

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program



2001 Voter's Guide



**for the NRP Policy Board
Neighborhood Representative Election**

Compiled by the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis NRP

2001 NRP Voter's Guide

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As part of the election process, NRP Policy Board candidates were asked to respond to the following questions in 100 words or less:

1. How have your life/work experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?
2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?
3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?
4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?
5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.
6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?
7. Please list any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.
8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

The following pages of this publication feature the responses each candidate submitted to the questions above.

Published candidate responses have been retyped but otherwise remain intentionally unedited by those who compiled this guide.

The 2001 Voter's Guide is compiled by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis NRP to provide information to City residents about those candidates seeking a Neighborhood Representative seat on the NRP Policy Board. Candidates are running in one of four categories: at-large, protection, revitalization or redirection. Electors selected by each neighborhood organization to vote on behalf of their neighborhood will vote for one representative and one alternate to sit on the NRP Policy Board from their neighborhood category and for an at-large representative and alternate.

The 2001 NRP Policy Board Neighborhood Representative candidate forums/election will begin at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, November 29, 2001 on the second floor of the Crown Roller Mill Building, 105 Fifth Avenue South. One candidate forum will be held in each of the four categories. Candidates will introduce themselves and respond to questions submitted by the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis and audience members. Candidate forums are moderated by LWV members and are free and open to the public.

The Crown Roller Mill Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. Parking is available on the street and in the MCDA surface parking lot. The entrance to the MCDA lot is on 2nd Street between Fifth and Portland Avenues S. To request language interpretation or childcare services during election events, please call 673-5158 at least one week prior to the election. For more information about the NRP Policy Board election process, call 333-6319. For bus information, call the MTCO Bus Line at 373-3333.

At-Large Candidates



represent all of the Minneapolis
neighborhoods participating in the NRP.

- Jay Allen.....4-5
- Ron Ravensborg.....6-7
- Judy Schwartau.....8-9

Jay Allen

Construction Administrator

Address: 2015 Central Ave NE (55418)

Neighborhood of Residence: Windom Park

Years in Neighborhood: 1 year Years in Minneapolis: 10 years

Phone: Not listed

E-Mail: jlalle@kke.com



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

- I have been active in volunteer and community based programs and organizations for over 15 years—Scouting, coaching (baseball, soccer), Habitat for Humanity and NRP.
- 20 years of professional experience in construction (commercial and residential) and land development has been very beneficial in developing and promoting numerous housing and commercial development programs within the North Minneapolis Area.
- I have worked extensively with the City of Minneapolis and NRP as a volunteer and on a professional basis as well. Allowing me a somewhat unique perspective on how the various departments and organizations within the City work and relate to each other.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

NRP STRENGTHS:

- NRP's greatest strength is its ability to empower the people within the city and to make them an integral part of the solution rather than add to the problem.
- It gives citizens more ownership in their communities, thereby increasing the pride and responsibility they take in their neighborhoods.
- It informs and educates the average citizen about how and why government works the way it does. And the stronger and more well informed an individual is the more likely they are to make well informed and timely decisions that will be beneficial not only in the short term, but, more importantly for many years to come.

NRP WEAKNESSES:

- NRP's greatest weakness revolves not around what the goals and/or intentions are, but rather the process that needs to take place in order to accomplish them. Anyone who has worked with NRP and/or the City of Minneapolis understands the frustration that often comes with dealing with all of the red tape, redundancies and rhetoric.
- I believe a lot of money is wasted on administration and overhead at the neighborhood levels that could be eliminated through coalition building between neighborhoods with similar Goals and Objectives. Doing this would maximize the return on the dollar spent for various programs.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

- Chair of the McKinley Community Steering Committee (7 years)
- Member of the McKinley Community Housing Committee
- Member of the McKinley School Planning Team
- Neighborhood Representative on the Hennepin County Lowry Corridor Redevelopment Planning Board
- Volunteer at the Lowry/Emerson Police Sub-Station
- Past Neighborhood Representative on the Penn/Lowry Corridor Study
- Past Neighborhood Representative and Treasurer for the Penn/Lowry Implementation Council
- Volunteer at numerous neighborhood activities (Clean Sweep, Camden Garden Club, National Night Out, Showboat Days)

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

- Maintain my involvement in current memberships and positions on various boards and committees
- Make my e-mail address available to all neighborhoods
- Become more informed about the various neighborhoods by reading their Action Plans and attending neighborhood meetings throughout the next year

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

My main objective will be to promote coalitions between neighborhoods with similar goals and objectives. As I stated earlier I believe a lot of money is wasted on administration and overhead costs when several neighborhoods pay numerous individuals to administer basically the same program. Additionally, when neighborhoods compete for the same monies quite often each of them gets only a fraction of what they actually need to fully accomplish their goal. However, when two or more neighborhoods work together, to secure those same funds, the amount of money they secure can be dramatically increased. Thereby increasing the end results.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

This is a critical time for NRP and all of the various neighborhood organizations. With funding sources in question it is imperative we take maximum advantage of every dollar available to us. I believe my commitment to coalition building can play an important role in delivering the most "bang for the buck." However, this will take a coordinated effort by all involved. It will also take individuals who are willing and able to look at the whole picture and not just limited portions of it. It will take people who have the ability to bring individuals, organizations and neighborhoods together to work as one instead of as competitors. It will take individuals who are willing to question the status quo and who are willing to stand up and say or ask what needs to be said or asked whether its politically correct or not. Although I do not claim to be proficient in all of these areas, I do believe I possess the skills and experience to get things rolling in the right direction. I am truly committed to the NRP process and want to see it continue for many, many years to come.

