

## CIDNA December 7, 2010 Board Meeting Notes

The board and friends from the neighborhood gathered at 6 pm to celebrate Ken Moritz's many years of service to the community, as a CIDNA board member, and as a member of other community organizations.

The Board moved next to business.

Councilmember Lisa Goodman delivered her report and fielded questions from attendees. She addressed the proposed reduction in the property tax levy attributable to City and Park Board activities, mentioning that the City portion of the total property tax was about 34%. Other taxes go to Hennepin County and the School District, which have not so proposed any such reduction. She listed some of the drivers of the increase in taxes, including pension fund liabilities. Another factor leading to increased property taxes has been the reduction in state funds transferred to the city.

Gail Lee, Ed Bell, Steve Goltry and Claire Ruebeck reviewed the NRP committee's proposal for NRP Phase 2. Gail noted that \$100,000 still remain from NRP Phase 1.

The components of the Phase 2 plan are detailed on CIDNA's web-site, [www.cidna.org](http://www.cidna.org). NRP Phase 2 requires that 70% of the funds allotted to the neighborhood be devoted to housing initiatives. The plan proposed by the committee allocated the required amount, \$183,000, to non-profit organizations that provide low cost mortgage loans. Ultimately, CIDNA can recover the mortgage principal, and subsequent use of that capital would not be restricted to housing initiatives.

Some NRP funds would also go to subsidizing energy audits for homeowners in the neighborhood. This will reduce, or perhaps eliminate, cost to the homeowners. Energy audits provide information on ways to decrease energy consumption based on an on-site evaluation of the property.

Given the significant amount of work needed to support NRP programs, the committee also proposed hiring a coordinator, and has chosen Monica Smith to fill the role. She already fills a similar role for other neighborhood organizations, including East Calhoun and East Isles.

One area of the plan is "community building". Money in this category will fund social events, such as the CIDNA Fall Festival. It will also contribute to Hill and Lake Press.

Safety spending is also in the budget, including initiatives to reduce speeding in the neighborhood. Other budget items address the maintenance of healthy trees, and improvements to South Beach.

As required by NRP administration, all residents for whom CIDNA had mail addresses, had been notified of the availability of the NRP proposal, and invited to vote on the proposal, either by mail or by attending the Dec. 7, 2010 CIDNA Board Meeting. Approximately 25 residents and Board members were present, and an overwhelming majority voted to approve the CIDNA NRP committee's proposal. Next step is to present the plan to the NRP Policy Board for approval in January.

Art Higinbotham and Ed Ferlauto shared information coming out of meetings relating to the Southwest LRT. There is no resolution of where freight rail will go once LRT is in place. Although Saint Louis Park had agreed to the rerouting of freight rail to the spur line that passes near St. Louis Park High school, there is growing objection to that routing in that community. Kenilworth is now recommended as the "locally preferred alternative." However, co-location options are expensive, and require more land than many in the community expected. Art, Ed, and other interested parties have been meeting with neighborhoods surrounding the Kenilworth route: West Calhoun, CIDNA, Kenwood/Isles and Lowry Hill.

John Erickson also spoke. He is a member of the Park Board Community Action Committee looking at the impact of Southwest LRT on park land. The forthcoming document from the CAC addresses general principals

that should be followed, not details. The Park Board web-site provides information on meetings and documents.

Ed Ferlauto reported that Station Planning meetings so far have left the decision on a Park and Ride lot at the West Lake St. station (near Whole Foods) unresolved. This must be deferred until after a traffic study. He noted that station planning must consider the impact on property within half a mile radius of the station. He has also attended meetings where creative proposals for making the station more appealing have been discussed. Proposals have included towers on the Lake Street bridge permitting access directly from Lake St. to the station, a green roof and landscaping. The meetings have also addressed changes to the area where the tracks will cross Cedar Lake Parkway. These meetings have addressed noise and aesthetic considerations.

A joint resolution from the four neighborhoods surrounding the Kenilworth route was presented to the CIDNA board. Among other items it recommends no co-location of freight and LRT in the Kenilworth corridor. Glenna Case moved the Board approve the resolution. David Shirley seconded. The Board voted to approve.

Ryan Fox has reported on his review of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the sewer force main improvements project. Based on responses to the EAW the Project Manager, Debra Moynihan, finds that there are no responses to the EAW that require creating a further Environmental Impact Study. Ryan and other members of the community will wait to review the Engineering Document from the Metropolitan Council, and look for issues there. Ryan is working to gather information on the feasibility of burying existing infrastructure: wires, etc., from Chowen to Depot. He is also gathering information on costs for providing sidewalks in that block.

The board meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.