

**The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program**



# **Voter's Guide**



**for neighborhood representative seats  
on the 2004 NRP Policy Board**

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

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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.**

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The 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 2004 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 NRP Policy Board Neighborhood Representative candidate forums/election will begin at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, November 20, 2003 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, in surface parking lots and in the Gateway and Depot ramps. However, the NRP will not reimburse parking fees. 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.

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- Kari Lynn Anderson.....4
  - Gregory M. Bastien.....5-6
  - Debbie Evans.....7-8
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  - Sean Wherley.....11-12

# Kari Lynn Anderson

Financial Associate

Address: 218 Logan Ave. N. (55405)

Neighborhood of Residence: Harrison

Years in Neighborhood: 1 year    Years in Minneapolis: 11 years

Phone: Not published

E-Mail: Karia@bitstream.net



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

My life experiences have informed my world view to include a commitment to building strong communities.

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

A main strength of the NRP is in allowing neighbors to make decisions about their neighborhoods instead of legislators.

A weakness is getting true representation across class and culture lines, especially in neighborhoods of low-income families and where English might not be spoken.

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

As a member of the Harrison Neighborhood housing committee.

Past volunteer for Citizens for a Loring Park Community.

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

By attending community and neighborhood meetings as appropriate.

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

Keeping NRP funding intact and positioning the program to last into the future.

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

Because I've got passion and energy to be an effective representative.

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

Harrison Neighborhood Association

CCNP's Restorative Justice program

Community Capital Alliance

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

None listed

# Gregory M. Bastien

Teacher

Address: 2709 E. Minnehaha Pkwy (55417)

Neighborhood of Residence: Nokomis East

Years in Neighborhood: 18 years    Years in Minneapolis: 52 years

Phone: 612-722-7582

E-Mail: Gregmsea@aol.com



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

Over several decades I have participated in city and neighborhood issues; such as stopping the freeway on Hiawatha Avenue, investigating municipal power for Minneapolis, sitting on the community school task force, the Minneapolis School citizen budget committee, park and recreation issues. Through work experiences I have been part of insurance task forces looking at ways to cut costs and improve benefits for public employees. Additionally, I have worked on numerous political campaigns as a volunteer. All of these activities have equipped me for the task of being a neighborhood representative.

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

The NRP has proven to be a superb planning tool for those who have become involved. Citizens have been empowered by the development of action plans and the allocation of discretionary funds, which makes neighborhood associations effective partners in small and medium scale development. Social as well as brick and mortar development has occurred in Minneapolis because of the action plans.

The weakness is in the strength. A strong well run association also carries with it a fiduciary responsibility that calls for continuity of leadership. This can freeze out newcomers, create an insider/outsider framework and lead to rejection of new ideas. This is by no means insurmountable and has been with several action plans.

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

I have been Chair of the NRP steering committee, a member of the association's administration committee, board member and vice-chair. Currently I'm on the board and serve on the housing committee. In the Nokomis East neighborhood I helped draft the original Participation Agreement and held meetings throughout the four neighborhoods that make up Nokomis East.

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

This component of being a representative is of critical importance, but it is also one that has been most difficult to fulfill for members of the Policy Board. Some possible solutions would be to post notes and positions on the NRP website, create a list of associations for e-mail, attend meetings of the associations represented and in these ways solicit input for board decisions. All of the neighborhood representatives could hold quarterly meetings in different areas of the city for feedback as part of their Policy Board duties. I would certainly try to do these things as a member of the Policy Board.

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

Increasing the amount of discretionary funds and maintaining the integrity of an independent NRP are tasks I want to continue working on. As a Board alternate, I worked on the Minneapolis Focus Group; along with other neighborhood representatives on this focus group I supported discretionary funding for neighborhoods, an independent Policy Board and NRP staffing. Ideas that should become part of the formula for Phase II include: counting other than NRP money in the 52% for housing thereby increasing the amount of discretionary funds for associations, greater access to CDBG money, and improving city department coordination with action plans.

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

Continuing the theme from the last answer, I support a strong and representative NRP. In many ways we have proven ourselves vibrant, but we also should examine our representation in neighborhoods to answer those who complain not enough people are participating. Our ability to empower is not limited to discretionary dollars alone. We have and continue to give people an opportunity to connect with our city in a way that values their input. Strong neighborhoods mean lower crime, higher property values, stability and most importantly the intangible concept of respect. Ideas freely debated lead to better projects and relationships.

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

I am a volunteer for the MPRB, Longfellow Garden citizen advisory committee, a member of the Community Advisory Committee for LRT, a member of the Sierra Club sprawl committee, a member of SMAAC on airport noise, a member of a community orchestra, past performer in the Corcoran Park Players, a member of the Minnehaha Affordable Housing Committee and a member of Neighbors for Neighborhoods.