7. Please list any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

- McKinley Community Organization
- Lowry/Emerson Police Sub-station

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

None

Ron Ravensborg

Home Preservationist

Address: 5348 10th Ave S (55417)

Neighborhood of Residence: Hale

Years in Neighborhood: 1 year Years in Minneapolis: 15 years

Phone: 825-6512

E-Mail: rravensborg@aol.com



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

15 years of work as a volunteer leader, organizer and participant in community, church and youth recreation programs has provided me with experience and a strong base to collaborate effectively with neighborhoods. That work includes helping to locate housing and health services for refugees through World Relief, and coaching a Minneapolis baseball team of disadvantaged youth. It also includes membership and participation in organizations like the HPDL housing committee and Preserve Minneapolis.

By trade I am a home preservationist. I have spent the last eight years preserving and rehabilitating houses in Minneapolis. Over the last 15 years I have lived in five different Minneapolis neighborhoods.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

Clearly the NRP's strength lies in its authority to let citizens make real decisions. It allows for an authentic, empowered grassroots commission wherein residents set the agenda for their own neighborhood revitalization. The NRP has also served to educate citizens about local government, teach participants strategic city planning, and enable neighborhood organizations to pool resources and work together.

Shortcomings of the NRP program include the lack of technical expertise provided to neighborhoods in planning and implementation, a cumbersome planning process, and a mission and identity that is not well known to a number of citizens. Furthermore, the NRP's dependence on unstable revenue sources has proven to be disruptive.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

I have supported the goals and purpose of the NRP program by visiting and participating in every NRP Phase II Future Community Development meeting except one. This allowed me to learn of concerns and needs of neighbors citywide as it relates to the NRP Phase II implementation. I am a member of my neighborhood council and serve on the housing committee. Also, I have lobbied the Minneapolis City Council, the Mayor of Minneapolis, and the Minnesota State Legislature for full funding of the NRP Phase II program.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

I plan to hold area-wide meetings as important NRP issues arise, and will work to provide quarterly updates to all neighborhoods on policy and procedural issues. I will actively seek input from neighborhood councils and make myself available to meet with them as they request. I am always available by phone, fax, email or letter.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

Because of the 2001 Minnesota legislative property tax changes, NRP Phase II faces significant cuts in its funding. By informing policy makers of their desires, neighborhood residents must decide what level of community development is right in the context of their existing action plans, and what goals, such as affordable housing,

can be achieved with greatly reduced revenues. If elected, I would encourage efforts to develop and support life cycle and affordable housing citywide through the preservation of existing housing and new construction.

Simultaneously, I would work with other board members to press state and local government for full and permanent funding of NRP Phase II. Possible sources include a special grant from the state legislature, or, more likely, from a special MCDA levy or a general levy approved via an amendment to the City's Charter.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

I have a strong passion for restoration and preservation of our neighborhoods, especially our homes. Preserving and restoring significant parts of our past helps us remember where we came from and helps guide us to where we want to go. I believe that serving on the NRP policy board would be an expression of that passion.

I feel that I understand the volunteers in the neighborhoods who are developing and implementing their plans, and I believe I can represent the "neighborhood point-of-view". Further, I will ensure that all individual neighborhood programs receive the respect and representation they deserve.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
Twin Cities Bungalow Club
Preserve Minneapolis
Hale-Page-Diamond Lake Association
World Relief
Hennepin History Museum Society

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Affiliations with all community-based, political and civic organizations are on a voluntary, non-compensatory basis. Additional affiliations include: University of Minnesota; University of St. Thomas; MN DFL, and Education Minnesota

Judy Schwartau

Public Relations & Training Coordinator – Minneapolis Elections Department

Address: 2449 Colfax Ave S (55405)

Neighborhood of Residence: Lowry Hill East aka "The Wedge"

Years in Neighborhood: 7 years Years in Minneapolis: 31 years

Phone: Not listed

E-Mail: jjjudy1@aol.com



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

In my volunteer service my number one commitment is to the organization's mission and its volunteers. I know the need to focus resources—volunteer time & precious money. Volunteers must be respected and valued, and assured there are no hidden agendas or loyalties allowed to waste their time. I've helped organize events, created & done mailings, completed the less-than-glamorous tasks such as Chair of Bylaws Task Force studying vintage documents & state law, or serving on Personnel Committees. And I prepare myself for each meeting, making the connections and doing the necessary research.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

STRENGTHS: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – You, the people who selflessly give your time to create the best plans for your neighborhood.

STREAMLINING GOVERNMENT THROUGH SHARING INFORMATION – our direct access to our local government through NRP.

NEIGHBORHOODS COLLABORATING BEYOND THEIR BORDERS – commercial corridors, parks, lakes, schools, computer labs.

WEAKNESSES: UNWIELDY PLANNING PROCESS = volunteer burnout.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – overshadows planning and implementation in some neighborhoods – hopefully to be "cured" by the new policy.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

Wedge NRP Steering Committee: 1995 – original & current member, 1999 Chair; Task Forces: NRP Kick-Off, Survey Design, Survey Results Announcement, Infrastructure, Mueller Park, Participation Agreement, Housing and Conflict of Interest. We have completed our First Step Plan, two Early Access Requests and are implementing our Neighborhood Action Plan.

I was also a member of the Whittier Alliance Board of Directors (and a Block Captain) when we "threw ourselves on the sword" as the first neighborhood to complete its NRP plan...a painful learning experience for us all—those volunteers are my friends for life!

