

Staff Report

Agenda Item: Nicollet Island - East Bank NRP Phase II Action Plan

Action Discussion Informational

Date: **October 11, 2016**

Prepared By: **Stacy Sorenson, Neighborhood Specialist**

Attachments: **Nicollet Island - East Bank NRP Phase II Action Plan , plan spreadsheet**

Requested Action

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

Background

Attached is the Nicollet Island - East Bank 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 (70.05%).

Nicollet Island is named for Joseph Nicollet, a scientist, geographer and mathematician from France who lead three expeditions through Minnesota. The neighborhood is at both the historical and geographical center of Minneapolis, and includes the 47 acre island and the portion of the eastern riverbank located between Central Avenue and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad line. The neighborhood has primarily single family homes on the Island and a large number of newer multi-family housing units on the East Bank. The East Bank portion of the neighborhood has experienced significant development over the past 20 years.

Approximately one-third of neighborhood's 1,400 residents are renters. About 84% of the neighborhood's residents are white compared to a citywide average of 61%. The percentage of neighborhood residents age 65 and older (15.6%) is nearly twice citywide average (8.5%). The percentage of residents with incomes below poverty (7.5%) is one-third the citywide average (22.6%).

The Nicollet Island –East Bank NRP Phase II Plan is built on the community engagement used to create its 2014 [Small Area Plan](#), a planning process which involved over 200 stakeholders. In spring of 2016, the Nicollet Island - East Bank Neighborhood Association (NIEBNA) convened a

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Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadio aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

NRP Steering Committee which reviewed the strategies in the Small Area Plan and then sought additional input from residents. Two surveys were conducted - including one aimed specifically at renters. Door hangers were printed and distributed seeking input into the plan. 184 surveys were returned. The priorities most often ranked #1, 2 or 3 on the survey were: Parks & Trails, Historic Preservation, Public Safety and Transportation. Responses from renters were generally similar to owners, although renters more frequently identified Historic Preservation and Transportation in their top three priorities.

The draft NRP plan was posted online and was approved by neighborhood residents and by NIEBNA at the NIEBNA annual meeting on September 8. The Plan has been reviewed by legal counsel, and all strategies have been found to be qualifying activities and expenditures under the NRP Law.

The Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan allocates \$176,119 in Phase II funds in the following manner:

Housing and Economic Development	\$ 126,619
Parks and Environment	\$ 25,000
Safety and Livability	\$ 24,500

The plan allocates over \$120,000 to Affordable Housing Support. NIEBNA plans to work with the Non-Profit Assistance Fund in implementing this strategy, using earlier efforts in Cedar-Isles-Dean and East Isles NRP plans as models. A secondary priority is support for implementation of the [Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan](#) – especially strategies aimed at connecting existing trails. The Plan is rounded out with resources and energy dedicated to transportation and infrastructure improvements, additional policing, historic preservation efforts – including oral history, documents and other artifacts – and pet friendliness.

Recommendation

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 established the Phase II allocation available for the Nicollet Island – East Bank neighborhood at \$176,119 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

WHEREAS: The Nicollet Island – East Bank neighborhood has conducted a Phase II plan development process,

WHEREAS: The submitted Nicollet Island – East Bank NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$176,119.00 and dedicates seventy percent (70.05%) of that allocation to housing programs, projects, services and activities,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board hereby accepts and adopts the Nicollet Island – East Bank 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 Nicollet Island – East Bank 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 \$176,119.00; [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 2013 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) agency Fund 01 CNR 8900-800 (the NRP fund) by \$113,768.92 from existing fund balance; and [c] authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement the activities above.