



NRP Policy Board

Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2012

Minneapolis Central Library

Call to order

Chair Jeffery Strand began the meeting at 5:10 PM noting that the official call to order of the meeting would await a quorum of boardmembers being present.

The following Board Members were present: Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman, Carol Pass, Council Member Kevin Reich, Jeffery Strand, Park Board Commissioner Liz Wielinski and NCEC member Ed Newman. .

The following staff members were present: David Rubedor, Howard Blin and Robert Thompson.

The following guests were present: Matt Perry and Peter Rickmyer

Report on 2013 NUSA Conference

Jana Metge, Coordinator of the Citizens for a Loring Park Community neighborhood organization and Conference Coordinator for the 2013 Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Conference, described planning for the conference which will be held in at the Hyatt Regency on May 22-25, 2013. The NUSA conference is the premier annual event for neighborhood organizations in the nation. After a long effort to get the conference to come to Minneapolis, we have been selected for the 2013 conference. The City and Citizens for a Loring Park Community will be co- hosts for the conference which will include numerous workshops and tours in Minneapolis.

Reich stated that the NRP story should be prominently featured in the discussion of Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. It should be explained that NRP involved more than a large funding source, but also established support for many neighborhood organizations.

Dorfman also noted that the role of Hennepin County and the other jurisdictions in the NRP should also be noted.

Board Member Carol Pass arrived at 5:45 and the meeting was officially called to order.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted

Approval of April Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Review and Action on Newsletter Policy

Blin reviewed the existing policy which prohibits neighborhood organizations which receive NRP funding from accepting paid advertising in their newsletters. The Policy Board reviewed this issue at the March meeting and directed staff to conduct a 45 day review during which neighborhoods and community newspapers would be notified that a change to the policy was being considered to remove the prohibition on paid advertising. At the end of the 45 day review, comments were received from nine neighborhoods and one newspaper. All but one of the neighborhoods which responded favored eliminating the prohibition. The only newspaper to respond opposed changing the policy. Staff is recommending that the policy be amended to eliminate the prohibition on ads.

Wielinski asked if conditions had changed to warrant a change to the policy. Blin responded that the original policy was established in response to concerns from community newspapers of unfair competition from subsidized neighborhood newsletters. That appears to be less of a concern today. While 14 newspapers were contacted about the proposed change, only one responded. Staff had conversations with publishers of two other newspapers who did not express concern about the change and stated that there is a closer relationship between community newspapers and neighborhoods than existed when the policy was first adopted.

Members of the audience were asked to speak on the proposed change. Matt Perry and Peter Rickmyer spoke in favor of the change.

Motion Reich, Second Dorfman to revise the policy consistent with the staff recommendation.

Newman suggested substitute language to the policy amendment which would read:

Neighborhoods may request that the costs of preparing, printing and distributing a regular publication on their neighborhood NRP activities be included in their administrative budget for plan development and implementation. Publications may also include funding from businesses and institutions in exchange for ads.

Motion Newman, Second Reich to accept the substitute language. Motion carried 6-0

The Board discussed whether accepting paid advertising would affect the non-profit status of neighborhood organizations. Reich suggested that when the new policy is distributed, information on the potential tax implication also be sent out.

The main motion carried 5-1 (Wielinski voted no).

Review and Action on the Grievance Policy

Blin described that a 2011 ruling in Hennepin County District Court requires a change to the policy, in particular the section which states that decisions on grievances made

by the Policy Board Implementation Committee are final. The Court found this clause unconstitutional and that all decisions could be appealed to a court.

The Board discussed how the proposed grievance policy conformed to the grievance policy in the recently adopted Community Participation Program (CPP) guidelines. It was decided to continue action on any revisions to the NRP policy until further analysis on how it conformed to the CPP policy could be completed.

Neighborhood Priority Plan Process

Thompson presented information on the process developed as part of the recent revisions to the Community Participation Program guideless for neighborhoods to develop Neighborhood Priority Plans. Rubedor described the coordination among City departments which will be required to respond to the neighborhood priorities.

Dorfman asked if neighborhoods are fully aware of the difference between NRP Action Plans and Priority Plans. Thompson responded that the process of education neighborhoods is ongoing.

Wielinski asked if neighborhood would be able to projects such as school or park improvements. Thompson responded that it those types of projects would be possible if those priorities are identified through a community engagement process. He also noted that there is less money available than through the NRP.

Pass stated a concern that the Priority Plan process lead to actual projects being funding and not create a process of endless discussion.

Newman noted that the Priority Plans were designed to avoid problems of Action plans when money could be committed to project without know what total cost would be. Priority plans are more high level planning documents which require detailing what full project costs would be.

Other Business

There was no other business before the Board.

Adjourn

Board Chair Jeffrey Strand adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm

Minutes submitted by: Howard Blin

ATTEST: Commissioner Gail Dorfman,
NRP Policy Board Secretary