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

During 2001 I held two meetings publicized by mailings and the NRP newsletter. Agendas included legislation I thought we should all know more about: HF187/SF73: modification to TIF districts prohibited & expenditures limited, and HF404: neighborhood nonprofit organization voting rights and meeting notice requirements.

I'm available by phone, FAX, and e-mail. I attend neighborhood meetings as invited, share maps, the city newsletter and neighborhood information from the Municipal Information Library. I seek input and provide information about NRP policies and share highlights of exciting plans. I return calls during my time, not work hours. I prefer to listen, not talk.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

1). Legislation defining membership in neighborhood organizations: When chairing a Bylaws Committee I realized Minnesota Statutes governing nonprofit organization memberships don't reflect how neighborhoods operate.

As John McKnight (February NRP Conference speaker) explained: everyone is a voting member in one neighborhood association and only one—the one where we live. We may be stakeholders in many neighborhoods because it's where we work own property, worship, or volunteer. A healthy organization welcomes the input of stakeholders—but only residents can set policy.

2). Assure that in the continued planning for NRP Phase II, that all the best of NRP is saved.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

It is imperative that the Neighborhood Representative positions present the perspective of the residents who have invested so much of their volunteer time and personal resources in this program. I believe the purpose of NRP is to make government departments and staffs serve neighborhood residents & priorities, not to turn neighborhood residents into technical planners.

There is an appropriate time and place for input from neighborhood staff, and other people whose career is financially intertwined with NRP – not as a voting member of the NRPPB making policy, but in staff focus groups.

7. Please list any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

Wedge NRP Steering Committee: 1995 – current member, Chair in 1999; Housing Task Force – 4% Loan; Landlord-Tenant Network Task Force; Lighting volunteer

NRPPB Neighborhood Representative: 1994 – current; current At-Large Representative; Personnel Task Force

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Paid – Public Relations & Training Coordinator – Minneapolis Elections

Unpaid – Wedge NRP Steering Committee, Minneapolis NRP Policy Board

Affiliations – contributor/member to various non-profit organizations for civil rights, supporting history, collecting pottery & finding cures to various nasty diseases. A more effective Conflict of Interest question would be: Are you an employee or a contractor of a neighborhood organization? Is your career in any way dependent on NRP \$? Have you ever attended an NRP meeting as part of your job? My answers are: no, no, no.

Protection Candidates



represent the 30 Minneapolis neighborhoods
experiencing few social, physical and economic problems,
but requiring attention to maintain their quality of life.

- **Debbie Evans.....11-12**
- **Nicholas T. Kakos.....13-14**
- **Jeffrey L. Strand.....15-18**

Debbie Evans

Marketing Promotions Manager

Address: 3807 Zenith Ave S (55410)

Neighborhood of Residence: Linden Hills

Years in Neighborhood: 13 years Years in Minneapolis: 13 years

Phone: 926-2700

E-Mail: devans3807@aol.com



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

Marketing is my background. In the NRP process, as a Protection Neighborhood Representative, I would be marketing the needs of the Protection Neighborhoods to the Policy Board. I would approach my Policy Board work as I have my previous accomplishments, through careful planning, preparation and attention to detail.

In volunteer work as in business, it needs to be recognized who the customer is. In the NRP process it needs to be recognized that the customer is the neighborhood. Not only is the neighborhood the customer, but as a Neighborhood Representative I would be its advocate as well.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

STRENGTHS

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed. It's the only thing that ever has." This is the epitome of NRP. Not until 1991 did the citizens of Minneapolis have the ability to determine funding priorities for their neighborhoods. Through NRP many small groups of thoughtful, committed citizens have been able to make giant strides in improving their communities.

WEAKNESSES

With the current NRP funding situation, NRP and its thousands of volunteers are not able to plan for Phase II with fiscal reliability. In addition, the cumbersome and drawn out NRP planning process often results in volunteer frustration, burnout and excessive turnover.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

I have been deeply involved in LhiNC and their NRP planning and implementation process since 1995, both prior to and since the merger of the LhiNC Board and its NRP Steering Committee. Prior to the January 2000 merger, I Co-Chaired the Natural Environment Committee. Since then, I have Co-Chaired the LhiNC Board, Chaired the Communications Committee and served actively on the Commercial Business/Property, Finance and Education/Environment Committees. I have been the Linden Hills News Editor since 1997. On behalf of LhiNC, I have applied for and received multiple DNR grants and USDA-Forestry grant funds. I have negotiated extensive in-kind leveraging of the neighborhood's NRP dollars.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

At the outset of my term, I would provide and promote dialogue and written communication with Protection Neighborhood board members. I would be a resource for information and support for neighborhoods during their Phase I Plan Review process and in their outreach for their Phase II planning process. I would be readily accessible to neighborhood board members via phone, fax and e-mail, as well as willing to attend meetings as needed. I would host meetings/events as needed to disseminate and/or exchange information helpful to the Protection Neighborhoods. As a member of a Protection Neighborhood, I would be **your advocate** at the Policy Board.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

Sorry. There are FOUR:

1. Seek full funding of NRP.
2. Improve and streamline neighborhood/agency relationships.
3. Promote neighborhood awareness of leveraging opportunities, e.g. grants, in-kind contributions, untapped neighborhood resources, sharing/pooling of resources across neighborhoods. Protection neighborhoods have a challenge in leveraging their NRP funds, but many leveraging opportunities such as those listed above are readily available.
4. Encourage the streamlining of neighborhoods' Phase II planning through building on their Phase I accomplishments.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

I have a deep respect for neighborhood volunteer efforts that I see throughout the NRP. I would provide a strong, visible presence as an advocate for neighborhoods and their investment of volunteer time and energy. As a neighborhood Representative, I would be a constant reminder at the Policy Board that the **neighborhoods are the customers!**

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LhiNC), Board Co-Chair
 LhiNC Communication Committee, Chair
 LhiNC Finance, Commercial Business/Commercial Property Cmtes., Member
 Linden Hills News, Editor
 Neighbors For Neighborhoods, Member
 League of Women Voters, Member
 Animal Humane Society, Foster Parent

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Marketing Promotions Manager, HMT Marketing, Inc.
 All of the positions as noted above are unpaid.

