

**ViNA Meeting  
January 28, 2009  
www.victoryneighborhood.org**

The meeting was held at St. John Missionary Baptist Church and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Matt Massman. The agenda and the minutes from the December 10, 2008 meeting were approved by consensus.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Livability.* Board member and committee chair Kris Brogan reported that one of the topics at the February 14 committee meeting will be continued discussion of a food co-op to serve Victory and other Camden neighborhoods.

*Environment.* Board member and committee chair Diane Spector noted the upcoming February 28 rain garden party pre-workshop. She also reported that the committee had recommended to the Board a Street Improvement Policy, noted that the Board has adopted that policy, and read the policy.

*Events.* Board member and chair Ann Kaari reported that the events committee will take a break and meet again in March

*Business.* Board member and committee chair Matt Massman reported that there was preliminary news that ViNA's Great Streets Grant Phase II was recommended for approval.

*Sustainability.* Board member and committee chair Gary Mortensen reported that the committee meets the second Wednesday of each month and is working on developing a more comprehensive fund raising strategy.

*Housing.* Board member and committee chair Michael Anshel reported that the committee is finalizing the new loan programs. He reported he has been contacted by representatives from the city of Minneapolis about the possibility of using the ViNA programs as model programs for sustainable housing improvement loan programs.

## **HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST**

Cochairs Jennifer Freeburg and Lisa Jacobs-Flood presented the winners of the contest, including 13 honorable mentions and the three winners. Third place was awarded to 4254 Thomas Avenue N, second place to 4148 Xerxes Avenue N, and first place to 4555 Penn Avenue N.

## **CTSI**

ViNA member Sam Sharp made a presentation on a new facility in the neighborhood on 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue called CTSI. He said he was curious when he saw the new facility, followed up to learn more about it as part of a school project, and asked for the opportunity to present his findings to the neighborhood. The facility is Correctional Transitional Services, Inc., a facility that provides transitional services for persons rejoining the community after being incarcerated or in the workhouse. It had previously been located on Dowling Avenue and has recently moved to the 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue location. He interviewed the director, staff, and some clients and found that the services including assistance in finding jobs and places to live. In Hennepin County, 30,000 individuals are on "conditional release," and number about 115 individuals per parole/corrections officer. CTSI provides supplemental services and support

## **2009 THOMAS AVENUE PAVING PROJECT**

Larry Matsumoto from the city's Public Works Department appeared to provide an overview of the proposed 2009 mill and overlay project on Thomas Avenue from Dowling to 42nd. He explained the three different types of street projects the city conducts, ranging from full reconstruction to mill and overlay, which simply rehabilitates the street surface. Proposed assessments to property owners would cover about 37 percent of the project cost, with the balance coming from Municipal State Aid and city

funds. The project is expected to start in mid-summer, and will be completed in about a week. Milling the pavement will take about a day, and about a week or so later the street would be paved, a process that should also be complete in a day. He explained that residents will be notified by fliers and by phone prior to the start of the project and prior to the paving part of the project so they can remove cars from the street and make any other arrangements.

Residents living on Thomas in the project area were invited to the meeting. There were a number of questions.

Q: This is just fixing the pavement. I have a storm drain at 4159 Thomas that continuously washes out. Will that be fixed? Another resident at 3855 Thomas had the same complaint.

A: Please let us know any problems you have so we can address them if possible as part of this project.

Q: When will this be assessed?

A: with the 2010 taxes (10 year assessment). The hearing is tentatively April 28 at City Hall. Everyone proposed to be assessed will get a notice of the public hearing.

Q: Why are you resurfacing Thomas when the parkway is in such bad shape?

A: We are working with the county on a project for the east-west portion of the parkway. There are no pending projects for the north-south portion.

Q: What is the damage done by buses on Thomas north of 42<sup>nd</sup>?

A: South of 42<sup>nd</sup> Thomas is a truck route, so it is built to a higher standard. I don't know what the street section is north of 42<sup>nd</sup>.

## **RESOLUTION RE: 19R BUS ROUTE**

Massman introduced a “sense of the neighborhood” resolution prepared by the Board after several neighborhood discussions. Ann Kaari noted that the ultimate decision will be Metro Transit's. MTC does have an email address to submit comments ([route19@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:route19@metc.state.mn.us)). A decision will be made this spring and implemented this summer. There was general discussion, with a consensus that continuing the route next to the school and park is not acceptable. There was support for using the parkway for a link to Robbinsdale. There was consensus to add language requesting the use of quieter buses if they provide adequate capacity for the route, and also if the parkway is used then it must be repaved.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*What's New?* Administrator Debbie Nelson reported that 32 neighborhoods including Victory have been photo-documented through the program and that the exhibit is at the downtown library until March 1 *Webber Park Library-Job Search Assistance*. Debbie reported that the library will have special assistance on job searches on the second Tuesdays of the month.

*Webber Park Library-Hennepin County Library*. Debbie reported that Hennepin County has purchased the old Kowalski's building and adjacent properties and will soon move into design phase for the new Camden Library.

*Rain Garden Pre-Workshop*. Debbie reiterated the reminder of the upcoming workshop at The Warren on February 28.

*North Housing and Home Improvement Fair*. Debbie reminded all that the Housing Fair at North High School is coming up on March 21.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Spector, Secretary

February 23, 2009