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

I believe all of the affiliations have been included in the previous question. Additional national affiliations include: the ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center, Oxfam, and a contributor to a micro-loan bank.

# Debbie Evans

Marketing Promotions Manager

Address: 3807 Zenith Ave S (55410)

Neighborhood of Residence: Linden Hills

Years in Neighborhood: 15 years      Years in Minneapolis: 15 years

Phone: 612-860-2526

E-Mail: devans3807@aol.com



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

My service as a board member and former LHiNC board co-chair, founding member of Neighbors for Neighborhoods, planner and facilitator of neighborhood conferences with the mayor and council members and a NRP Management Review Team Neighborhood Representative has prepared me for serving on the Policy Board.

As an alternate on the Policy Board, I have been an advocate for neighborhoods, marketing **neighborhoods'** needs to the Policy Board. I have strongly supported and worked intensively to secure a revenue stream for NRP. I approach my work with energy, enthusiasm, careful planning, preparation, and attention to detail and follow through.

It is a neighborhood representative's **responsibility** to inform neighborhoods of concerns and opportunities regarding NRP and to encourage them to become involved. At the Policy Board, I have been a strong advocate for neighborhoods, supporting the mandate of the state statute that does not allow the City to take NRP funds for regular city services. I have supported the statute requiring that NRP funds must be used for neighborhood-identified priorities as presented in their neighborhood action plans.

## 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 essence of NRP. In 1991 Minneapolis residents were given the opportunity to determine funding priorities for their neighborhoods. Through NRP, citizens have been able to make giant strides in improving their neighborhoods and building a sense of community.

Through NRP, neighborhood organization's have had the ability to use tax dollars to leverage other funds. NRP projects have leveraged more than a **HALF BILLION DOLLARS...\$500,000,000.**

### WEAKNESSES:

The uncertainty of future funding for NRP has generated volunteer frustration, burnout and excessive turnover. Elected officials need to work **with** us, not use NRP as a funding source to balance their budget. The full potential of NRP will only be realized when elected officials view NRP and neighborhoods as their partners.

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

I have been deeply involved in LHiNC and its NRP planning and implementation process since 1995. I have Co-chaired the LHiNC Board, the Natural Environment Committee, the Commercial Business/Commercial Property Committee and Chaired the Communications Committee and served on the Finance and

Education/Environment Committees. I have been editor of the *Linden Hills News* since 1997. I have overseen the implementation of LHiNC's NRP projects, big and small, including the 44th St./PATH Project, and secured extensive matching funds for neighborhood NRP dollars. Through the planning and implementation process, I have worked extensively with Public Works, the MPRB, the Library Board and the MPS Board and have intimately experienced the challenges inherent in that process.

I am presently serving as Protection Neighborhood's Representative on the NRP Management Review Team and as the Protection Neighborhood Alternate on the NRP Policy Board. I have also served on the Policy Board's Focus Minneapolis Working Group and Nominating Committee.

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

Last year, when I was running for the position of neighborhood representative, I committed to communicating with neighborhoods regarding important issues coming before the Policy Board. Since then, I have met with many neighborhood organizations and worked with neighborhood staff, board members and neighborhood leaders, not only in the Protection Neighborhoods, but in many Revitalization and Redirection Neighborhoods as well. I would continue to inform neighborhoods of important NRP issues and be a resource for information and support for neighborhoods during their Phase I Plan Review process and their Phase II planning process. I would be readily available to neighborhood board members via phone, fax and e-mail, and attend as many neighborhood meetings as possible. I would host meetings/events to disseminate and/or exchange information. I would be **your advocate** on the Policy Board. As I have done this past year, I would facilitate neighborhood responses to elected officials on the very important decisions being made regarding the future of NRP.

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

Sorry, there are several. I would work to:

- 1) **Ensure that NRP funds are directed by neighborhoods and that the needs of the neighborhoods are strongly advocated at the Policy Board level.**
- 2) ENSURE FULL FUNDING OF NRP. (It will take longer and we will need to be creative in developing revenue streams, but this **must** be done.)
- 3) Improve and streamline neighborhood/agency relationships.
- 4) Promote neighborhood awareness of opportunities to secure additional funds, e.g. grants, in-kind contributions, untapped neighborhood resources, sharing/pooling of resources across neighborhoods where sensible.
- 5) Encourage neighborhoods to build on their Phase I accomplishments as they begin Phase II.

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

There is a lot of work yet to do to support the needs of neighborhoods at the Policy Board level. I have a deep respect for neighborhood volunteers. I would be a strong and ever present advocate for neighborhoods and their investment of volunteer time and energy. As a Neighborhood Representative, I would be a constant reminder to the Policy Board that government is here to help meet the needs that residents cannot meet by themselves

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

NRP Policy Board, Neighborhood Representative Alternate; NRP Management Review Team, Neighborhood Representative; Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC), Board Member & former Co-Chair; LHiNC Communication Committee, Chair; *Linden Hills News*, Editor; Neighbors For Neighborhoods, Member; Animal Humane Society, Foster Parent; Wigs Without Worry, Board Member

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Marketing Promotions Manager, HMT Marketing, Inc.

