

Report to the NRP Policy Board

FROM: David Rubedor, NCR Director

DATE: November 20, 2012

SUBJECT: Central Neighborhood/ NRP Phase II Plan

ATTACH.: Central Neighborhood NRP Phase II Plan

Central Neighborhood NRP Phase II Plan spreadsheet

Action Requested:

Approve the Central Neighborhood NRP Phase II Action Plan and Transmit the Plan for Approval and Appropriation by the Minneapolis City Council

Attached is the Central NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan (NAP) for Policy Board review and action. Pursuant to the April 19, 2004 Policy Board resolution the proposed NAP includes a Housing Allocation over seventy percent (74.3%).

The Central neighborhood is bordered by Lake Street, Chicago Avenue, 38th Street, and I-35W. Central neighborhood has a rich and storied history. Central also boasts many well-known establishments and resources, including The Spokesman Recorder newspaper (founded in 1934), the Minneapolis Urban League (founded in 1926), and Hosmer Library (built in 1917). When Bryant Junior High was closed in 1979, a neighborhood initiative lead by the Sabathani Church's Community Center organized to lobby the city and the public schools to sell the site to Sabathani. This work included rallying the neighborhood to support the concept of buying and renovating the enormous school building and grounds on E. 38th Street, creating a focal point for African American community identity, empowerment, and social change. Today, Sabathani Community Center continues to serve south Minneapolis and its changing demographics.

Race: According to the US Census Bureau, between 1980 and 2010, Central's population shifted from a narrow white majority to the current mix, which today features a Hispanic majority - at 44% - with African Americans and white residents about equal, at 25% and 21% respectively. The remainder is split between Asian, Native American, and other groups. Tied to the shift to a Hispanic majority is a large increase in the immigrant population, which now accounts for 36% of Central's 8,307 residents. Within that context, over 30% of residents report not speaking English "well," and more than 80% of those are Spanish speakers. This presents challenges to traditional neighborhood-wide organizing, but also has been a major contributor to new business development.

THE PHASE II PROCESS

During the spring and summer of 2011, CANDO engaged a consultant to help determine neighborhood priorities for the Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan. A number of strategies were utilized, including a random household survey mailed to 400 residents and an online survey. In addition, stacks of surveys were delivered to block leaders for Neighborhood Night Out and CANDO staff had a table on the first floor of Sabathani Community Center, asking Central residents to fill out the survey. A Spanish interpreter was also made available during this outreach to the residents. This major effort to connect with residents brought in 212 completed four page surveys. In addition, throughout the spring and summer of 2011, volunteers provided outreach about the neighborhood, its programs, and its planning phase, both through door knocking and by interviewing at local businesses and the Hosmer Library.

In reviewing the surveys, responses fell into three major areas:

1. Community Leadership (under Phase I, there were two committees: Community Building and Youth and Family)
2. Housing (under Phase I, called Housing and City Services)
3. Economic Development (under Phase I called Business and Economic Development)

The Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan allocates \$812,586.00 in the following manner.

Community Building/Youth & Family	\$ 95,000.00
Housing	\$560,000.00
Economic Development	\$ 70,374.00
Phase II Implementation	\$ 87,212.00
TOTAL:	\$812,586.00

The Phase II Plan continues the neighborhood's commitment to improve the quality of housing by investing \$560,000.00 of these funds into enhancing the neighborhood by maintaining and improving its historic housing stock, supporting homeowners and renters, and encouraging good landlord practices.

Also, by creating a safe, healthy neighborhood with opportunities for all residents to participate in activities and building community, the neighborhood organization plans to attract new businesses, support current businesses and encourage economic growth that serves to benefit the community and its residents.

Based on my review of the Plan, I recommend that the Policy Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: On April 19, 2004, the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) established the Phase II allocation available for the Central Neighborhood NRP neighborhood at \$812,586.00 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

WHEREAS: The Central Neighborhood NRP has conducted a Phase II plan development process,

WHEREAS: The submitted Central Neighborhood NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$812,586.00 and dedicates at least seventy percent (77.20%) 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 Central Neighborhood NRP 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 Central Neighborhood 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 \$812,586.00; [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 \$526,071.94 from existing fund balance; and [c] authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement the activities above.