can accommodate projected population growth and pursue economic development, while preserving the character of its neighborhoods and enhancing the quality of its natural and built environment. The plan specifically addresses urban design and land use, transportation, housing, economic development, heritage preservation, arts and culture, public services and facilities, parks and open space.

"The comprehensive plan is the blueprint for growing our city. We're looking ahead to 2030 and calling on residents to help guide the work of planners for building a city designed to grow," said Barbara Sporlein, director of community planning at the City of Minneapolis.

Through a series of public meetings, focus groups and on-line surveys, the public has helped shape the updated plan. The public can review the working draft and provide additional feedback through February 15, 2008. There are three ways to submit comments:

1. Comments are welcome at five public open houses in January:
  - North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Avenue North, January 8, 5:30-7:30pm
  - Lake Hiawatha Community Center, 2701 E. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, January 12, 2-4pm
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Avenue South, January 17, 7-9pm
  - Mill City Museum, 704 S 2nd Street, January 28, 11am-1pm
  - Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE, January 29, 4-6pm

The working draft plan will be available on-line at [www.minneapolisplan.info](http://www.minneapolisplan.info). Comments can be submitted to the City directly from the Web site.

2. The working draft plan will be available on-line through February 15 at [www.minneapolisplan.info](http://www.minneapolisplan.info). Comments can be submitted to the City directly from the Web site.
3. Hard copies of the working draft will be available at all Minneapolis public libraries through February 15. Comments can be submitted on-line at the Web site above, emailed to [planupdate@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:planupdate@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or mailed to:

Haila Maze, Senior City Planner  
Minneapolis Department of Community Planning & Economic Development  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> St., Rm 210, Minneapolis MN 55415

The comprehensive plan provides a policy framework for all planning, development and other investment decisions made by the City of Minneapolis. The plan is used to develop and adopt neighborhood, small-area and city-wide plans; review and approve project-specific site plans and land use applications; review and approve public land-acquisition and disposition proposals; plan and prioritize capital improvement and infrastructure projects; and determine priorities for public financing of projects and programs. The updated plan will also include a future land use map.

State law requires the City of Minneapolis to update its plan periodically. The most recent major update to the comprehensive plan was completed in 2000 with various amendments since then. This effort refines that plan and must be completed in 2008 to meet regional planning requirements overseen by the Metropolitan Council. More information is available online at [www.minneapolisplan.info](http://www.minneapolisplan.info).

# Board of Education Strategic Planning

At the school board meeting on Tuesday, December 11, the Minneapolis Board of Education adopted a set of nine recommendations that will increase overall student achievement, address the achievement gap among ethnic groups, and aim to prepare all students for college.

The nine recommendations, which will serve as the framework of the strategic plan, are grouped in three broad categories: Increase equity, expectations and achievement; focus resources; and strengthen relationships.

## ***Increase equity, expectations and achievement***

- **Raise expectations and academic rigor for *all* students, aligning PreK-12 programs to college-readiness goal.**
- **Identify and correct practices and policies that perpetuate the achievement gap and institutional racism in all forms.**
- **Develop highly effective principal corps and ensure that they have the capacity to establish and lead outstanding instructional teams.**
- **Develop high performing teacher corps and provide professional development and supports to get excellent results for all students.**
- **Set clear expectations for all staff at every level; reward successes, support and develop, but remove low performers when required.**

## ***Strengthen Relationships***

- **Transform relationships and partner with families.**
- **Build widespread internal and external support and partnerships to get results.**

## ***Focus Resources***

- **Restructure the lowest 25% of schools, and increase flexibility and autonomy for lowest and highest performing schools.**
- **Create and sustain a positive financial position.**

The strategic planning process began last May under the guidance of the school board and with a strategic advisory group composed of teachers, principals, parents, and representatives from business and civic organizations. The consulting firm McKinsey & Company donated its assistance to develop a common base of facts about the district's performance and operations. They researched school district reform efforts from around the country and created the recommendations report based on their findings.

The school board set a goal to complete an implementation "roadmap" by spring 2008 that would track progress of implementation plans against the nine recommendations. The board also authorized the creation of an implementation advisory board to oversee the execution of the recommendations.

More information available at: [http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/Strategic\\_Planning.html](http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/Strategic_Planning.html)

## Monthly Community Meetings

<p><b>Field Regina Northrop</b>  <a href="http://FRNNG.org">FRNNG.org</a>            Meets Third Wednesday            6:30 PM            Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p><b>Hale Page Diamond Lake</b>  <a href="http://HPDL.org">HPDL.org</a>            Meets Fourth Monday            7:00 PM            Emmanuel United Methodist</p>	<p><b>Kingfield</b>  <a href="http://Kingfield.org">Kingfield.org</a>            Meets Second Wednesday            7:00 PM            Martin Luther King Park</p>
<p><b>NENA</b>  <a href="http://Nokomiseast.org">Nokomiseast.org</a>            Meets Fourth Thursday            7:00 PM            NENA Office</p>	<p><b>Tangletown</b>  <a href="http://Tangletown.org">Tangletown.org</a>            Meets Third Monday            7:00 PM            Fuller Community Center</p>	<p><b>Windom</b>  <a href="http://Windomcommunity.org">Windomcommunity.org</a>            Meets Second Thursday            7:00 PM            Windom Community Center</p>

## Coffee With Scott

Whatever is on your mind, you can sit down with **Scott Benson** and talk about it over a cup of coffee, from **8:00 AM until 9:00 AM** at coffee shops around the 11th ward.

Jan 3	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington Ave	Mar 6	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave
Feb 7	Anodyne 4301 Nicollet Ave	April 3	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave

## Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more than 45 boards, commissions and advisory committees. These organizations, composed of citizen volunteers, advise the City on current issues and assist the City in policy development and administration of services.

[Zoning Board of Adjustment \(closes 2/1/2008\)](#)

For more information:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

## Electronic Newsletter

Council Member Benson publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at [scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.