

## Report to the NRP Policy Board

FROM: David Rubedor, NCR Director

DATE: March 26, 2014

SUBJECT: Southside United Neighborhoods (SUN) Neighborhood Priority Plan

### **Action Requested:**

Approve the SUN Neighborhood Priority Plan for the (1) Bancroft Neighborhood Association, (2) Bryant Neighborhood Organization, (3) Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization, (4) Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, (5) Longfellow Community Council, (6) Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and (7) Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association, and recommend the Plan for approval by the Minneapolis City Council

Attached is the SUN Neighborhood Priority Plan (the Plan) for Policy Board review and action. This has been developed and approved by the Bancroft Neighborhood Association, Bryant Neighborhood Organization, Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, Longfellow Community Council, Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association Boards.

The Community Participation Program (CPP) guidelines state that the goal of Neighborhood Priority Plans is to identify major initiatives for the neighborhood organization, and to communicate neighborhood priorities to the City and other jurisdictional partners. Neighborhood Priority Plans must be developed and adopted through a thorough neighborhood participation process. A plan identifies preliminary neighborhood priorities and potential partners. The plan can identify, preserve and build on the existing assets and positive qualities of a neighborhood, or identify opportunities or problems to be addressed. Plans can be as simple or as comprehensive as the neighborhood organization desires, covering a single issue, or several. These plans can be used as a way to focus discussion and marshal resources to deal with neighborhood issues or plan for improvements.

Over the past few months, the SUN partnership boards and staff have created a list of policy objectives impacting the South Minneapolis area. In October, the SUN partnership selected three agenda items for 2013-2014 based on organization capacity, neighborhood need and feasibility.

SUN Priorities:

- **Multi-Family Housing**  
Assess and improve multifamily housing and equip and activate its tenants. Access governmental and nonprofit resources to improve the quality of housing in our neighborhoods;
- **Programmatic Equity from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)**  
Address a decline in MPRB responsiveness to our community's demographic changes and desires for programming as well as cutbacks to park hours, program offerings and maintenance; and
- **Property Inspections**  
Improve responsiveness of the City's Property Inspections work and communication.

In the SUN Neighborhood Priority Plan, the neighborhood organizations identified and agreed upon the following goals:

1. The staff and boards of the SUN partnership member organizations will gain greater understanding of the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) in terms of decision making processes, key stakeholders, communication avenues and effective advocacy on behalf of the residents and businesses in our eleven neighborhoods.
2. By establishing solid relationships with elected officials, the SUN Project will share its knowledge of existing and emerging issues in our communities, communicate with elected officials, and together, affect positive change.
3. Schedule regular meetings with the city council members to discuss issues in multi-family housing and property inspections. SUN Project members will understand the City resources and opportunities to better utilize on behalf of our communities.
4. Schedule regular meetings with the MPRB commissioners to discuss MPRB communication with communities served, program equity and implementation of the MPRB Community Outreach Department Framework. Establish a collaborative process to affect positive change for residents and businesses.
5. Evaluate these goals and results to determine progress and effectiveness. Remain flexible and open to opportunities.

In addition to identifying their goals for implementation, this Plan identifies some of the barriers neighborhood organizations have faced towards accomplishing these goals.

In accordance with the policy on *Preparation and Processing of Neighborhood Priority Plans* (March 22, 2013), the SUN Neighborhood Priority Plan was sent to jurisdictional staff for review, comment and commitment to work towards the agreed upon goals.

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

**WHEREAS:** The NCR Director, in accordance with the CPP guidelines, approved the Community Participation Plans for all seven neighborhoods;

**WHEREAS:** The seven neighborhood organizations have conducted a community engagement process as identified in the approved 2012 Community Participation Plan, leading to neighborhood approval of support for the Plan as a neighborhood priority;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board hereby accepts and adopts the Plan,

**RESOLVED FURTHER:** That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board hereby recommends that the City Council [a] approve the Plan and [b] direct appropriate City staff work with neighborhood organizations and other jurisdictions to implement the Plan as necessary.

Prepared by Carrie Day Aspinwall, NCR Neighborhood Specialist (673-2243)