

Neighborhood

*Building community
through civic dialogue
and action.*

C O N N E C T I O N S

SUMMER 2003

The Corridor Housing Initiative

Finding solutions for meeting housing needs

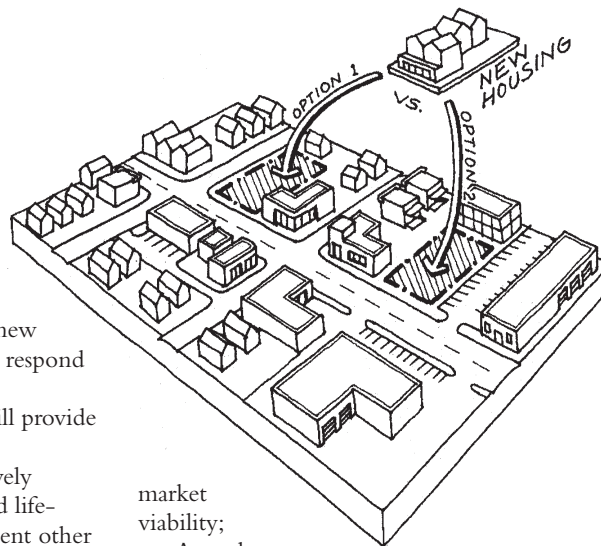
The Center for Neighborhoods is inviting letters of interest from Minneapolis

neighborhoods and community groups interested in playing a proactive role in determining where new housing can best be located throughout the city. According to Metropolitan Council estimates, the City of Minneapolis will need 26,000 new housing units over the next 20 years to respond to the projected population growth.

The Corridor Housing Initiative will provide opportunities for neighborhoods and community-based groups to cooperatively identify where additional affordable and life-cycle housing can be sited to complement other community development opportunities, align with neighborhood values, and achieve expanded housing choices for city residents.

To strengthen the fabric of the city in the 21st century, we must work together to meet housing needs while building and sustaining the economic, social, political and physical elements of neighborhoods. The Center for Neighborhoods, with funding from the Family Housing Fund of Minneapolis and St. Paul, has packaged a team of technical advisors to work with community and city partners to build support for housing development opportunities. The team of technical consultants that will be advising the project will include:

- **Design Center for American Urban Landscape** (U of M College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture) to provide a distillation of housing options, design guidelines, and land use options;
- **Center for Policy Planning & Performance** to help design an effective public process, and provide facilitation, and evaluation expertise;
- **A pool of for-profit and nonprofit developers** to offer ideas of development opportunities and



market viability;

A market analysis firm to coordinate research on market feasibility; and

• **Other consultants as needed.**

In addition, resources will also be provided to neighborhood and community groups to strengthen community outreach and citizen involvement.

To apply, organizations must submit a letter of interest by August 1, 2003 to the Center for Neighborhoods. Multiple neighborhoods and community groups are encouraged to apply together on projects that cross neighborhood or community boundaries. The initiative will offer two additional rounds, one in late 2003 and one in mid 2004. Three to five areas will be selected over the course of the year.

To receive an informational brochure about the Corridor Housing Initiative, please contact Gretchen Nicholls at 612-339-3480 ext. 1, or by email at gretchennicholls@hotmail.com, or access the Center's web site at www.center4neighborhoods.org.



Informational meetings about the Corridor Housing Initiative will be held across the city at the following locations and times:

Hosmer Library

347 E 36th Street
Wednesday, July 9, 2003
4:00–5:00 P.M.

North Regional Library

1315 Lowry Ave N
Thursday, July 10, 2003
6:00–7:00 P.M.

Washburn Library

5244 Lyndale Ave S
Monday, July 14, 2003
6:00–7:00 P.M.

Logan Community Center

690 13th Ave NE
Tuesday, July 15, 2003
6:00–7:00 P.M.

Is It a Stalemate or Checkmate? Minneapolis Struggles to Define the Future of Neighborhoods

So far it's been like watching paint dry, then crack, then chip away. The stand-off that has defined the relationship between the City of Minneapolis and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program has left many working at the neighborhood level bitter and frustrated as they watch their organizations scale back staff and programs due to lack of resources.

The NRP, created by the Minnesota legislature as a joint powers agreement involving five jurisdictional partners, sees itself outside the City's authority (to say nothing of city structure). For NRP it all comes down to the money, and the autonomy it has enjoyed for the past twelve years. For the City it's largely about money, too, and control. With limited resources to influence development and land use, city officials are hard pressed to give what little they have, especially when there are no assurances that the resources designated to NRP will align with City priorities and goals.