Nicholas T. Kakos

Licensed Public Accountant

Address: 3240 Humboldt Ave S (55408)

Neighborhood of Residence: East Calhoun (ECCO)

Years in Neighborhood: 55 years Years in Minneapolis: Life

Phone: 825-9709

E-Mail: Not listed



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

Lifetime experience working as a volunteer leader, organizer or director in community, church, school or youth recreation programs has provided me a strong base of understanding the needs and capability to work effectively with neighborhoods. As a Protection neighborhood Rep. the past 5 years, I have learned to project and provide guidance and direction to the NRP program on a citywide basis.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

The strength of the NRP program is derived from the tremendous volunteer citizen participation involvement enabling neighborhoods to determine their own specific needs and cooperatively develop and implement their own plans in attaining each community's long term visionary improvement objectives.

From an overall viewpoint, there are no significant weaknesses in the NRP program. Recent policy changes have streamlined and clarified procedural processes which have reduced previous concerns of high citizen participation turnover and burn-out.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

I was chairperson of the East Calhoun NRP Steering Committee for 3 years directly responsible for developing an Action Plan for the neighborhood. Currently, I am on the East Calhoun Neighborhood Board of Directors responsible for implementation of our Phase I Action Plan.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

Experience has shown that it is difficult to maintain direct communication and attend meetings of 3I Protection Neighborhoods. It is my intent to make myself available when requested to provide information, counsel, guidance and any assistance to any neighborhood when needed. Periodic general meetings of protection neighborhoods would be helpful, but difficult to organize because of conflicting events in the 3I neighborhoods.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

The Tax Revenue changes enacted by the 2001 State Legislature have resulted in serious reduction of funding for community development for the City of Minneapolis which threatens the future survival of NRP as we know it. It would be my primary objective to utilize all resources available to make certain the Policy Board explores all options to assure the continuance of the NRP program to the maximum extent possible within reasonable financial restraints.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

My 5 years on the NRP Policy Board have taught me that the financial structure of the NRP program is not simple, but complex with many intermingling financial, legal and governmental jurisdictional requirements. With the current critical funding problems threatening the future of NRP, there will be many important financial decisions to be made. My financial background, experience and current participation in analyzing the options available to us should be helpful in making every effort possible to assure a continuation of NRP on a strong, sound financial basis.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

Secretary, Mpls. NRP Policy Board
Board of Directors, East Calhoun Community Organization
Hellenic Post 129, American Legion, Commander
Fifth District American Legion, Executive Board and Baseball Director
Minnesota Department American Legion, Stat Baseball Committee

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Affiliation with all community based organizations is on a voluntary non-compensated basis. I do not receive compensation from any of these organizations.

Jeffrey L. Strand

Public Records Supervisor, Hennepin County Taxpayer Services Department

Address: 5100 Thomas Ave N (55430)

Neighborhood of Residence: Shingle Creek (Camden Planning Dist., 4th Ward)

Years in Neighborhood: 12 years Years in Minneapolis: 23 years

Phone: 588-4817

E-Mail: STRAND-JEPPESEN@mn.rr.com



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

During 2001, I have had an opportunity to participate on the NRP Policy Board, initially as the alternate for Protection neighborhoods. Subsequent to the resignation of the neighborhood representative for Revitalization neighborhoods, my name was selected as provided in the bylaws to fill the unexpired term. My prior life and work experiences have helped to develop and refine critical thinking, a sense of fairness, and a desire to create "win-win" solutions to problem resolution whenever possible.

Clearly the actions of the Minnesota Legislature in passing the 2001 Tax Reform Law set the tone for much of the Policy Board agenda this year. I have endeavored in dealings with the elected officials, community interest representatives, and fellow neighborhood representatives to articulate the interests of neighborhood organizations and residents in preserving and protecting the NRP in the context of the actions of the state government.

In 23 years as a Minneapolis resident, I have been a student, a renter, an apartment caretaker, a homeowner, a downtown worker, a municipal volunteer, a political activist, and a neighborhood-community activist. My 20-year career at Hennepin County has given me the fantastic opportunity to meet and work with numerous residents, taxpayers, business persons, elected officials, local and state government staff, and others community stakeholders.