All of the positions as noted in #7 above are unpaid.



# Alicia R. Phillips

Consultant/Teacher

Address: 2410 10th Ave. S. (55404)

Neighborhood of Residence: Phillips

Years in Neighborhood: 1.5 years    Years in Minneapolis:

Phone: 612-724-9207

E-Mail: Aliciarp@mindspring.com



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

My family has a long history of neighborhood engagement and it has been a part of my life since childhood. While attending Macalester in the late 80s, I worked on a lot of community projects through my internships and jobs, including organizing St. Paul's first earned income tax credit campaign and organizational consulting for a community newspaper. That work led me to launch Next Innovations, a leadership-development and alliance-building training program for people in their 20s. I worked as the nonprofit's executive director for seven years, leaving in 1999 to teach in public schools.

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

The NRP's greatest strength is its ability to involve citizen participation in the public planning process. This capacity for building citizen ownership of the communities is crucial in the development of strong neighborhoods and a healthy city.

The organization is a phenomenal model, but in order to be more successful, it must expand and focus its capacity to involve all of the diverse segments of the communities it works with, specifically renters, people of color and low-income people. The organization also needs to better develop infrastructures and leadership that will support ongoing citizen engagement.

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

I have lived in the Phillips neighborhood for 18 months and have put my emphasis on building one-to-one relationships with my neighbors and now the Block Club. As of yet, I have not participated in my neighborhood NRP process. When I do something I like to engage fully and during my 20's I spent my time working wholeheartedly working at the nonprofit.

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

I would make myself accessible by attending neighborhood meetings in different neighborhoods, by email, phone, and an electronic update newsletter. At these neighborhood meetings I would both gather input and provide information from the board meetings. As a citizen board member, my role is to be accountable to the community and see to it that NRP has a strategic focus and is accountable to the outcomes it establishes.

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

I would work on building a better understanding with State leaders and representatives about the importance of NRP and the necessity of having it an integrated part of any community development strategy. In addition, I would like to work on attracting a more diverse group of participants, engaging those usually left out of the process and yet most affected by the workings of the program.

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

We are at a juncture. NRP needs the type of leadership that can organize people, understand regulations and policies, understand budgetary processes, and build relationships with community organizations and citizens. This is the time for NRP to fully realize its potential from the ideals upon which it was started. There is an incredible amount of resources within NRP and connected to NRP – ideas, talent and potential—I can work with all of the stakeholders and work with others to move NRP boldly forward.

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

West Side Community Health Services  
Jordan Area Community Council

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Mason Jay Blacher and Associates  
West Side Community Health Services  
Temple Israel  
Phillips Neighborhood Block Club for 10th and 11th Avenue  
Various impromptu volunteer activities and projects.

# Sean Wherley

Environmental policy

Address: 4300 Grand Ave. S. (55409)

Neighborhood of Residence: Kingfield

Years in Neighborhood: 2.5 years

Years in Minneapolis: 7 years

Phone: 612-825-4952

E-Mail: [swerley73@hotmail.com](mailto:swerley73@hotmail.com)



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

Serving as a neighborhood representative means listening to people and advocating on their behalf. I learned the importance of such 'constituent service' by watching several public officials for whom I worked, either as a paid staff member or volunteer. In addition, I am a passionate person who is comfortable expressing a minority voice, particularly when defending something as worthy as NRP. I am an activist, having gained such experience working on behalf of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender rights, the environment, and progressive candidates running for office. This experience and dedication would continue as a representative on the NRP Policy Board.

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

NRP's main strength is its ability to involve and empower neighborhood residents. The program has engaged hundreds, if not thousands, of people by providing them a forum in which they chart the course for their neighborhoods. Few cities have such a progressive system, which allows people to spend public funds and directly impact the quality of their neighborhoods.

NRP's weakness is the lack of guaranteed funding. This is not the result of people directly involved in NRP; rather it is that of public officials who consider NRP a ripe target for balancing the city's budget deficit.

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

I served on the board of the Seward Neighborhood Group for seven months in 1997-1998, before moving out of the state. I returned to Minneapolis in 2001, and have served on the board of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association since May 2002. In Kingfield, I chair the neighborhood's NRP Committee, edit and write its quarterly newsletter, lead fundraising efforts, and organized the neighborhood's annual festival in August 2003.

