

2012 Voter's Guide For District 8 Neighborhoods

Cooper
Hiawatha
Howe
Longfellow
Seward
Como
Prospect Park
U of MN
Cedar-Riverside

For Neighborhood Representative Members on the City's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

Candidate information and questionnaire responses

Compiled by the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Voter's Guides are available online at the City's Web site:
http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/2012_Neighborhood_Elections

The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-3737, TTY: 612-673-2157, at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

English: Attention. If you want help understanding this information, call 612-673-3129. **Spanish:** Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame al 612-673-2700
Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500 **Hmong:** Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab dawb txhais cov xov no, hu 612-673-2800

Voter's Guide District 8

As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 5 neighborhood representatives on to the City's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), applicants interested in serving were asked to respond to the following statements on their applications to be used in the Voter's Guide:

- ❖ How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?
- ❖ How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?
- ❖ Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.
- ❖ How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?
- ❖ How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?
- ❖ Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
- ❖ Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Candidates for District 8:

(To quickly navigate to a candidate's information, hold Ctrl and left click on candidate's name)

[Kevin Baumgartner](#)
Pages 3-5

[Marcea Mariani](#)
Pages 6-8

The City-wide meeting to elect five neighborhood Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 28, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm at Minnehaha Academy-North Campus:

City-Wide Election for Districts 2, 4, 5, 6 & 8

Thursday, June 28, 2012

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Minnehaha Academy-North Campus

3100 West River Parkway

Minneapolis, MN 55406

[\(Click here for a MAP and DIRECTIONS\)](#)

The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-2243.

All votes must be cast on June 28, 2012.

If you have any questions about the elections for Districts 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 or the Voter's Guide, please feel free to call Cheyenne Erickson at (612) 673-2052 or Carrie Day Aspinwall at (612) 673-2243. You can also find more information on our website at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/2012_Neighborhood_Elections.



1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

As a successful business owner and rental owner, and having worked for all types of companies and government organizations through my information technology business, I have unique experience with engaging a highly diverse set of individuals. From administrative assistants to senior executives, from US citizens to workers from foreign countries, I constantly adjust both my style and my work life in order to produce positive results. I often take leadership roles in various projects, which are spread all over the country. This exposes me to a high level of diversity. However, in each project/group that I am involved with, I always make my most important stance a simple one: "How can I improve this company's/organization's business and core concerns and make them more effective while I am with them?"

Also, I grew up as the youngest of 17 siblings. So, my entire life has involved working with and being a part of large groups of individuals, many with different goals and interests. This has made me a person that constantly seeks common ground. It has also made me proactive and a person who stands up against injustices and unfairness. It takes courage and fortitude to confront those things that do not benefit the best interests of the community/organization/group...especially when few may stand with you.

I believe that a neighborhood representative on the NCEC needs to possess the diverse qualities listed above in order to be an effective spokesperson both "for" and "to" the neighborhoods.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I have been a long-time, active member of the Longfellow Community Council (LCC). I am/was a member of the Purina/Longfellow Station Task Force. The Task Force came up with the first Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for the large, new develop at Hiawatha Avenue and 38th Street. That CBA continues to be a referenced document for the development of this large property.

I also am the founder of an online neighborhood forum for Greater Longfellow. I saw a major gap in my community and sought a way to address it. Then I took the action to achieve it. So I started, managed, and grew that forum into the 3rd largest community forum in Minneapolis...and it continues to grow. It is these types of proactive steps and engagements that I will bring to the NCEC.

Additionally, I continue to participate in my neighborhood organization by providing input at meetings, in various discussions of diverse topics, and via other volunteer activities: such as promoting CES in Longfellow (Community Energy Services), hanging flyers for various events, etc.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

I believe that, at least in my own community, a handful of individuals have maintained control of the neighborhood organization, repeatedly jockeying and swapping to stay on Board or in chairman positions. And this type of thing continued with the NCEC in 2008, with two of the NCEC neighborhood representatives coming from the LCC. I don't believe that sort of mini-monopoly by a small set of individuals serves the communities in the best possible manner; nor does it benefit the City. I want to change that. And I believe the community wants to change that too.

Also, since the NCEC was formed, it seems the citizens of District 8 are largely unaware of its existence. We have been significantly under-represented since the inception of the NCEC. I am a fairly well-informed person in my community; yet, to my knowledge, the community has had little, if any, communication/engagement from our District 8 representative (as a member of NCEC). I will address and change all three of these issues/concerns. District 8 is a very large and diverse part of the city, representing many different economical and cultural backgrounds. I want to bring District 8 to the NCEC and NCEC to District 8.

I believe that a lot of positive things are achieved when a community is both informed and engaged with its city. And I will be the type of representative to proactively bring about that positive engagement.

4. If elected, how do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent?

First and foremost, I will attend as many of the various community/neighborhood organizations meetings as possible.

I will also produce a monthly newsletter and provide it to the various online list-serves, neighborhood organizations, community newspapers, and individual email addresses. This newsletter will inform the citizens of District 8 about the happenings within NCEC and provide information on how to be more involved with NCEC and the City.