Much of my employment work has been in a team-oriented setting. I have participated with groups such as the Minneapolis Industrial Lands Employment Strategy (MILES) committee, the Contaminated Lands Working Group, the Inspections/Tax-Forfeit Properties Task Force, the Environmental Assessment Team, the Former Doc's Auto Minnesota Superfund Site Joint Powers Agreement, the Boarded Buildings Task Force, and the MCDA Tax-Forfeit Orphan Sites Brownfield's Pilot Project. My volunteer service has included roles with the Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvements Committee, the Minneapolis Water Works Advisory Committee, the NRP Management Review Team, the Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association, the Penn Lowry Implementation Council, the Humboldt Greenway Steering Committee, and the Minneapolis DFL. I worked in the private sector before joining the county, and was an AFSCME member prior to promotion into a management position.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

The strength of the NRP resides in the citizenry of Minneapolis who breathe life into the program. The long-term value and effectiveness of the Minneapolis NRP has been demonstrated by citizen participation and input into numerous neighborhood-based municipal projects. The NRP provides a means for "bottom-up" planning that fosters innovation. The core of the NRP experience for me has always been its role in redirecting municipal planning and resources rather than "the money." This is the reason why I have been an advocate for NRP for the past decade.

Back in 1989, after deciding to "reinvest" in north Minneapolis and buy a home instead of moving out of the city, I got active in the Shingle creek neighborhood's NRP process. I have seen how the NRP process in my own neighborhood has created opportunities for home improvements, for creation of new amenities in collaboration with local governments, and partnered with the city, county and state to create a new Humboldt Greenway. Neighborhood activism is another form of good citizenship—just like voting, paying one's taxes, caring about one's neighbors, and maintaining one's property.

A weakness of the NRP is the extent to which some municipal officials, staff and organizations have failed to embrace the NRP program, despite more than ten years of its operation. Perhaps having the Minneapolis City Charter amended to establish the NRP Program may be a means of countering this inertia?

When I was first appointed to the Capital Long-Range Improvements Committee, the NRP was practically a dirty word. I advocated for enhance weighting of capital projects identified in approved neighborhood NRP action plans, not just those having committed NRP dollars. As the chair of the CLIC's Transportation & Property Services Task Force, I strived for the committee to receive more information about how proposed capital projects relate to NRP action plans in affected neighborhoods. This has been an ongoing struggle.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

When I moved into the neighborhood the NRP process in Shingle Creek was first being organized by Craig and Sandy Cooper. I became interested in helping with the process of forming a neighborhood association and developing the NRP plan to preserve and improve the quality of life in my city and my neighborhood.

In 1992 I was elected to the board of directors of Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association. I served as a director, board vice chair, and as the board chair of the association (1997-present). I served as Shingle Creek's neighborhood representative on the Humboldt Greenway Steering Committee and as a member of the Humboldt Avenue Greenway Citizens Liaison Committee I served as Shingle Creek's founding delegate to the Mississippi Corridor Neighborhood Coalition (1994-96).

I am currently Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association's voting delegate and the secretary of the Penn Lowry Implementation Council (1998-present), an association of neighborhoods and business groups concerned with economic development in northwest Minneapolis. I have served as a director on the Community Board of the CommonBond Communities Shingle Creek Commons senior housing facility during 2001. I have helped co-coordinate a community visioning, planning, and greening process for the Humboldt Industrial Area, along with Council Member Johnson, CEAC, CUE, and city environmental staff.

I have represented the neighborhood's interests at public meetings, speaking before the City Council committees, before the Park Board Commissioners, at the Minnesota Legislature in 1998 while seeking funding for the Humboldt Greenway project, and most recently before the Minneapolis School Board and Superintendent to oppose the closing of Shingle Creek Elementary Environmental Magnet School. I have written articles for the neighborhood newsletter and have composed numerous letters and emails, or initiated phone calls to local elected officials and government staff seeking redress of neighborhood problems. I have coordinated several modifications to the Shingle Creek NRP Action Plan to accommodate changes in neighborhood priorities, or to support local government planning goals supported by the neighborhood.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

When I sought a position on the Policy Board in 2000, I said that I would use my knowledge, experience and networking skills developed as a neighborhood chair, long-time board member and community activist to ensure successful communication among the various stakeholders involved in the NRP process. I participated

with Judy Schwartau and Nicholas Kakos in attending small group meetings designed to inform residents and neighborhood activists about Policy Board matters, and to obtain input and feedback from those persons. Regrettably, these small group meetings were not well attended.

In my brief service on the Policy Board, it seems that your neighborhood representatives need to receive communication support services from the NRP administration. I strive for communication to occur up, down, and sideways in organizations in which I participate. Neighborhood folks know that you already get a flood of mail, so I am NOT proposing another newsletter from your neighborhood representatives. I suggest a supplement in the NRP Link newsletter or use of NRP email as possible means for dissemination on a regular basis of news and views from the neighborhood representatives.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

The NRP Conflict of Interest Policy adopted September 24, 2001 was under consideration when I was elected as an alternate and subsequently appointed as a representative. I believe that significant changes were made as a result of concerns raised by the neighborhood representatives. I succeeded in amending the draft policy so that neighborhood representatives on the Policy Board are treated equally as the public officials and community interest representatives (Section 9.2). If elected for the 2002 term, I hope to persuade the Policy Board members to review and update its bylaws with the same vigor given to conflict of interest.

As a person having firsthand experience at the neighborhood level, it seems to me that the Policy Board and the NRP have plenty of rules and regulations to impose on the neighborhood organizations and residents/participants. It seems to me that NRP ought to review what additional support services it can provide to neighborhood organizations and residents to streamline reporting processes, to centralize available resources, and to reduce the burden of "red tape."

