

**ViNA Meeting  
March 25, 2009  
www.victoryneighborhood.org**

The meeting was held at St. John Missionary Baptist Church and called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Vice Chair Gary Mortensen. The agenda and the minutes from the February 25, 2009 meeting were approved by consensus.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Events.* Board member and committee chair Ann Kaari reported that the Events Committee may have to cut back on some activities in 2009 due to budget reductions. The MPRB does not yet know what the budget will be for neighborhood events.

*Environment.* Board member and committee chair Diane Spector provided an update on the upcoming Rain Garden Parties. The Committee's letter of interest for a Community Power Grant for enhanced recycling activities resulted in a request to submit a full grant application, which will be the main item of business for the committee in April. There is some interest in setting up a ViNA gardening group on Facebook.

*Livability.* Board member and committee chair Kris Brogan reported that the March 14 committee meeting discussed "restorative justice."

*Business.* Committee member Gary Mortensen reported that the committee is working on aligning the existing NRP business grant for façade improvements with the Great Streets grant.

*Sustainability.* Committee chair Gary Mortensen reported that the committee continues to work on the welcome packet for new residents.

*Housing.* Board member and committee chair Michael Ansel reported that the committee did not meet this month.

## **CITYOF LAKES COMMUNITY LAND TRUST**

Jeff Washburne provided an overview of this program, which has helped 85 households purchase homes in Minneapolis. The homes are geographically dispersed across the city. The homes are always owner-occupied and always affordable. When sold, the property owners get their equity back plus 25% of the increase in value. The balance goes back to the Land Trust to assist others. ViNA has funding for the Homebuyer Initiated Program in the NRP Phase 2 program.

## **HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER**

Jenny Camacho appeared to provide information on the Advantage Loans, which can provide up to \$10,000 for down payment or rehab costs to purchase foreclosed houses in certain targeted neighborhoods, including Victory. The Housing Resource Center also offers a Fix up Fund that covers just about any type of non-luxury improvement. They also have construction managers available free of charge to help write up a scope of work and to review bids, and they have lists of contractors.

## **SPRING CLEANUP DAY**

Vice Chair Gary Mortensen reported that the annual Spring Cleanup will be held May 16 from 9 am to noon. Volunteers will walk the main streets of the neighborhood and cleanup trash and debris. They are also looking to do some planting. The events committee will also be encouraging block clubs to have a spring cleanup event. Diane Spector announced that the Northside Homeowners Association is organizing a Plant Swap and has tentatively scheduled a swap for May 16 at The Warren [Note: It has since been rescheduled to May 30]. The Environment committee is trying to organize a workshop on selecting the proper plant materials at different types of locations. Ann Kaari reported that the Events

Committee has received a small grant from the Northwest Business Association to help pay for refreshments for volunteers. The likely event location will be the pergola in Victory Park.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Crime and Safety Update:* Debbie Nelson reported that the police have arrested juveniles believed to be responsible for a rash of recent area burglaries. She also noted that if anyone submits a report of crime or livability issues to Debbie please remember to also submit that report to Shannon MacDonough.

*Loring School Carnival.* The annual carnival, which is May 1, will also include a silent auction. The school would appreciate donations of items for the auction from the community.

*Hennepin County Open House, VMD Realignment at Osseo Road.* An open house will be held on March 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 in the Loring school gym on the proposed realignment of Victory Memorial Drive at Osseo Road.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Spector, Secretary  
April 20, 2009