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

I intend to send monthly updates by e-mail to executive directors, neighborhood board members, and other community residents for which I have e-mail addresses. I currently do this as the Kingfield neighborhood representative for the 35W Project Advisory Committee. I would also make myself available to speak to any neighborhood organization.

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

My primary project would be bolstering funding for, and prolonging the life of, NRP. The program's second phase is scheduled to endure massive cuts before it ends in 2009. I want NRP to continue as a fully funded program at least until 2010, as was the original intent when conceived in 1990.

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

I am running for a seat on the Policy Board because NRP needs an outspoken community advocate. The mayor and city council are planning to balance the city's budget in part by cutting funding to NRP. As a passionate defender of NRP, I will work to counter such efforts and preserve NRP as a viable program not just through 2009, but beyond. When funding to NRP ceases, so too will the forum for people to influence the future of our neighborhoods.

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

- Serve as a neighborhood representative on the 35W Project Advisory Committee;
- Serve as a board member of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association; and
- Serve as an officer of Speak Up and Out Toastmasters, a public speaking group.

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Work full-time for Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, a non-profit, environmental group in Minneapolis.

# Protection Candidates



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

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- Dolores (Dee) Cotten.....14
- Nicholas T. Kakos.....15-16
- Jeffrey L. Strand.....17-19

# Dolores (Dee) Cotten

Office manager

Address: 115 Second Ave. S. #615 (55401)

Neighborhood of Residence: Downtown East

Years in Neighborhood: 11 years      Years in Minneapolis: 67 years

Phone: 612-376-7584

E-Mail: dee@micah.org



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

I have been on the Downtown Mpls. Residents Assn., which it was first named when it started. Now it is called the Downtown Mpls. Neighborhood Assn. I have been there almost 8 years.

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

It is good for all neighborhoods because you have to abide by rules & regulations, which is good for all organizations. Helps all neighborhoods. I consider it to be strong in all areas of NRP. I don't believe there are any weaknesses.

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

We started with Kiosks in downtown. I also have been busy each year with National Night Out since 1995. For a number of years I did it all by myself and usually we have the biggest turn out this year 2003 we had a 1,000 people.

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

We only have Downtown East and West because North Loop has its own neighborhood assn. Some of the people on the Downtown board are from both East & West and I have also gone to meetings at North Loop.

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

To get more housing that is affordable in all neighborhoods, so we would have less homelessness for children and families & single adults.

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

Because I have interested in NRP all my life no matter what part of the city I lived in.

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

All unpaid: Downtown Mpls. Neighborhood Association  
Restorative Justice  
Housing for Senior Federation  
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee to the Mayor  
Mpls. Housing Trust Fund  
Rivergate Tenants Association  
Also was on CCHT for seven years.

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Office Manager of Micah.  
Worked 2 nights at the State Fair for Senior Federation

# Nicholas T. Kakos

Certified Public Accountant

Address: 3240 Humboldt Ave. S. (55408)

Neighborhood of Residence: East Calhoun (ECCO)

Years in Neighborhood: 57 years    Years in Minneapolis: Life

Phone: 612-825-9709

E-Mail: None 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 neighborhood organizations. As a Protection Neighborhood Representative the past 7 years, I have learned to project and provide guidance and direction on an equitable basis to the NRP program on a citywide basis.

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

The strengths of the NRP program is derived from the tremendous volunteer citizen participation involvement enabling neighborhoods to determine their own needs and priorities and cooperatively develop and implement their own plans in attaining their community's long term visionary strategic objectives. From an overall viewpoint, there are no significant weaknesses in the NRP program. Policy and procedural changes implemented during the past three years have streamlined the NRP process, which has greatly reduced 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 development of the neighborhood's Action Plan. Served as active participant on East Calhoun Neighborhood Organization's Board of Directors which is responsible for implementation of the Phase I Action Plan. Currently serving as Chairman of ECCO's Zoning Committee.

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

Experience has shown it is very difficult to maintain direct communication and attend meetings of all 31 Protection Neighborhoods. Currently, all relevant information, issues, policy changes are effectively communicated to the neighborhoods by NRP staff under the direction of the Policy Board through its Executive Director which adequately provides each neighborhood with up to date information. Nonetheless, I would always make myself available when requested to attend meetings, provide information, counsel, guidance and any assistance to neighborhood when needed.

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

The Tax Revenue changes enacted by the State Legislature in 2001 created serious funding problems for the City of Minneapolis and NRP. The recent passage of the Lane Ordinance by the City Council provides some basic source for continued funding of NRP on a limited basis. Because of my financial experience and knowledge of NRP's intricate financial structure, I would concentrate on exploring other sources of obtaining additional funding for NRP. In addition, I would also endeavor to assure that distribution of the limited funding is allocated to the neighborhoods on a fair and equitable basis.