Furthermore, I will seek input from the various neighborhoods and residents regarding what concern them most and how the NCEC may be able to help with those concerns.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

Within District 8, to my knowledge, groups in the Cedar-Riverside area as well as some near and north of University Avenue are under-represented within the city as a whole. I will spend more of my time, especially initially, attending community meetings in those areas as well as soliciting input from leaders/members of those groups. We will discuss their concerns and also various solutions to giving those groups increased representation.

I believe in going to the source, learning the real concerns, and working on solutions together (not separately) with those groups. That is how "community" is built: through **active** engagement.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

Longfellow Community Council (LCC)

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

N/A

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

My volunteerism goes back many years and has provided unique experiences:

As a member of LAMP [Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners], I was part of a team to assist the incarcerated with institutional grievances. This connected to family members who had unique and very specific needs for a large under-served group. It was recognized that in addition to legal counsel, social services were of primary concern. Coordination with city and county groups became the norm. This kind of coordination appears to be identical to current needs of incoming immigrants to our City.

As a member of NICOV, [National Information Center of Court Volunteers] I worked to guarantee volunteers would be permitted in courtrooms to represent underserved groups. To recognize an issue related specifically to a unique ethnic group and to provide support is what the NCEC is all about.

My work with the underserved groups mentioned above, directly relates to the current work of the NCEC and the City.

- I currently work with the Hennepin County Public Works on a major project that is to transform an entire multiple-business/residential area within the City of Minneapolis.
- I currently work with a group that plans a park for disabled children to far exceed requirements of the Americans with Disability Act. This is a major community effort and learning the implementation methods such carries over to work on the NCEC.

In my experiences, I believe **neighborhood diversity is a given. An automatic acceptance of diversity is not.**

Thirteen members of my family speak English as a second language and they come from four different countries and include the Ojibway [Chippewa; Boise Forte Band] of Indians, [Native Americans to some] as family members. Therefore, my family has experienced, discrimination, racism and what it means to be ostracized and the heavily negative effects it has on individuals and families. The identifying background information is not widely known, but I believe it is important to give mention to it within this application.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

- As both Treasurer and President of the [LCC] Longfellow Community Council [23,000 residents] and Chair of its largest committee, my neighborhood allows me to gain experiences that many individuals living in certain Minneapolis sectors do not have.

Marcea Mariani

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- I learned there are communication differences between the City as opposed to other groups and the County. This information was insightful and carries forward to the work on the NCEC position.
- The church I attend in my neighborhood has African, Spanish and Somali services that allows for interaction with groups differing from mine. This knowledge carries forward to work of the NCEC
- I volunteer with my neighborhood organization and, have maintained an active commitment and help to promote recognition of the organization's goals. I have worked with the Minnesota legislature to insure continuity of neighborhood issues, and have engaged some City Council members with neighborhood issues such as the retention of a closed public school and its re-use plans. These kinds of issues appear on many neighborhood funding applications that the NCEC reviews.

In addition, I have actively participated in the [LCC] Longfellow Community Council as an executive board member, was its treasurer, the chair of one of its largest committees and served as its president. As term limits permit, I continue to be active in my neighborhood organization that represents about 23,000 members.

A currently seated NCEC Commissioner, I am fortunate that my officially recognized neighborhood organization is actively engaged with non-English speaking populations. My neighborhood organization has a "kitchen program" that involves two ethnic groups working together to gain language enrichment and to improve communications with one another. This is a City goal.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

I have been a member of the NCEC since its first meeting on June 23, 2009 and I wish to continue to serve on the NCEC.

I understand it is imperative for the goals of the NCEC, through the NCR and the City, are best maintained with consistently cooperative relationships among all three entities and for those relationships to remain strong and unencumbered.

My membership is defined with the acknowledgement that tough decisions occur and with an imbedded and underlying goal to do no harm, and more importantly, to do that which is best for the city AND its residents.

4. If elected, how do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent?

Constant connection with the represented neighborhoods on a regular basis, either by telephone, email or face to face meetings.

Maintained lists, over a number of years -- by address, telephone or e-mail according to the member's preference. In addition, I am regularly contacted by residents and I continue to be available to address_community groups, committees and boards for updates and general discussions.

I continue to work with a Council Member who calls upon me to co-sponsor neighborhood meetings. Depending upon the issues, oftentimes both print and electronic media are involved, thus granting additional coverage to our neighborhood, in addition to the wide reach at the neighborhood level.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

The LCC, officially recognized neighborhood organization, has defined and implemented several strategic plans to reach under-represented groups. This is not a new concept within LCC but has been on going as an established and routine method of work in my neighborhood for some time.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

On March 10, 2012 I was selected as "A woman of outstanding leadership in Healthcare" and received an award from The International Women's Leadership Association for my work in Opticianery.

Fruits of the City [The Minnesota Project]
Church of the Epiphany; Coon Rapids
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; Minneapolis
Longfellow Community Council

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

The International Women's Leadership Association
Business and Professional Women of America
American Board of Opticianry
Friends of the Boundary Waters
Future Homemakers of America