For some neighborhood leaders, the stand-off has felt more like a dead end. David Rubedor, Director of the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, began to gather other Minneapolis neighborhood and community leaders to participate in an effort to find areas of common ground for moving the discussion forward. The result was the Community Summit—a series of four dialogues to review the current citizen participation system, explore its strengths and weaknesses, and suggest ways to improve upon what currently exists. What emerged through that process was a set of themes and core values to guide and improve the current citizen participation system (enhanced over the past decade by NRP). In addition, a model was put forward by some of the participants in the Summit to depict how the Minneapolis system could be altered to improve accountability, while building on the strengths of what was already working well. The model creates a four tiered system (block, neighborhood/community, region, and citywide) by which different layers perform distinct roles and responsibilities.

By all accounts, NRP was never meant to be the City's citizen participation system. That system predated NRP, and will exist beyond the life of the program. NRP is a funding source that has stimulated that system's growth. The City bears the responsibility, as a funder of citizen participation organizations and activities, for clearly defining expectations and goals for the resources it provides. Estimates gauge that \$5 million of city funds are spent on public engagement. Although fragmented at best, and rarely described as a "system," the City is grappling with how citizen participation can be sustained citywide, for its own purposes as well as NRP. Now is the time for City and community leaders to come together create a system of citizen engagement that recognizes and respects the many ways that community is defined.

Publications provided by the Center for Neighborhoods

Community Summit Report and Discussion Paper

Summarized by Barbara Raye of the Center for Policy Planning & Performance

Sponsored by Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, Metropolitan Interfaith Coalition for Affordable Housing, Seward Neighborhood Group, and the Center for Neighborhoods

The Community Summit brought together Minneapolis neighborhood and community leaders to review the current citizen participation system, explore its strengths and weaknesses, and suggest ways to improve upon what currently exists. Two critical issues that further framed the discussion were:

1. The acknowledgement that there would be fewer resources, given current budget cuts and recent legislative changes to the use of Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts, to support a citywide citizen participation system, and
2. Criticisms waged against the current citizen participation system that it lacks accountability and representation of the range of community interests.

The intent was to spark discussion throughout the broader community and build unity behind its goals.

Development Handbook for Neighborhoods

Written and researched by Janne K. Flisrand

Sponsored by the Center for Neighborhoods

Development is about relationships, communication and the exchange of expertise, support, money, labor and opportunities. Neighborhoods have something to bring to the table—and should expect to receive something in return. This happens only when neighborhoods and developers work with one another effectively.

This handbook provides information to neighborhoods to:

- Prepare for development, regardless of the context
- Understand the development process and how to make it work with developers
- Participate effectively in development.

Its intent is to provide guidelines for building smooth working relationships with developers and tools to hold developers accountable to neighborhood goals.

Funding Trends for Neighborhood Organizations in Minneapolis and St. Paul: A Case Study Examination of Organizations and Collaborations

Written by Sarah Friese, Graduate Research Assistant,

NPCR/CURA, University of Minnesota

Sponsored by the Center for Neighborhoods, Longfellow Community Council, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, and East Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Coalition

Neighborhood groups in Minneapolis and St. Paul struggle in the current funding environment to maintain and secure new public and private funding. This report sets out to assess the current funding environment, identify what funders look for to identify successful organizations or projects, and provide case studies on some of the successful strategies that neighborhoods have employed to attract funding. It also

documents case studies that demonstrate successful collaborations between neighborhoods and other community-based organizations.

A Statement of Values, Accomplishments, and Intentions of the Twin Cities Neighborhood Movement

Written by Steven E. Mayer, Ph.D., *Effective Communities, LLC*
Prepared for the Center for Neighborhoods as part of its Neighborhood Futures Initiative

What makes a city a great place to live? Why we live where we live is a reflection of what we value for ourselves and our families. This discussion paper distills the core values that connect those of us within the neighborhood movement and invites a broader audience to share and participate in advancing the goals of the neighborhood movement.

Commercial Corridor Institute Report

Written by Janne K. Flisrand

Sponsored by the Center for Neighborhoods, Twin Cities LISC, Minneapolis Planning Department, St. Paul Planning and Economic Development, Minneapolis Community Development Agency, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Commercial corridors play a central role in weaving together the urban fabric of cities and shaping neighborhood character, providing important neighborhood retail needs and job opportunities. However, changes in investment trends, in transportation habits, and in demographic patterns have placed stress on many of the Twin Cities' major corridors, and they are struggling to reshape and revitalize themselves.

