

**ViNA Meeting  
September 24, 2008**

The meeting was held at St. John Missionary Baptist Church and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair John Trombley. One item was added to the agenda. The amended agenda and the minutes from the August 27, 2008 meeting were approved by consensus.

**APPEARANCE**

Pastor Kerry Bender of Faith Baptist Church appeared to invite the neighborhood to an Open House at the church on October 9 from 7-8:30 to celebrate their recent remodeling project.

**STEAMWORKS COFFEE AND TEA**

Board member and Business Committee Chair Matt Massman presented Aaron and Barbara Hardley, the retiring owners of Steamworks Coffee, with a gift as a Thank You from the neighborhood for their service and pioneering spirit in reestablishing 44<sup>th</sup> and Penn as a vibrant business node. The gift was a photo collage of the Lincoln statue in all four seasons done by Duane Attar from The Warren. Matt also introduced Christina and Jeff Jenkins, the new owners of Steamworks.

**LINCOLNS FOR LINCOLN**

Board member and Environment Committee chair Diane Spector introduced three students from Loring Elementary to make a presentation to the Minneapolis Park Board. The students presented a check for \$2,045.94 raised by students at the school and from the neighborhood to help pay for the restoration of the Lincoln statue on Victory Memorial Drive. Park Board representative Jon Olson accepted the check on behalf of the Park Board and will present it to the full Board at its next meeting.

**WORKHOUSE THEATER IVEY AWARD**

Jeff Redman of the Workhouse Theater reported that the troupe received an Ivey Excellence in Production Award for "Night, Mother." He said that it was nice to be recognized by the theater community, but the award also reflects the support of the community, actors, directors, and neighborhood. He reported on the new production, "100," playing in October.

**NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE**

Board member Gary Mortensen spoke to provide background on the NNA and its committee structure. There are three standing committees: Housing Foreclosures; Commercial/Community Corridors; and CLIC (Capital Long-range Improvement Committee). The latter committee is focused on getting more city projects on the north side. He stated that volunteers were needed to help cover NNA and committee meetings. The NNA meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 5-7 pm. Interested parties should contact Debbie Nelson.

**NRP POLICY BOARD ELECTIONS**

Board Chair John Trombley reported that the neighborhood has been asked, as it is annually, to provide an elector to cast a ballot for the NRP policy board. Interested parties should contact John or Debbie.

**ANNUAL REPORT**

Chair Trombley reported that this meeting was the annual meeting of the neighborhood, and that copies of the annual report were available at the meeting, at the office, or online. Each committee chair was asked to provide a brief overview of the years' activities and upcoming activities. He noted that his primary job as Chair was to ensure that the NRP Phase I and Phase II plans are implemented.

*Community Building.* Chair Ann Kaari noted that people from other neighborhoods or suburbs are amazed at the number and varieties of activities in the neighborhood. She noted that in the past ViNA has received some financial assistance from the Park Board for some activities, but that with budget cuts that

amount is greatly reduced. In the coming year ViNA will have to make some tough decisions about funding events.

*Livability.* Board member and committee chair Kris Brogan reported that the committee meetings held the second Saturday of every month at Papa's Pizza are well attended, and they have had a variety of guest speakers.

*Housing.* Board member and committee chair Michael Ansel reported that the Housing Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 at his office. The Committee is working on refining housing programs.

*Business.* Board member and committee chair Matt Massman reported that the 44<sup>th</sup>/Penn pedestrian study results will be available soon and will be used to identify projects to improve that intersection.

*Environment.* Board member and committee chair Diane Spector provided an overview of the Victory Memorial Drive and Ryan Lake improvements, and reported that the committee is looking forward to a new program to promote environmentally-friendly landscaping practices.

*Sustainability.* Board member and committee chair Gary Mortensen reported that the committee is working on determining long-term needs for funding and volunteers.

*Financial report.* Treasurer Ann Kaari reviewed the annual financial report. She noted that all expenditures must have two signatures for approval, and that Matt Massman, who is not an authorized signatory, provides a third party audit review of the books each month.

## **BOARD ELECTIONS**

Chair Trombley announced that four Board seats were up for reelection to a two-year post. The incumbents Ann Kaari, Matt Massman, Diane Spector, and John Trombley have all placed their names in nomination. No other nominations have been received. Chair Trombley asked three times for nominations from the floor. No nominations were submitted; therefore the Chair closed nominations for the Board. **A motion and a second from the floor were received to move the slate of nominees. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Trombley thanked the neighborhood for his reelection and announced that after 12 years he will step down as chair of the Board but will continue to serve as a Board member.

## **HOUSING COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

Board member and committee chair Michael Ansel provided an overview of the current and proposed housing program guidelines. Most of the housing programs are loan programs. He provided some background on the St Louis Park Green Remodeling Loan program, the Hawthorn EcoVillage, Minnesota GreenStar and Minnesota Green Communities. The latter is a national standard for energy-efficient and affordable housing that has been refined for Minnesota.

The proposed Home Improvement Loan guidelines incorporating green standards were generally favorable except one person questioned where people with basic maintenance needs would go. The Vacant Properties and Safety Enhancements program guidelines were acceptable. The Emergency Home Loan Program guidelines were favorable but it was noted that the maximum loan seemed low. There was some support for reallocating funds between programs if necessary to provide larger loans. Michael discussed some options for a housing coordinator service.

Discussion from the floor was in favor of having some loans be at least in part forgivable over time. There was agreement that the higher, green standards were good but there was a fear that they might preclude some people from keeping up their properties. One approach that was favorable was providing a loan plus assistance with the paperwork for documenting that standards were met, that loan forgiveness was dependant on meeting or exceeding minimum efficiency standards.

It was noted that marketing and outreach would be important. Michael noted that part of the housing coordinator's task was marketing. There was consensus that the coordinator service should be contracted with an agency that specializes in housing programs, such as the Greater Metropolitan Housing

Corporation (GMHC) or the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE). There was some concern raised about forgivable loans as they don't "recirculate" the loan pool. It was also important to have low interest rates. In general, the neighborhood was in agreement with the general program guidelines. The housing Committee will finish drafting the guidelines and take those through the process of obtaining approval.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Kids Cook.* Robin Krause announced that the Kids Cook program will hold a Fall Festival on October 3 from 5-8 pm. On October 10, November 4, and November 21 the Kids Cook program will cook lunch for the community from 11:30- 1:00. Email may be sent to [kidscookclassroom@gmail.com](mailto:kidscookclassroom@gmail.com).

*Farmer's Market.* The Farmer's Market committee will meet on September 25 from 6-7 pm at The Warren.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Spector, Secretary  
October 22, 2008