

**ViNA Meeting  
August 27, 2008**

The meeting was held at St. John Missionary Baptist Church and called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair John Trombley. The agenda was amended to add an announcement about the Camden Farmers Market and a meeting on regarding busses on the Parkway and d approved by consensus. The minutes from the July 23, 2008 meeting were approved by consensus.

**SAFETY ON THE 19 AND 5 BUS ROUTES**

Lt Steve Sizer of the Metro Transit Police reported that there were no incidents on the 19R bus in the Victory Neighborhood, but there have been a few incidents at the Robbinsdale Transit Center. Metro Transit Police conduct a permanent detail on the 19 and 5 route busses. Uniformed police ride each bus for a few blocks and then get off and pick up another bus. Use common sense to ensure your safety. If you feel threatened alert the bus driver or call 911. Residents report that 19R busses on the detour are still speeding and blowing through stop signs. Lt Sizer suggested that residents report the bus # and times and locations of the incidents. Residents expressed concern about Safety at the downtown bus stop on 7<sup>th</sup> at Nicollet and Hennepin where additional police have been observed. This is part of the downtowns Safety Zone Initiative which is scheduled to end at the end f the month. Residents with wide-ranging concerns about safety on the busses should call Metro Transit at 612-349-7200.

**MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION**

River District Manager, Corky Weisman explained the reorganization of the parks into community service areas. Creekview, Folwell and Webber Park make up the Camden Community Service area. MPRB is focusing on quality programming over quantity of programming; parks will not duplicate programming but each one will concentrate on their area of strength. Some smaller, satellite parks, such as Victory, receive more programming because of the strength of their partnerships, such as with VINA. Concern was expressed about the budget cuts to the parks limiting ViNA's ability to provide all the activities and programs that it has in the past. Weisman explained with the LGA cuts from the state the MPRB has faced budget cuts just as every other agency and department in the city and they are struggling to provide the same level of service with fewer resources. In addition, many of the new facilities and equipment funded by NRP did not provide dollars for operations and maintenance, so the MPRB has those added expenses. The MPRB is looking for more partnerships such as the one with the Support the Courts Foundation for the renovation of the Webber Park Courts. The issue was raised about the southwest area of the city having more programming and services than the Camden area. Weisman reported that many of those services and programs are funded by partners, particularly the neighborhood organizations.

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT)**

Michelle Raymond is a Victory resident and a trained Community responder. Community responders self-activate to respond to community emergencies, such as the bridge collapse last August. Raymond, who is also a trainer, would like to build a CERT team for the Victory Neighborhood that would have a trained CERT member on every block and tied into the block clubs. The training is 20 hours and is conducted at the Minneapolis Fire Departments Training Tower. The next training is scheduled for November. More information is available on the City's website or by calling the CERT coordinator, Susan Ude at 612-581-9624

**STRONG SCHOOLS STRONG CITY REFERENDUM**

Paul Spies, a Victory resident, spoke on the issue of the school referendum that will be on the ballot this November. The School District has absorbed \$150 M in cuts from the state over the last few years. The purpose of the referendum is to replace the \$30 referendum scheduled to expire next year and add an additional \$30 to manage class size, increase technology in the schools, purchase new textbooks and fund new initiatives that will ensure

that every child reads by the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and every child is algebra ready by 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Board member Ann Kaari had a list of questions that she would like answered. Speis promised to get the answers to the questions and send them to Kaari. Kaari will then share the answers with the neighborhood.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Livability.* Board member Kris Brogan reported that the committee has heard from the NoMi group that is marketing North Minneapolis. The GLBT Northsiders is sponsoring NoMi tours of houses for sale in North Minneapolis. The next tour is scheduled for Thursday (August 28) and will feature home in the Victory Neighborhood. The tour will start at 6 pm at Sauced. The committee also gets regular crime prevention updates from Shannon McDonough.

*Events.* Ann Kaari reported that the Movie Night at the Flagpole proved to be very well received in spite of threatening weather. About 150 people attended – even some people from Robbinsdale who are impressed with the events that Victory presents for the community. Victory will not participate in the Minneapolis Bike Tour this year, but the Park Foundation will make the flagpole an official water stop next year. Kaari commented that in view of the budget cuts at the parks and everywhere else ViNA will have to seek additional funding if we wish to continue to sponsor all of the events we have in the past. If every household in Victory donated \$5 we would be able to continue what we do and maybe even expand on it.

*Environment.* Board member Diane Spector was excused from the meeting, so staff reported that we have collected 119 signatures on our petition for the construction of the trail at Ryan Lake. We will wait for petitions to come in from National Night Out parties and send them to the Councilperson and Minneapolis Public Works. The Ryan Lake Trails project has received a Bikes Belong grant of \$10,000 to match the DNR grant of \$43,000.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CAMDEN FARMERS MARKET**

Lara Bollweg reported that the Farmer's Market has been named the most successful new market in Minneapolis this year by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). The IATP was instrumental in helping the new markets get up and running this year. This designation was determined both by the number of people coming to the marketing and the satisfaction of the farmers' the total of their sales.

### **19R BUS ROUTE**

Jean Bain reported that a group of residents are concerned about the plan to allow the busses to travel on Victory Memorial Parkway. A meeting is planned on September 11 at Peace Lutheran Church. Everyone who is opposed to the plan is invited to attend.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting will be held on September 24 at this location. The meeting will include recognition of Barb and Aaron Hardley, the presentation of the check for the Lincoln statue to the MPRB and board elections.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie Nelson, Coordinator  
September 24, 2008