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

My 7 years on the NRP Policy Board have taught me that the financial structure is not simple, but complex with many intermingling financial, legal and governmental jurisdictional requirements. With the financial cutbacks caused by the State Legislature, our current funding crisis threatens the future viability of NRP. My financial knowledge of NRP, experience and current participation in analyzing the options available to NRP should be of great assistance in making every effort possible to obtain adequate funding to assure the permanent future continuation of an independent, community driven NRP program on a sound financial basis.

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

Vice Chairman, NRP Policy Board

East Calhoun Community Organization, Zoning Chairman

Hellenic Post 129, American Legion, Finance Officer

Fifth District American Legion, Executive Board & Baseball Director

Minnesota Department American Legion, State Baseball Committee

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Affiliation with all community-based organizations is on a voluntary non-compensated basis.



# Jeffrey L. Strand

Supervisor, Tax-Forfeit & Property Revenue Section

Address: 5100 Thomas Ave. N. (55430)

Neighborhood of Residence: Shingle Creek

Years in Neighborhood: 14 years      Years in Minneapolis: 25 years

Phone: 612-588-4817

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



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

I have been given the opportunity both in my career and in my work as a community activist to interact with diverse groups and to creatively problem solve. I bring a willingness to listen to the views of others, but also a willingness to articulate neighborhood concerns and interests. Neighborhood representatives must work together to be effective.

The prior experience on the Policy Board (2001-2002) and other deliberative bodies means I know how to prepare and move action items in this setting. As the record from my prior service reflects, I attend and speak up in meetings because I consider it critical that anyone serving as a neighborhood representative on the Policy Board not be hesitant about asking direct and tough questions when necessary.

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

My decade-plus involvement in the program has instilled in me the belief that neighborhood-based planning and visioning performed by Minneapolis' citizens is a great NRP strength. Since the City's financial resources are so strained, the prudent use of limited resources available to the neighborhoods becomes critically important during the balance of the program. Careful goal prioritization, consideration of outcomes and sound fiscal management must be another strength. Creative ways need to be found to infuse new energy into the longtime program participants and to engage the new Americans communities.

Even as the program enters its second decade, one must ask if residents achieved the core goal of redirecting municipal planning and resources? I perceive a weakness of the NRP is that the municipal bureaucracy, existing processes and many officials have failed to embrace the neighborhoods-based planning arising from the NRP program. The Council and Mayor Rybak have embraced Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) and Focus Minneapolis. Now and into the future there needs to be greater integration between the NRP as a citizen participation program and the municipal organizations, processes and systems.

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

I helped form the Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association and have served on its board since 1992 and as its board chair since 1997. Through this neighborhood involvement, I participated in projects and organizations including the Penn Lowry Lyndale Implementation Council, the Humboldt Greenway Steering Committee, the Mississippi Corridor Neighborhood Coalition, an ad hoc task force to oppose closing of Shingle Creek Elementary school, the Community Board of CommonBond Communities Shingle Creek Commons senior housing, and the Camden Alliance of Neighborhoods.

Besides serving as association president, I chaired numerous board meetings and membership meetings. I represented the neighborhood's interests at public meetings and before the City Council, the Park Board, the School Board, and a committee of the Minnesota Legislature. I have written articles for the neighborhood

newsletter, Camden Community News, and have composed numerous letters and emails and initiated phone calls to local officials to help facilitate for residents or to resolve neighborhood problems.

The Shingle Creek action plan was adopted in 1995 and its Phase I Review was completed in 2002. SCNA's budget only permits part-time neighborhood staff. SCNA has achieved several plan modifications to accommodate changes in neighborhood priorities or to support local government planning goals. I'm proud of the work product to date of a 2-year community planning, visioning and greening process Shingle Creek has undertaken in collaboration with other groups for Humboldt Industrial Park. To me neighborhood activism is good citizenship---like voting, paying one's taxes, and caring about one's home and community.

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

If elected to serve in 2004 I will use my experience as a long-time neighborhood chair/board member and community activist to remain accessible to interested constituents and stakeholders who wish to contact me with their concerns or issues.

I will build on relationships with other neighborhood activists (such as Debbie Evans) affiliated with the "Neighbors for Neighborhoods" during 2002-2003 as policy-makers debated long-term structural and funding issues.

Both on and off the Policy Board, I observed the meetings rarely attracted many members of the general public. This may be due in part to the meeting time and location of the Policy Board meetings (4:30 pm, Hennepin County Government Center). Neighborhood organizations should be informed of the draft meeting agenda in advance of meetings by having the information posted to the NRP web site in a timely manner. Likewise, Policy Board meeting minutes can be published to the web site. As the technology and funding permits, the Policy Board meetings may be televised on MTN or web cast to reach a wider audience.

