

November 17, 2011



Neighborhood and Community Relations Department
331 2nd Avenue South, Room 220
Minneapolis, MN 55401

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed revised CPP Guidelines. The Armatage Neighborhood Association (ANA) board reviewed and discussed the draft guidelines at two neighborhood meetings and directed neighborhood staff to attend the District 2 CPP Guideline Information meeting on November 14.

In regard to the draft guidelines and overall experience with CPP funding in 2011, the ANA would first like to state appreciation for:

- the simplicity of the application process
- quick reimbursement for expenses
- the allowance of a food budget
- flexibility and ease of reallocating budget allotments

However, the ANA also has several concerns with the proposed Guidelines:

- Food should be an eligible expense- it helps to entice people to show up for a meeting or participate in a community building event.
- It would be helpful to have a more detailed list of eligible and ineligible expenses.
- It is important to the ANA to allow entertainment expenses to be eligible. Entertainment at our Summer Festival is a big reason why residents attend. The festival allows us to bring people together to share neighborhood accomplishments and recruit residents to work on other neighborhood projects.
- In the draft, it is stated that neighborhoods "may" submit a NPP plan and at meetings we have been told that we "must" submit a NPP plan. Please clarify.
- Neighborhood Priority Plans – The ANA would like more definition of what "thorough neighborhood participation process" means for the requirement of developing a NPP. With the limited amount of funding, we would like more specific guidelines about what the requirements are for engagement given the limited budget.
- With the current funding formula, neighborhoods such as Armatage do not have extra funds to dedicate to developing and implementing a NPP. Please know that it would be difficult if not impossible to engage residents in creating an Armatage NPP without any funding to put behind it.
- There is a new requirement for an Equal Opportunity Employment or Affirmative Action plan and policy and an Americans with Disabilities Act plan and policy. Since the ANA does not have any employees, there is not an EOE or AA plan in place. The ANA has a statement on every meeting notice about granting requests for accommodations, but we need clarification on what exactly this means.

Sincerely,

Alisha Strowbridge
ANA President