The Commercial Corridor Institute was designed to draw forward the creative energies of the corridor revitalization efforts in both Minneapolis and St. Paul to share stories, learn from one another, and collaborate as a network to build support and

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You are invited to attend the 2003 State of the Neighborhoods Address Co-Creating a Citizen Participation Compact

Thursday, July 17, 2003

5:30–7:30 pm

St. Anthony Main Event Centre
219 S.E. Main Street, Minneapolis

Sponsored by the Center for Neighborhoods

The agenda will include:

5:30 Social time

5:45 Welcome and opening comments by Mayor R. T. Rybak and Mayor Randy Kelly (invited)

6:00 2003 State of the Neighborhoods Address—Gretchen Nicholls, Center for Neighborhoods

6:15 Panel presentation of representatives from the Community Summit

6:45 Discussion with audience—facilitated by Barbara Raye, Center for Policy Planning & Performance

7:15 Launch the Compact for Citizen Participation/Next steps and logistics

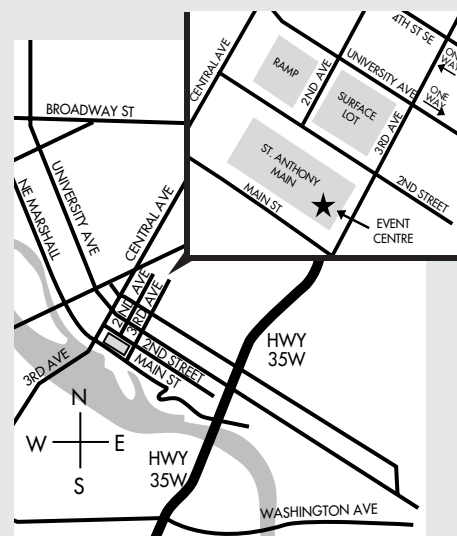
The Twin Cities are known nationally for their commitment to civic engagement and citizen participation in community planning. Today we struggle to define how those systems will be

sustained and how to make them more responsive to the diverse needs of our communities. This year's State of the Neighborhoods Address will explore what can be done to strengthen citizen participation in our cities. The Address will launch a series of workshops designed to create a citizen participation compact for each city that brings city officials and neighborhood and community leaders together to:

- Establish principles that assert the goals of the citizen participation system,
- Define actions that describe how those principles can be accomplished, and
- Suggest ways for holding partners accountable to the principles and actions outlined in the compact.

How do we continue to work together to insure that the work done at the neighborhood and community level is valued and supported? Be a part of the solution! Join us for this groundbreaking event.

This event is free and open to the public. For further information contact the Center for Neighborhoods at 612-339-3480 or visit our web site at www.center4neighborhoods.org



Location

St. Anthony Main Event Centre
219 S.E. Main Street
Minneapolis MN 55414
Phone: 651.642.1049

Parking

You can choose to park in either the parking ramp on the north side of 2nd Avenue or the surface lot on the south side of 2nd Avenue. To park in the surface lot you will need six quarters. The fee for the parking ramp varies, but it is very reasonable.



2600 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612-339-3480
www.center4neighborhoods.org

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Minneapolis, MN 55406
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The Center for Neighborhoods serves as a catalyst and a resource to promote and encourage ideas, alliances, policies, and actions that strengthen the livability and vitality of neighborhoods.

The Center's goal is to strengthen cities and the region by deepening civic dialogue at the neighborhood level, where shared goals can be set between public and private interests, and where people can actively participate in making their communities better.

Publications, continued from page 3

understanding for their challenges and opportunities. Four workshops shaped those discussions, and are summarized in this report.

Sharing the Road: Encouraging Walking and Biking in Minnesota

*A report by Transit for Livable Communities
Sponsored by the Center for Neighborhoods*

Walking and biking are good for our bodies, our environment, and our communities—and we're less likely than ever to walk or bike to where we want to go. That's no accident. Increasingly our policies at the local, state and national level support driving and parking and at best ignore and at worst actually work against biking and walking. In this report, Transit for Livable Communities provides a comprehensive look at the policies and practices that can be used to enhance pedestrian and bike access and safety. Using local and national examples, TLC weaves together a menu of recommendations for policy makers at all levels to create communities that invite walking and biking. Neighborhoods provide a meaningful voice for shaping these policy discussions—this report helps identify what can be done.

A Framework for Public Art and Design/ Public Art Fact Sheet

*Written and researched by Jack Becker, Forecast
Public Artworks
Sponsored by the Center for Neighborhoods*

What makes a city memorable? While a strong economy, clean air, and natural resources

rank high, many people choose to live, work, play or visit a place for its cultural ambience. The arts build our sense of civic pride and enrich the quality of our lives.

A task force of community, city, county and regional representatives worked to create a framework to assist the public sector in defining public art policies. By working from a common framework, greater coordination could exist among city, county and regional arts programs. The Public Art and Design Framework is intended to inspire a new dynamic for funding, leadership and collaboration—strengthening public art as it takes its essential role in our vibrant community.

Minneapolis Zoning Basics

*Provided by the Center for Neighborhoods,
Kelly Bachman as researcher*

This overview of Minneapolis' zoning fundamentals is designed to take the mystery out of city zoning for individuals and neighborhoods. It provides concise information on the uses allowed in different areas and on the process for requesting changes or variations to the zoning code, to help neighborhoods in their discussions about community planning.

To request these reports, or for more information about the Center for Neighborhoods, our programs and activities, publications, and the Neighborhood Resource Guide, contact our web site at www.center4neighborhoods.org or by phone at 612-339-3480.