In the meanwhile, I support the use of the NRP web site, mailings and the "NRP Link" as the primary effective means to get program and Policy Board information to neighborhoods and residents. I strive to practice a balanced approach to family, work life and community service, so I'm not going to promise to attend a neighborhood meeting every night of the week. But I will attend a meeting with neighborhood constituents if invited to do so.

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

The Policy Board is going to have to closely monitor and work with all the neighborhoods to equitably implement the Phase II program in view of the funding and rule changes resulting from the amendments to the NRP Ordinance. Some neighborhoods that complied with the rules and met or exceeded legal requirement of 52.5% for supporting housing will now face restrictions on funding other legitimate neighborhood goals and strategies. Members need also consider fairly balancing citywide needs in terms of Policy Board-directed funding from Reserve Funds versus funding priorities derived from specific neighborhood action plans.

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

If elected, I'm going to devote the time and energy to attend the board briefings and regular meetings and work with elected officials, community interest and neighborhood representatives to achieve constructive compromise to benefit the governance of the NRP and the interests of our city and its residents.

I believe there is unfinished business in terms of cleaning up the operation of the Policy Board to ensure that it conforms to its own bylaws. For example, I support enactment by the jurisdictions of Bylaws Revisions that were adopted by the Policy Board in 2002 that would increase neighborhood representation, clarify succession in case of vacancies, and provide a mechanism to ensure community interest representatives are active participants and not "placeholders."

The Policy Board lacks a committee structure that appears from time-to-time to result in matters being debated at length with little prior dialogue or consideration and with no constructive outcome. I think the Policy Board should consider if its regular meetings could be more efficient if it utilizes its existing authority to establish standing or special committees.

The NRP needs to lead the way as citizen participation in Minneapolis is improved or redesigned. The Policy Board cannot afford to continue in a reactive mode. Since the Policy Board brings together leaders from the local jurisdictions serving the citizens as well as neighborhood, foundation and other communities of interest, it must lead the way in this process.

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

Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association  
 Penn Lowry Implementation Council (PLLIC)  
 Shingle Creek Commons Community Board (CommonBond)  
 Camden Alliance of Neighborhoods (CAN!)

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

- Employer: Hennepin County Taxpayer Services
- Boarded Buildings Task Force (Minneapolis/Hennepin County)
- Environmental Assessment Team (Hennepin County)
- 2003 Employees Combined Charitable Campaign (dept. co-coordinator)

Unpaid:

- Mayor's Advisory Committee on Police Chief Selection
- Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association Board of Directors
- Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvements Committee
- Minneapolis Water Works' Citizen Advisory Committee
- Minneapolis/Senate District 58/Fourth Ward DFL Party
- Minneapolis-Moline Collectors, Inc., club member
- Hart-Parr Oliver Collector's Association, member #7821
- State Agricultural Heritage Museum, Brookings, South Dakota, member
- Minnesota's Machinery Museum, Hanley Falls, MN, member
- Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, donor
- District 202, donor
- Minnesota Public Radio, member
- Hennepin County Historical Society, donor
- TPT – Twin Cities Public Television, member

# Redirection Candidates



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

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- Zachary Korb.....21-22
- Carol Ann Pass.....23-24
- Mary Watson.....25-26

# Zachary Korb

Program Analyst – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Address: 1830 Stevens Ave. S. #34 (55403)

Neighborhood of Residence: Stevens Square

Years in Neighborhood: 1 year      Years in Minneapolis: 4 years

Phone: 612-382-7736

E-Mail: zacharykorb@yahoo.com



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

My involvement with the NRP, and background in urban development and policy, have prepared me to be a neighborhood representative on the Policy Board.

For instance, I have been a renter in Minneapolis for over four years. During that time I have been active in my neighborhood, worked as a neighborhood staff person, served on my neighborhood board of directors, and most recently, served as an alternate to the NRP Policy Board.

Additionally, I hold a Masters Degree in Urban Policy Analysis and currently work with a range of housing issues as an analyst with HUD. I believe these skills, including the experience of having worked with communities across the country on community development issues, have prepared me to be a neighborhood representative.

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

### Strengths:

- *One strength of the NRP is the resources it provides to neighborhoods, which allow residents to be more engaged, democratic, and political. Rather than on fundraising to sustain their organizations, citizens can focus their efforts on planning, organizing, and implementing projects.*
- *Neighborhood work with the NRP entails working with other neighborhoods and government agencies — a process that can be both frustrating and rewarding. The negotiation, frustration, and common work of the NRP helps to shape the way neighborhoods and local government agencies work. It also raises the credibility of neighborhood-level work within Minneapolis.*
- *Another strength of NRP is that it helps to build a sense of identity in our neighborhoods. The process of working with NRP projects builds a set of common experiences in neighborhoods. These experiences help create a neighborhood identity — a connection to the place where you live and your neighbors.*

### Weaknesses:

- *The NRP still does not draw upon all of our citizen resources in Minneapolis. Many groups remain underrepresented in NRP and we need to do a better job of attracting them, and letting them share in the benefits of involvement.*
- *Some NRP projects are defined by neighborhood boundaries when the issues impact areas larger than a single neighborhood. I think the NRP should continue to encourage communities to plan, combine resources, and implement projects across their neighborhood's boundaries when issues impact areas larger than a single neighborhood.*

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

I have tried to remain continuously involved in my neighborhood organization and the NRP in several ways. For instance, last year I began to attend Stevens Square Community Organization (SSCO) meetings in my new neighborhood. This past August I was appointed to SSCO's Board of Directors.