At the September 24, 2001 Policy Board meeting I stated that the Policy Board needs to take a more public stance in support of the NRP. The issue of an Interim Financing plan is to be discussed on the October agenda. City officials have planned a series of community meetings during October 2001. When the report of the NRP/Community Development Work Team is returned after the 2001 general election, I would like to see additional community and citywide meetings along the lines of those held during the development of the Phase II Framework. These meetings should service to gather citizen input and feedback for the next ten years of the NRP program. I expect that a citywide dialogue will be necessary and valuable if either City Council or a Charter proposal is to be considered for future NRP funding.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

I am very comfortable reviewing the neighborhood plan modifications and other NRP Policy Board materials. I believe it is critical that anyone serving as a neighborhood representative on the Policy Board not be hesitant about asking direct and tough questions. By doing so, one safeguards the integrity of the program and serves to best represent the neighborhood organizations and citizens.

I fought to defend the NRP during the 2001 legislative session. Upon learning of the attack on the NRP through changes to TIF funding, in February-March 2001 I immediately contacted State Representative Joe Mullery (DFL, District 58A). Representative Mullery communicated vigorously with NRP officials and sought to protect the Minneapolis NRP program at the Capitol. One down side of the 2001 Tax Reform law that compressed tax rates was the reduction in community development revenues that is now being studied by the special municipal work team.

As may be verified by Policy Board Secretary Carsten Slostad, I have attended most all of the scheduled Policy Board meetings. I have also attended most of the briefings provided by NRP Director Robert Miller to neighborhood representatives. I attend the meetings from start to finish. Attendance of these meetings counts!

Under the Policy Board bylaws, the neighborhood representatives (4) are automatically "outnumbered" by the public officials (10) and the community interest representatives (at least 5). Neighborhood representatives cannot rely on their votes alone, but must rely on their integrity, credibility, and persuasion to help shape policy as it is developed by the Policy Board.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association, Board Chair/Association President
 Penn Lowry Implementation Council, Secretary/Shingle Creek N.A. Voting Delegate
 CommonBond Communities, Shingle Creek Commons Community Board, Director
 Senate District 58 DFL Party, Secretary
 Minneapolis DFL Central Committee, Member (4th Ward Co-Coordinator)
 OUTFRONT Minnesota, donor
 Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, financial contributor
 Minnesota Public Radio, donor/member
 Community Crime Prevention?SAFE, block club
 Hennepin History Museum, donor
 Minneapolis-Moline Collectors Club, member
 Hart-Parr Oliver Collector's Association, member # 7821
 South Dakota State Agricultural Heritage Museum, 2001 family member/donor
 Minnesota's Machinery Museum, member
 Minnesota Public TV, member

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Employer: Taxpayer Services Department, Hennepin County, Minnesota
 NRP Policy Board Member, Revitalization Neighborhoods Representative
 Other: See list under previous question

Redirection Candidates



represent the 13 Minneapolis neighborhoods experiencing serious social, physical and economic problems.

-
- **Clareyse Nelson.....20**
 - **Carol Pass.....21**
 - **Jessica Ruona.....22**

Clareyse Nelson

Retired

Address: 601 Adams St NE (55413)

Neighborhood of Residence: St. Anthony East

Years in Neighborhood: 21 years Years in Minneapolis: 45 years

Phone: 623-3009

E-Mail: nelso318@tc.umn.edu



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

My volunteer work both in my profession and in my community have provided me with experience I can use to work with others and contribute to the neighborhood revitalization program. I have served on the NRP policy board for the past 4 years and hope to continue.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

Strengths of NRP include:

- Citizen participation has increased and citizens have become knowledgeable about working with city agencies.
- Neighborhoods have defined their vision and determined what they want for their community.

Weaknesses:

- Cumbersome, drawn out planning process resulting in volunteer turnover and burnout
- Difficult to recruit new volunteers, especially of underrepresented groups.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

I was co-chair of the St. Anthony East neighborhood planning committee and currently serve on the neighborhood implementation committee and co-chair our community health steering committee.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

I am available by phone, email or regular mail and am willing to attend neighborhood meetings as invited. I also have attended the phase II meetings held for citizen input and plan to attend future meetings of this kind.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

I want to assure that phase II planning remain at the neighborhood level and is simplified so that volunteers remain committed to the process.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

I understand the volunteers in the neighborhoods who are developing and implementing their plans and want to represent the neighborhood point of view.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

St. Anthony East NRP Implementation Committee
Logan Park/St. Anthony East Community Health Program Steering Committee
Sierra Club Urban Sprawl Committee

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

As a volunteer, I work in various NRP and neighborhood capacities as noted previously. In addition, I am on the medical technology alumni society board of the U of MN, serve as a mentor at Wayside House, serve as a ride leader for Twin Cities Bicycling Club, and belong to numerous organizations.

Carol Pass

Property Management/ College Professor

Address: 2536 18th Ave S (55404)

Neighborhood of Residence: East Phillips

Years in Neighborhood: 30 years Years in Minneapolis: 30 years

Phone: 721-4509

E-Mail: bpass@usinternet.com



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

I have lived here and raised my family here and worked as a volunteer for years. We have recreated a fine neighborhood organization after the collapse of "People of Phillips." These experiences plus work on college committees have given me ample experiences for this task.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

The close proximity to neighborhood needs allows them to be identified and responded to. Otherwise they remain neglected. The sense of ownership by the neighborhood residents creates a sense of pride and caring that dramatically improves the quality of life. Neighborhood uniqueness and pride emerges from this process. People come together and mutual assistance is the result!

