



NRP Policy Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 17, 2015
Lake Street Station Building, Community Room
2220 East Lake Street

Call to Order

Chair Jeffrey Strand called to order the regular meeting of the NRP Policy Board at 5:16 pm.

1. Introductions

The following Board Members were present: Jeffrey Strand, Councilmember Kevin Reich, Doron Clark, Debra Behrens, Park Commissioner Annie Young, and Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene.

Guests: Park Commissioner Scott Vreeland; Jana Metge, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association; Carol Pass, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Denny Bennett, Minneapolis Swims; Malcolm Bisson.

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

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the change to move the public comment section down to a later time on the agenda.

3. Approval of November 2014 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. 2015 Jurisdictional Appointments and Board Organization

Rubedor gave a report on the status of the appointments from the Minneapolis legislative delegation.

Selection of Board Officers for 2015:

- Chair. Young nominated Strand to serve as Chair. Approved unanimously.
- Vice-Chair. Reich nominated Young to serve as Vice-Chair. Approved unanimously.
- Secretary. The selection of a secretary was deferred.

5. Neighborhood Priority Plan – Phillips Pool

Thompson described the process for priority plans. The three Phillips neighborhoods have all committed funding to the project. East Phillips Neighborhood is committing \$50,000 of Phase I NRP funds. Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association has also committed \$50,000 through a Neighborhood Priority Plan. Ventura Village has pledged \$10,000, for a total of \$110,000. No action is requested on this item, it is being presented as an example of how neighborhoods are using their funding.

Denny Bennett of the Minneapolis Swims organization described plans for the pool and the status of fundraising efforts. Renovating the current six lane pool will cost and estimated \$2.6 million. Expansion to eight lanes, plus a zero depth entrance, will cost \$5.9 million. The pool is needed as there is currently a lack of facilities in South Minneapolis where children can learn to swim. Having large numbers of children without skills in swimming becomes a safety issue at area lakes.

Scott Vreeland noted that the key challenge is paying for ongoing operating costs. There is an attempt to set up a perpetual operations fund.

Clark stated that this example of the use of priority plans is one that other neighborhood may want to follow. This includes banking Community Participation Program funds for future projects.

Greene said she is a supporter of the project and understands the difficulty in raising ongoing operating funds.

6. Neighborhood Boards Diversity Survey

Rubedor and Thompson described the survey, noting the limitations of the survey. It was a voluntary survey and it is not possible to determine if the responses are valid since we do not know if some neighborhoods had higher or lower rates of response. It only measured board membership and not who serves on committees. It also does not measure other, possibly innovative, engagement measures.

Comments from Board members included:

- There is a need to identify the gaps in representation among neighborhood organizations and move forward.
- Beyond recruiting more diverse representation on boards, there is a need to work on retaining members once selected to boards. There has been a tendency for some to leave the boards after a short time.
- The results of this survey should be compared with other cities.

- There is a need to make board work meaningful and acknowledge that it can be time consuming.

7. NCR Report –City Council Staff Direction on Unspent NRP Funds and Use of TIF Revenues

Rubedor described the directions which involve establishing guidelines for allowable balances for unspent NRP funds and use of revenues from the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District.

Behrens stated that more time is needed to do adequate outreach to neighborhood organizations.

Reich concurred that NCR needs to take the time to get this done.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Minutes submitted by: Howard Blin