Previously, I was involved with Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC) as a Board Member and I was the staff person with the CARAG neighborhood. At CARAG, I supported NRP First Step implementation efforts and aided in the development of CARAG's Full Action Plan and Neighborhood Master Plan.

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

I will maintain relationships with the neighborhoods several ways. I am always available to neighborhoods by email and the phone. Additionally, I would enjoy having the opportunity to provide occasional updates on the NRP at neighborhood meetings, as opportunities arise.

This year, if there is interest, I would like to explore the possibility of establishing an NRP email discussion list with neighborhoods.

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

I want to continue to promote the involvement of underrepresented groups in the NRP. I think there is much more to be gained from broader participation in the NRP.

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

I am interested in working on community development efforts in Minneapolis. My experiences have been committed to citizen-driven efforts and the NRP is one of the most exciting programs I have participated in. I am running for Policy Board because I will bring a new and fresh approach to Board with energy to try and understand how to make the NRP work better.

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

Stevens Square Community Organization  
Stevens Square Center for the Arts

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Paid: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
Unpaid: American Planning Association  
Civic Alliance to Rebuild Lower Manhattan

# Carol Ann Pass

Former College Teacher

Address: 2536 18th Ave. S. (55404)

Neighborhood of Residence: East Phillips

Years in Neighborhood: 30 years    Years in Minneapolis: 35 years

Phone: 612-721-4509

E-Mail: bpass@usinternet.com



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

I have lived and raised my two sons in Phillips for my entire professional life as a teacher in area colleges where I taught a wide variety of courses, but primarily social ethics. Gratifyingly, several former students have joined me to live and work here. I served on the housing board of People of Phillips and was one of the founders of East Phillips Improvement Coalition, which took its place. As housing co-chair, I raised the first money for housing in East Phillips by seeking subsidy from area business, going on to help produce subsidy for 24 new homes, chairing the East Phillips Commons Project committee which is redeveloping 36 units of housing near the Bloom/Lake intersection, serving on the Village In Phillips project board, creating over 50 housing units. I helped found the Bloomington Avenue Patrol to protect school kids waiting for the buses from drug selling and prostitution. I believe these areas of service have skilled me up for the job as well as my previous two years as NRP Redirection Rep.

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

The strength of NRP is the enfranchisement of the most local voices of the city. The power to implement right where you live is what draws participation and not the other way around. Most people don't go to meetings just to talk. They want to do something. And the people nearest the situation often know best what is needed and should have the capital to accomplish these things. If there is a weakness it is that greater information regarding what can be done, what is possible, and how to do it could be available. This aspect of NRP could be streamlined and more readily available. Also information regarding trouble spots in neighborhoods and how to effectively deal with them could be more readily available.

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

I served on the housing board of People of Phillips and struggled with many of the problems that brought about its demise, learning much about what should not happen in the process. I was one of the founders of East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), which took its place, helping to write its bylaws and recently its 501.C.3 application, serving as treasurer for four years, helping its plan modifications meet its new role and vision. I have liaised NRP policy board information to assist this process, and helped form block clubs to bring information and decision-making even closer to residents.

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

This year as Redirection Policy Board Representative I tried to be at all the Mayor's information and fact finding meetings in the areas I represent as well as in those areas where the needs of the inner core neighborhoods tend to be least well understood, to clarify those needs. I met with and spoke to many of the leaders of the Redirection neighborhoods and went to a variety of community meetings to listen to concerns in as many of the neighborhoods as I could manage. I would hope to do more of the same and to ask for space at community meetings to offer information regarding future funding and other issues and to listen.

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

I would like to streamline information guidelines coming from NRP to the neighborhoods. I believe some of this could be simplified and also that a lot of good answers to questions just aren't available, information regarding what neighborhoods can do, where to go for help and inspiration both within and beyond the NRP Office. Also regarding information, I would like to assist in a greater cross-fertilization of the inner core neighborhoods. We need to be talking to each other, collaborating, and sharing what we've learned are answers to our similar problems. We also could be more supportive of one another's agendas. This task is especially suited to the NRP Redirection Representative.

