

Meeting Minutes

NRP Policy Board

June 30, 2015 – 2220 East Lake Street, Community Room

Members Present: Jeffrey Strand, Chair; Park Commissioner Annie Young; City Councilmember Kevin Reich; Ray Huber, aide to Commissioner Marion Greene; Debra Behrens, NCEC; Doron Clark, NCEC (by telephone)

Also Present: Michelle Chavez, NCR; David Rubedor, NCR; Robert Thompson, NCR; Howard Blin, NCR; Terra Cole from Heritage Park

1. Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Minutes of March 17, 2015

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Sumner-Glenwood Phase II Action Plan

Chavez described the proposal, noting that the neighborhood now uses the name Heritage Park Neighborhood Association. The proposal before the Board will serve as the neighborhood's Phase II Action Plan and the Neighborhood Priority Plan. There is vacant land in the neighborhood and with development pressure anticipated from the Bottineau light rail line, the neighborhood wants to have a voice in development.

Reich cited the great range of activities included in the plan. He stated that there appears to be good participation among residents in developing the plan and asked if this could be an example for other neighborhoods.

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Young noted that the Holman decree, which led to the redevelopment of this neighborhood, anticipated that the previous public housing tenants would return to the neighborhood after redevelopment. This has not happened.

Strand asked if the brief Phase II plan is to be a model for future Phase II plans. Thompson responded that Heritage Park is unique in that they do not have the level of funding of other neighborhoods. A long, detailed plan is, therefore, not necessary.

MOTION by Young, SECONDED by Reich, to approve the Sumner-Glenwood. Phase II Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Cedar Riverside Phase I & II Plan Modification

Thompson indicated that this item was being brought before the Policy Board for informational purposes as in accordance with the policy for plan modifications, the changes were approved administratively. He described the projects included in the modification and the changes in the budget.

MOTION by Young, SECONDED by Reich, to receive and file the plan modification. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Cedar Riverside Phase I & II Plan Modification

Thompson described the City Council direction which led to drafting policies on timelines for neighborhoods to spend and contract NRP funds. He stated that public review process for the draft policy had just concluded on June 26th.

The Board determined that since the public review period had just recently closed, action on the policy would be continued until a later meeting. At this meeting the Board would ask questions of staff.

Thompson described the history of NRP funding and the timelines for neighborhoods to develop plans, enter contracts and spend their NRP allocations. In looking at the record, the average time for neighborhoods to spend the majority of their allocation is seven years. He also reported on the results of a recent survey of neighborhood boards which showed that about two-thirds of all board members had served for three years or less. This demonstrates that most current board members were not serving when plans were developed and approved.

Reich stated that the graph on page 2 of the staff report which shows the pace of neighborhood spending of their allocation is a big myth buster and refutes the perception that money is not being spent.

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Young agreed with Reich and added that even with the turnover in neighborhood board membership, seven years is enough time to spend most of the allocations.

Behrens stated that she is hearing that there is a need for the City to determine what holistic engagement by neighborhood organizations looks like across the entire city.

The Board discussed the implications of how the proposed policy would reallocate funding after certain time limits had passed.

Strand suggested that the reallocated funding could be used for the One Minneapolis Fund and the Community Innovation Fund.

Reich suggested that a policy should be developed on the use of program income by neighborhoods.

The Board discussed the definition of administrative costs and the need to develop standards for such costs.

Behrens asked if it is a given that program income must stay within the NRP program?

Thompson responded that the statutory limits on the use of the NRP funds require that it stay within the program.

The Board agreed to review the comments on the proposed policy at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Submitted by Howard Blin

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