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

I worked hard to bring People of Phillips into financial responsibility. When this proved impossible, our section of the neighborhood created its own organization which put in place bylaws to correct the problems of the earlier organization. This was a major learning experience. I am now the treasurer and the organization is very well run. I have also participated in "Neighbors for Neighborhoods" in the effort to regroup NRP.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

I will personally try to visit them and go to enough community meetings to understand their issues. I will try hard to work on educating the neighborhood to seek to avoid what have been persistent problems, especially fiscal responsibility and wisdom regarding community responsibility and participation.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

Neighborhood decision-making processes, Neighborhood education with regard to participation, Fiscal responsibility, Coalition building between Neighborhood organizations and nonprofits and businesses.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

I have been to numerous NRP board meetings and our representatives have rarely been there. When they have been there, I have been disappointed for the most part in both their preparation and sense of direction. I watched a discussion of "exit strategies" for MCDA from NRP funding. Our reps from the redirection neighborhoods sat silent. I was not pleased.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

"Village in Phillips" Board Member

East Phillips Improvement Coalition Treasurer and Board Member

East Phillips Commons Development Chair

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

I volunteer for this stuff.

Jessica Ruona

Cosmetologist/Mother/Volunteer

Address: 2809 Harriet Ave S (55408)

Neighborhood of Residence: Whittier

Years in Neighborhood: 8.5 years Years in Minneapolis: 8.5 years

Phone: 871-1387

E-Mail: Not listed



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

My involvement in the community...both through the school and my neighbors, has brought me in touch with many people and their concerns. In having many one on one conversations I have been able to find out about what people need, what they know, and what they don't know. I have always worked hard to answer people's questions.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

The greatest strength of NRP is its ability to tap in to community resources to help aid in the development of the community.

The weakness of NRP is the lack of governmental support which insures the completion of projects developed by communities.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

I have attended meetings and workshops; I have volunteered my time; I have taken classes focused on community leadership training; I have been on a steering committee which brought together city council candidates and mayoral candidates together to speak to them about their stand on NRP; and I am heavily involved with the community school in my area.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

I would attend their meetings and continue to maintain relationships developed by the NRP and through my own connections. I would also make myself available to do one on one contacts with people in the groups.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

Insuring public knowledge of city policy and educating them on tax usage.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

I feel that I have the ability as a community volunteer to bring a realistic balance of knowledge to the group and especially the communities we effect.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

Neighbors for Neighborhoods Steering Committee
Co-Chair Whittier Leadership Team
Parent Advisory Council
Treasurer Whittier PTA
Steering Committee for Whittier Park Improvement
S.E.A. at Whittier Community School

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

S.E.A. is a paid position; all of the other positions are all unpaid.

Revitalization Candidates



represent the 37 Minneapolis neighborhoods
beginning to experience some social,
physical and economic problems.

-
- Greg Bastien.....24
 - Julia Burman.....25
 - Chai Vang.....26-27

Greg Bastien

Teacher

Address: 2709 E. Minnehaha Pkwy (55417)

Neighborhood of Residence: Nokomis East

Years in Neighborhood: 16 years Years in Minneapolis: 50 years

Phone: 722-7582

E-Mail: Gregmsea@aol.com



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

I have developed skills in problem solving, organizing and communication work through my jobs in unions and education. Additionally I have volunteered throughout my life to work local issues and projects.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

NRP has the ability to provide every citizen the opportunity to improve the physical and social conditions within their neighborhoods. Both a strength and a weakness is the lack of coordination between neighborhoods on projects. The NRP process has developed a cadre of local citizen activists that will provide community leadership into the future.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

I have been active since the inception of NRP in Nokomis East serving on the Steering Committee and Board.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

A person can maintain contact with neighborhoods through e-mail and personal contact with neighborhood associations.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

I'll name two items: streamlining work between city departments and neighborhood associations and finding additional funding sources for NRP.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

I believe an independent, neighborhood based decision-making process must be kept in place in order to balance between large scale and small scale development.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

Currently I participate in community based orchestras and theaters. I play the violin in the Kenwood Orchestra and ICC Orchestra. I have acted in plays at Corcoran Park.

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Recently I worked as a consultant for the St. Paul Police Federation. I am a member of the Sierra Club, U.N.A., W.A.M.M.

Julia Burman

No Occupation listed

Address: 2543 Jackson St NE (55418)

Neighborhood of Residence: Holland

Years in Neighborhood: 17 years Years in Minneapolis: 46 years

Phone: 788-6766

E-Mail: JKBurman@mac.com



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

Being a community volunteer in neighborhoods, schools, scouting, as well as my experience in administrative support services have given me the foundation necessary to understand and look for solutions to the issues that face our neighborhoods.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

The strengths of the NRP include strengthening citizen participation; enabling residents to find solutions specifically tailored to the needs of their communities; providing resources to implement those solutions.

The weaknesses would include technical expertise expected of neighborhoods which some may not have; the current uncertainty regarding future funding.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

I have been a board member, president and staff over the 10 years I've been involved in my neighborhood association. During the first year of Holland's NRP participation, I was employed as the Holland NRP Neighborhood Coordinator. In this position, I worked on all aspects of design and preparation of the 1st step plan. I continued to work on the plan and other NRP projects as a volunteer.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

Listening to the neighborhoods, attending their meetings, sharing information that affects the communities and the city.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

Identifying the resources for full funding of Phase II of the NRP must be a priority for all of us and I would like to ensure the continuation of NRP resources to be allocated through neighborhood plans.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

NRP is an important revitalization and development tool. Being a neighborhood representative will allow me to use my background in neighborhood issues to support the work of the neighborhoods within the framework of the NRP.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

Holland Neighborhood Housing Committee
NE Community Development Corporation Planning Group
Neighbors for Neighborhoods
NE Community Center Planning Group

