

Staff Report

Agenda Item: West Calhoun NRP Phase II Action Plan

Action Discussion Informational

Date: December 12, 2016

Prepared By: Jack Whitehurst, Neighborhood Specialist

Attachments: West Calhoun 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 West Calhoun 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 of seventy percent (70 %).

West Calhoun is located on the western edge of Minneapolis in the Calhoun-Isles community. Lake Calhoun has gone through several name changes. Some Dakota people called the lake "Mde Ma-ka-ska," which means "Lake of the White Earth." This was because of the lake's sandy north shore. Later, early Europeans renamed the lake with another Dakota name, "Medoza," or loon. The current name comes from early surveyors who mapped the western lands in 1817. They named it after the secretary of war at the time, John C. Calhoun. Calhoun was also a congressman, senator, secretary of state and vice president.

Approximately half of neighborhood's 1,300 households are renter-occupied. About 86% of the neighborhood's residents are white compared to a citywide average of 61%. The percentage of neighborhood residents age 65 and older (8.2%) is slightly less than the citywide average (8.5%). The percentage of residents with incomes below poverty (9.7%) is less than half the citywide average (22.6%).

Over the past year, the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council (WCNC) Board has focused much of its community engagement efforts around neighborhood planning. WCNC tied three planning efforts into one process – review and updating of its Phase I NRP investments,

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development of its Phase II NRP plan, and identification of key Neighborhood Priorities under the Community Participation Program (CPP).

The prospect of Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) development is on the horizon and inevitably will bring challenges and opportunities. Also, there is a growing desire to develop the neighborhood's only significant public green space so that it isn't subject to flooding and has a clear neighborhood identity. WCNC reviewed the NRP Phase I Plan to make sure its strategies and resources are aligned in a way that reflects current neighborhood priorities, and to determine where we can invest NRP Phase II and CPP resources.

The ability to combine planning initiatives into one well-coordinated process has allowed the neighborhood to use resources wisely and be very focused and strategic on the neighborhood's top priorities.

The draft NRP plan was posted online and was approved by neighborhood residents and by WCNC at a community meeting on October 11, 2016. 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 \$258,994 in Phase II funds in the following manner:

Public Greenspace Enhancement and Amenities	\$ 38,849.10
Multi-Modal Safety Improvements	\$ 38,849.10
Affordable Housing Loans	\$ 181,295.80

The plan allocates over \$180,000 to Affordable Housing Support. WCNC 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 projects related to the [Lake Harriet/Lake Calhoun Master Plan](#) – especially the green space at W. 32nd and Calhoun Parkway. The Plan also focuses on implementing recommendations from the West Lake Multimodal Transportation Study and other related studies and plans for the area.

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 West Calhoun neighborhood at \$258,994 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

WHEREAS: The West Calhoun neighborhood has conducted a Phase II plan development process,

WHEREAS: The submitted West Calhoun NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$258,994 and dedicates seventy percent (70%) 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 West Calhoun 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 West Calhoun 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 \$258,994; [b] consistent with the staff direction adopted by the Council on December 13, 2010, as later amended, to amend the 2017 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) Fund 01 CNR 8450-200 (the NRP fund) by \$170,980.72 from existing fund balance; and [c] authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement the activities above.