



NRP Policy Board

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Minneapolis City Hall

Call to order

Jeffrey Strand, Chair called to order the regular meeting of the NRP Policy Board at 5:06 pm on April 25th at the Minneapolis City Hall, Room 326-C.

I. Introductions

The following Board Members were present: School Board Member Jenny Arneson, Jeremy Hanson Willis, Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman, Carol Pass, Council Member Kevin Reich, Jeffrey Strand and Park Board Commissioner Liz Wielinski.

The following Board Members were absent: Representative Bobby Joe Champion, Senator Jeff Hayden, Christopher Hoffer and Ali Warsame.

The following staff members were present: David Rubedor, Howard Blin, Jack Whitehurst and Cheyenne Erickson.

The following guests were present: Don Anderson and Doron Clark from Windom Park Citizens in Action Neighborhood and Matt Perry.

II. Approval of April Agenda

Commissioner Wielinski moved to accept the agenda, Council Member Reich seconded the motion, all approved.

III. Approval of March Minutes

Commissioner Wielinski moved to approve the February minutes, Council Member Reich seconded the motion, and one correction was made, all approved.

IV. Plan Reviews

A. Windom Park NRP Phase II plan

Windom Park Board members Don Anderson and Doron Clark gave an overview of the Windom Park NRP Phase II plan. Mr. Anderson began reviewing the history and accomplishments from their NRP Phase I plan, most notably the housing program that provided 5 million dollars in improvements to housing stock in the neighborhood.

Doron Clark reviewed their Phase II Action plan and explained the timeline and the community engagement process that was used to ensure broad participation during the planning stages. One key outreach method that was used was a survey in English and Spanish, both surveys were available in an online format as well as

print. The paper surveys were used at the annual Community Carnival, National Night Out, outreach to businesses and during door-knocking. More follow-up outreach was done to renters and Spanish speakers.

The survey results determined that there were four focus areas prioritized in the plan, they were:

Safety: They heard the need to kick start block clubs and the need for safety improvements on commercial corridors.

Housing: They heard the need to improve the quality of the housing stock as well as address the most dilapidated housing in the neighborhood. The revolving home loan program had been successful in the past to help improve housing.

Transportation: They heard the need to develop a small area transportation plan, possible partners have been identified and work could be done through CURA. There also is a need to reduce truck and heavy vehicle traffic and identify places where heavy vehicles are allowed to travel and where they aren't allowed to travel.

Parks: They heard the need to improve the education programming at Windom Park and include an increase of cultural and community related activities for families in the park. In addition they would like to establish a signature item in the park.

Questions and Comments from Board Members regarding the Windom Park Neighborhood NRP Phase II Plan:

- Good outreach and thoughtful approach taken for the plan. Do you have any idea on the number of houses that might need to be demolished rather than rehabbed?
 - Council Member Reich answered and said that he thought the number was about six houses.
- The county has youth sports grants available for up to \$10,000 for equipment and other various items, this might be another potential funding source to look at.
- Surprised that Windom Park has 43 percent of all housing units in rental housing.
- Have you thought about how the new CPP program might fit in with your NRP Phase II plan?
 - Yes, our Phase II plan will strongly influence the CPP plan. The NRP dollars will be used for projects and the CPP dollars will be used to provide operational support.

- Good ideas on the Transportation Plan as it relates to bikes and pedestrians. Also likes your plan for the parks, do you have any ideas on what your signature item might be?
 - Yes, currently there are residents involved who have worked on similar projects in the North Loop area and are looking into an idea that involves “returning to nature” and creating a more collaborative setting rather than a competitive setting in the playground.
- Park Commissioner Wielinski noted that she appreciates the neighborhood involving her during the planning stages of the plan for the parks.
- Is the former park building at the site of the park useable?
 - The bathrooms need upgrades and the lower portion is used for a warming house in the winter. The neighborhood would like to see the building useable for practical purposes such as access to bathrooms. Currently the bathrooms are located across the baseball fields.
- How do you envision the revolving loan program? Do you know the income level cap and loan amounts?
 - For Phase I there were a few different loans, some were \$5,000 and a few were \$15,000. There were a few other low income loan programs that required residents to stay in their home for 15 years and the loan would become forgivable.
- Do you plan to use a lottery for your loan program?
 - The specifics haven’t been finalized, but there was a lottery for Phase I loan programs.
- The survey results were interesting, there seemed to have been a lack of racial identity in the results.
 - Windom Park is 70 percent white, but the survey didn’t reach the demographics like we would have liked. There was targeted door knocking to increase the numbers.

Council Member Reich moved to approve the Windom Park NRP Phase II plan, Commissioner Wielinski seconded the motion, The following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS: On April 19, 2004, the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) established the Phase II allocation available for the Windom Park neighborhood at \$563,421.00 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

WHEREAS: The Windom Park neighborhood has conducted a Phase II plan development process,

WHEREAS: The submitted Windom Park NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$563,421.00 and dedicates eighty percent (70.40%) of that allocation to housing programs, projects, services and activities,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) hereby accepts and adopts the Windom Park Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan,

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board hereby authorizes the Director to request that the City Council and Mayor [a] approve the Windom Park NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, and specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, for their Phase II allocation of up to \$563,421.00; [b] consistent with the staff direction set out in footnote “p” of the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution adopted by the Council on December 13, 2010, as later amended, to amend the 2012 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) agency Fund 01 CNR 8900-800 (the NRP fund) by \$371,955.06 from existing fund balance; and [c] authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement the activities above.

V. Role of Policy Board Neighborhood Representatives

This topic is on the agenda to discuss what the role of the Neighborhood Representatives that serve on the board. The previous Policy Board had four elected representatives and alternates and the idea is to discuss what the board sees their role as.

It was decided to discuss this topic at a later meeting due to the absence of two of neighborhood representatives.

VI. NRP Policies

- A. **Neighborhood Newsletter Policy Update:** In March the board directed staff to send notice of a 45 day review process which will end in June and staff will return in June with the comments and follow up received from the 45 day review process. To date, the department has received three comments in support of rescinding the policy. A request was made to provide Policy Board members with copies of what was sent out to neighborhood organizations.
- B. **Grievance Policy:** The board will need to revise the policy to eliminate the mandatory arbitration process provision as well as a few additional clean up items. A District Court decision in late 2011 found the arbitration clause may not be included in the policy. Staff will return with the updated language for approval at the next meeting of the Policy Board.

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VII. Update on CPP and NRP Funding

On March 30th the City Council approved the revised guidelines for the Community Participation Program (CPP). The Council also approved up to \$5.7 million in CPP funding for the July 2012 – December 2013 funding cycle.

In addition to those actions, the Council approved an additional \$860,000 in funding for neighborhood organizations the lost funding in the December 2010 budget action and are not able to access at least 70 percent of their original (April 2004) Phase II NRP allocation. This action followed an earlier Council direction for staff to develop options to have the CPP allocation formula include additional funds for neighborhoods that lost dollars in the December 2010 budget action.

The option to add \$860,000 in funding was supported by the NRP Policy Board at the March meeting.

VIII. Adjourn

Board Chair Jeffrey Strand adjourned the meeting at 5:59 pm

Minutes submitted by: Cheyenne Erickson

ATTEST: Commissioner Gail Dorfman,
NRP Policy Board Secretary