

Meeting Minutes

Lowry Hill East NRP Steering Committee

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Meeting held at Neighborhood Involvement Program (N.I.P.), 2431 Hennepin Avenue

Submitted by Caroline Griepentrog

Committee Present: Judy Schwartau, Mark Greenwald, Stacy Woods

Additional Attendees: Caroline Griepentrog (Staff)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:11pm as a Committee of the Whole (COW), due to lack of quorum.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved by the COW.

Secretary's Report: March minutes were not submitted by the Secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Consideration of February Financials: Receive and file.

Phase I Committee Reports:

a. Housing:

- o CEE Report: Report reviewed. Receive and file. CEE postcard: Reviewed. Postcard has been sent to the printer and should be mailed out to neighborhood property owners by CEE shortly.

- o Historic Preservation: Review Guidelines

The program guidelines were reviewed, particularly key dates for loan closings. The Committee also reviewed the section within the guidelines which states that all recommendations made by the historic architectural review panel are final and no negotiations are allowed. Once all Phase A and Phase B program participants have closed on their loans and completed the financing process, the NRP Steering Committee will evaluate how much funding remains in that strategy and will determine how to best use these remaining funds.

b. Crime and Safety:

Police Bike Patrol Buy-Back Program: Approve Scope of Services

Last year's (2006) scope of services included in packet. The Committee wants to ensure that officers are spending the majority of their time in our neighborhood. This year's scope needs to allow flexibility in shift times in order to make late night patrol shifts more attractive. Would prefer to have officers hang out at Mueller Park – and make a point to stop in the park on each shift. Need to find out when robberies occur – the recommendation made by the 5th Precinct was to tailor this year's program around these statistics.

According to information supplied by Sgt. Barry Nelson, \$621.15 remains unspent from last year's funds. We allocated (in 2006) \$20,000 in addition to \$14,875 leftover from 2005. This means that the MPD spent \$34,254 on our program last year. This seems strange, since there were problems with the contract at the beginning and difficulties in getting officers to sign up for the program. Caroline reviewed the reports submitted by Sgt. Nelson which state the number of hours worked per month, which totaled 252 hours worked from July through December 2006. If the total amount spent is divided by the number of hours worked, this comes to approximately \$136 per hour, which seems awfully high. We pay the officers time and a half – this figure does

not match up. Caroline has requested the payroll report from Sgt. Nelson but had not yet received it at meeting time. Will provide for next meeting.

COW approved allocating \$20,000 for use in 2007.

c. Youth and Education:

Jefferson Auditorium Improvements Status:

Per Ray Aponte, Jefferson's principal, all of the lighting improvements have been completed. Additional improvements to the sound equipment will be made, but they should be finished soon.

Phase II Planning:

Visioning Session Recap:

The Committee hosted two visioning sessions on February 28th and March 20th in order to gather ideas for the Phase II plan. Both sessions were underattended. There were five tablets set up for ideas from each of the original task forces: arts & commerce, crime & safety, housing, infrastructure, and youth & education. There were also tablets for office/admin as well as a miscellaneous category. Although attendance was not as high as hoped for, many good ideas were generated. All the ideas will be posted at the Annual Meeting, where we will hold the "dot-mocracy" and allow attendees to "vote" on their favorite ideas, with three green (move forward) dots and one red (stop) dot. This is not an official vote on the ideas, but more of an informal straw poll to assess where the neighborhood is at in terms of importance of certain issues.

Survey:

As part of our Phase II participation agreement, we will need to write a survey as part of the planning process. Have survey from Phase I – purple booklet. Perhaps a good idea to reuse and then will have good basis for comparison as to how neighborhood has improved and what issues remain unresolved. COW approves re-using survey and updating as necessary. People should be encouraged to fill out the survey at the Annual Meeting, but it will also be available online. Caroline to: redate, add charts where needed (for questions requiring 1-4 or 1-5 ranking), consolidate incomes and add \$100,000+ option, remove ability to choose not to answer income question. (If people don't want to answer, they won't.)

Annual Meeting Discussion and Volunteer Sign-Up:

The Annual Meeting is coming up on Wednesday, April 18th, at 6:30pm in the Jefferson Cafeteria. We will need Committee members to sign up to monitor the various task force topics during the dot-mocracy. Judy: Housing, Mark: Infrastructure, Stacy: Arts & Commerce. Caroline will also need volunteers to help flyer the neighborhood. Will send out an email to sign up.

May NRP Meeting: New Member Orientation

The project list included in the packet, which shows the current status of Phase I projects, along with other materials, including the conflict of interest policy, phase I review, phase II participation agreement, etc., will be distributed to new Committee members for the May meeting. We'll also need to discuss the possibility of doing some sort of training. Caroline has contacted Robert Thompson, our downtown NRP rep, to see if he might be willing to come in for a Board training. Will either incorporate NRP into that or else hold a separate training session.

Other Business: None.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. (Motion by Mark Greenwald, seconded by Stacy Woods.)