

CIDNA October 2010 Notes for Hill and Lake Press

The CIDNA Board met on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

Art Higinbotham, President, made several announcements pertinent to the neighborhood:

- NRP policy board election will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Crown Roller Mill Building, 105 Fifth Ave S., Minneapolis.
- The Neighborhood Involvement Program is looking for volunteers to help it assist people in need with housekeeping and yard work. For additional information contact them at (612) 374-3125.
- There will be a school board candidate forum Oct. 19th from 7:00 to 8:30pm at Washburn High School.

Art Higinbotham shared pictures of a freight train derailment that occurred along the Kenilworth/Midtown rail line on Saturday, October 2. Art had communicated previously with the NTSB regarding potential dangers of continued freight rail use in this corridor, and has followed up with a report to them of this incident. The accident did not receive much notice in the media, according to board members.

Ryan Fox, a neighbor and parent of Kenwood School children, expressed interest in becoming a board member. Following the bylaws, the President nominated, and the board approved his election. Welcome Ryan!

Ryan Fox had attended a Met Council meeting which presented the community with information about their plans for the force main sewer line to be constructed through the CIDNA neighborhood. Residents will not be assessed for this project. Construction along Sunset Blvd most likely begin in May 2012 and last approximately 3 months. Prior to that, in 2011, the Council will construct the part of the new sewer main to be located in the vicinity of the south end of Lake of the Isles. The schedule is intended to put the heavy truck traffic on Sunset for that phase before Sunset Blvd is dug up and then repaved in concrete. Plans currently call for east-bound Sunset to support two-way traffic while the main is installed on the west-bound side. Board members expressed concern about on-street parking problems. Plans do call for maintaining owner access to garages throughout most of the project.

Board members and neighbors present at the meeting expressed interest in possible improvements that could accompany the project, including:

- Burying power lines from Chowen to Depot. *(There is no city or utility funding for this, so it would require funding from individuals or the neighborhood.)*
- Creating sidewalks from Chowen to Depot. *(Again, assessments to individuals along the proposed sidewalk would be required. Residents would have to petition the city to have these sidewalks built.)*

Council member Lisa Goodman reported on several items of interest in the ward.

- The green bike sharing program is expanding and has been wildly successful. In response to board member interest in getting a kiosk in this section of town, she advised that the capital cost of initial setup needs to be funded, typically through grants. One suggested location for a kiosk was the shopping centers, Calhoun Commons and Calhoun Village.
- The last scheduled lunch with Lisa for 2010 will take place on October 27th, at the University of St. Thomas downtown Minneapolis. She will host a debate between candidates for the Minneapolis School Board.
- NECP, in many ways the follow-on program to NRP, is beginning to allot money to the neighborhoods in Minneapolis. Allotments range from under 10,000 dollars to over 100,000 dollars.

Judy Berge reported that the Fall Festival had come in under budget. The approved budget had been \$1700. Actual expense was \$1547. The Board voted to approve a \$100 certificate for an *Artrageous* family membership, to be raffled as part of a Winter Solstice celebration at the shopping center in Kenwood. The owner of *Artrageous*, Amanda Vallone, is a neighborhood resident. She volunteered at and ran the art activities at the Fall Festival.

David Shirley publicized the Wine Tasting scheduled for October 20th at Calhoun Square in Uptown. This is a neighborhood fundraiser, with the benefit that dollars from tickets sold by neighborhood representatives are donated to the neighborhood association. Tickets cost \$25 in advance. In past years this has raised an average of \$800 to \$900 for the neighborhood.

Longtime board member Ken Moritz has announced his resignation. To honor his long service the Board voted to host a celebration at 6 pm on December 7, just prior to the next board meeting. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. The board also voted to fund a \$200 donation to the Rotary in honor of Ken, who has been a longtime member there as well. The board expressed its dismay that Ken was leaving, and wondered why someone only 93 or so years old would be setting down this responsibility.

Brian Gruber, Republican candidate for the state legislature, outlined his plans if elected, and urged residents of the district to read his web-site to see where he stands on the issues.

The NRP committee submitted its Phase II action plan to the board for approval, prior to submission to the neighborhood at large for approval. In summary:

- CIDNA's Phase II budget is \$261,420. This money is now fully available for use through Minneapolis NRP.
- 70% of this Phase II funding is required to be allocated toward "Housing" initiatives.
- The Committee has determined that the best way to "spend" those dollars would be to invest in a proven organization currently developing affordable housing in Mpls. This investment will be in the form of a loan – or seed money if you will – with the intent having this loan repaid back to CIDNA and be used for future programs.
- A neighborhood survey was done last Fall. Programs and strategies were developed based on priorities indicated by this survey.

The board approved the plan. This NRP Phase II action plan will be presented to residents of the neighborhood during a meeting to be scheduled in November. Information will be posted at www.cidna.org when date and time are fixed. All residents of the neighborhood are invited to attend and vote on the plan. Individuals can acquire a copy of the plan by sending an e-mail request to info@cidna.org.

The Transit Committee reported that Southwest LRT studies continue, including the station area planning studies. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has also launched a CAC to respond to possible impacts on park lands. The CAC is working hard to describe desired outcomes along the right of way and at stations. Individual citizens have expressed a desire for longer comment periods in which to respond to plans and other statements emanating from county and transit authorities. The comment period in some cases has only been 45 days. Preference for 90 days was expressed. Currently the date of issue for the forthcoming Environmental Impact Study is not known. Transit Committee members remarked that individuals and business near the LRT route have often been unaware of the impacts of current plans on their homes and businesses. Board members and guests expressed deep concerns that the current plans may have adverse impacts on the neighborhood. The consensus of board members remains that a better route would have been along the Greenway eastwards to a routing along Nicollet, Portland, or Park to downtown. Given that plan is off the table the focus of board and other organizations remains mitigation of adverse effects. The Committee members are trying to arrange joint meetings on LRT between members of the 4 neighborhood associations (CIDNA, Kenwood Isles, Lowry Hill and West Calhoun) to explore what the groups can do together to influence the LRT process.