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Volunteer for various community activities listed above (unpaid)

Mr. Chai Vang

Program Coordinator, Hmong Economic Development (Minneapolis/Hennepin)

Address: 2719 Knox Ave N (55411)

Neighborhood of Residence:

Jordan (home) Sumner-Glenwood/Harrison (professional)

Years in Neighborhood: 1 year Years in Minneapolis: 1 year

Phone: 374-2694

E-Mail: Cvang@hamaa.org



1. How have your life experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative?

As a Hmong New American from Laos via Thailand I have had the honor and responsibility of working with our Hmong and Laotian survivors of the Great Retreat as America left the Vietnam War in 1975. A member of the Vang Clan, I was raised from birth with the knowledge and understanding that our people – all people of the community – must work together to build for the future. It was always so in Laos where we had very limited resources and virtually no educational opportunity. The disaster of the war also created the greatest opportunity in the history of our Hmong people when we were accepted in America to rebuild our lives and families. I have studied business at college in Montana and later California, worked with hotels to employ limited education, non-English speaking immigrants (not just Hmong) and work today with youth and families integrating activities from homes to jobs to small business.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the NRP?

The strength is on the first initial: NEIGHBORHOOD. It is our community. That the "villages" stand side-by-side in Minneapolis rather than down the road makes little difference. What matters is that each village-community has an opportunity to express its special needs and desires present and for the future. Without disparaging city council or agencies at large, they were created to reflect a broader view and to assist in orchestrating the simultaneous emergence of many neighborhoods on something approaching equality. By its very nature, such an approach must lose some of the detail, and flavor specific to our local neighborhood that can only be reinforced at the local level. The risk becomes one of a neighborhood being represented by only one cultural viewpoint, or worse one without a "soul" through the machinations of political correctness run amok. Engagement must be practiced at the door every morning.

3. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization and its NRP process?

To date I have been an observer. My duties at Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association have required workweeks in excess of 50 hours to meet the needs of youth and families in various categories including school, teens career development, family employment, crisis counseling and reconciliation. Every month includes one or more incidents of at-large community intervention or reconciliation, either through direct action or court directed activity. As a member of the Bassett Creek Valley Eco-Industrial Redevelopment and a correspondent with McCormack-Baron on the long-term redevelopment of Sumner-Glenwood/Lyndale through HOPE VI, I have come to know the local community partners. Work with the Minneapolis Public Schools, including Anwatin, Olson, Patrick Henry, Edison and others, including a recently launched HMAAA initiative to gather up the teens who are truant and dropping out has kept me in close touch with educators and parents.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent if elected?

Community meetings are held nearly monthly in North Minneapolis. While able to quickly call meetings of Hmong and Laotian families through our own network, long affiliation with other local groups, such as Northside Agencies, the Northwest Area Foundation Strategy Circles and the Minneapolis Public Schools North Area Parents Advisory Meetings with knowledge of their meeting schedules provides a solid platform for community and cross-cultural information sharing.

5. Name one thing you would like to work on if elected.

While the primary goal of both our HAMAA Agency and Hmong families is the strengthening of the core family, that concept encompasses many activities. My person education and experience are based in financial resource development and small business development. Without question our many Hmong and Laotian Minneapolis families are searching hard for the tools and assets to move away from both welfare and the interminable, dead end, low wage "job temp" assembly position. They want to put their roots down and build small, family businesses in Minneapolis. Just as true is the need for all cultural groups in North Minneapolis to have an opportunity to build for the future. My desire is to pursue that future with my friends and neighbors in locating old buildings and collecting the funds for small new neighborhood buildings and renovations to bring small business into the neighborhoods. Coordinating that activity with the city and county agencies and local non-profit organizations such as Northwest Area Foundation must reside at the center of the program.

6. Why are you running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board?

For well over a decade our Hmong and Laotian people in Minneapolis have been overshadowed by the larger, more vocal and better recognized St. Paul/Ramsey Southeast Asian Community. We are proud of what we as Asian-Americans have accomplished in rebuilding our neighborhoods in St. Paul (notably Summit-University and Frogtown). We did our part – with a lot of help from our many neighbors – to bring pride to our Community. But we must now look to the other 1/3 of our Hmong people and thousands of Laotians who live and work in Minneapolis/Hennepin County. We too work with our neighbors and want to share in the development of our neighborhoods in Minneapolis.

7. List any community-based organizations with which you are currently involved.

My current employment is through Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association located in Sumner/Harrison neighborhoods and serving primarily our Hmong residents of Minneapolis and Hennepin County.

8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Bassett Creek Valley Eco-Industrial Redevelopment Group (unpaid)
 Lao Veterans of America in Minnesota, Citizenship Drive (unpaid)
 Hmong United International Council, Meeting of the 18 Clans for Law Issues (unpaid)



Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board Forums & Election

WHEN:

**Thursday, November 29, 2001
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

WHERE:

**2nd Floor, Crown Roller Mill Building
105 Fifth Avenue South
Minneapolis**

THE AGENDA:

- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m..... Registration/Meet the Candidates Social/
Rules Presentation by League of Women Voters**
- 7:00 - 8:15 p.m..... At-Large Candidate Forum & Voting**
- 8:15 - 9:00 p.m..... Redirection, Revitalization and Protection
Candidate Forums & Voting**

This event is accessible to persons with disabilities. To request language interpretation or childcare services, call 673-5158 by Thursday, November 22. For more detailed bus information, call MTCO BusLine at 373-3333.

For more information about the NRP Policy Board election process, call the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis at 333-6319.