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

This year has been a demanding year as an NRP Policy Board Representative. It has involved, for me and some others, sometimes five to six tough meetings a month plus studying budget and legal details as we worked hard to save funding for the neighborhoods. These meetings were often 3 even 4 hours long, but I am convinced that had some of us not put forth a major effort, things would look very different now and I am satisfied that we got the results we did. This demanded knowledge and a lot of commitment. Commitment is essential in the present tough time. We need someone who will do this. I know I will and have learned enough to be effective for our people. I am convinced that a one or even two-year term is a waste of resources. This is why I want to do this.

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

East Phillips Improvement Coalition, Treasurer  
 East Phillips Commons Project Committee  
 Village in Phillips Project Committee  
 Phillips Cedar Corridor Block Club  
 Bloomington Avenue Citizens' Patrol  
 The Block Club Network (crime committee)  
 Bloomington/Cedar/Lake Commercial Association  
 High Lake Project Review Committee

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Same as above.



# Mary Watson

Retired

Address: 1815 13th Ave. S. (55404)

Neighborhood of Residence: Ventura Village

Years in Neighborhood: 31 years Years in Minneapolis: 36 years

Phone: 612-871-7973

E-Mail: mbmwatson@aol.com



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

I have a background in accounting and management with over 25 years experience in management of Accounting and Legal Firms. Before retiring six years ago, I was the Chief Administrative Officer of a large law firm with over 200 attorneys with offices in six cities. When the Phillips Neighborhood was divided into four regions, I took primary responsibility for the administrative aspects of implementing NRP in Ventura Village. I have acted as Administrative Secretary for Venture Village since the beginning (4 years).

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

**NRP Strengths:**

- NRP encourages grass routes involvement in planning and implementing community development.
- NRP empowers individuals to work together to build a sense of community.
- NRP allows neighborhoods to attract development by providing funds for planning and for leveraging with other private and public dollars.
- NRP provides needed administrative dollars to keep neighborhood organizations viable.
- NRP provides needed dollars for investment in the residential and commercial property.

**NRP Weaknesses:**

- NRP is vulnerable to the politicians who wish to take funding for other projects.

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

When Ventura Village became an independent Region of the Phillips neighborhood, I became well versed in the NRP process by asking questions, attending training seminars and watching all the training tapes available from NRP. Since that time I have continued to be informed by attending pertinent training sessions when possible. As the administrative secretary I process all the NRP paperwork for Ventura Village.

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

If elected I will make every effort to notify the neighborhoods I represent of issues relating to them. I will use e-mail, faxing or regular mail as necessary.

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

If elected I wish to work on the process and guidelines for Phase II of NRP.

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

I am running for a neighborhood representative seat on the Policy Board because we need strong representatives with experience in NRP and Planning to implement Phase II and I believe I have those skills.

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

Ventura Village Administrative Secretary & Housing Committee Chair

CCP/SAFE Block Club Leader

Phillips Weed & Seed Initiative-past Resident Chair

Minneapolis Capital Long-range Improvement Committee-CLIC

Phillips Community Energy Coop-PCEC-Vice-chair.

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Ventura Village Administrative Secretary & Housing Committee Chair

CCP/SAFE Block Club Leader

Phillips Weed & Seed Initiative-past Resident Chair

Minneapolis Capital Long-range Improvement Committee (CLIC)-6th Ward Representative

Phillips Community Energy Coop-PCEC-Vice chair

Salvation Army Harbor Lights- Advisory Board Member

Catholic Charities St. Joseph's Home For Children-on call volunteer

Franklin Avenue Safety Center-volunteer backup receptionist

# Revitalization Candidates



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

- 
- Cam Gordon.....28-29
  - George D. Jelatis.....30-31
  - Steven A. Miller.....32-33

# Cam Gordon

Teacher

Address: 914 Franklin Terrace (55406)

Neighborhood of Residence: Seward

Years in Neighborhood: 14 years    Years in Minneapolis: 47 years

Phone: 612-296-0579

E-Mail: gordo030@umn.edu



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

As past Seward Neighborhood Group co-chair, board member and chair of its NRP committee, I learned a great deal and developed many of the skills needed to represent people effectively.

As Neighborhood Representative on the Policy Board last year, I gained a deeper understanding of the City and NRP. I also learned a great deal about City government and the challenges that face our city and neighborhoods as a past chair of the Minneapolis Green Party, member of the Mayor Rybak's Transition Team and Ethic's Task Force.

As a long time activist I believe that I have shown my commitment to improving our community.

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

NRP has shown enormous strength bring people together to address common concerns and reach common goals. Groups and agencies throughout the city have had to listen to and cooperate with individuals and neighborhoods, --- as well as with each other--- to implement improvements.

I believe that NRP can be more inclusive, efficient and accountable. Sometimes NRP has not included all the people it could and sometimes it has asked more of the neighborhoods than they have had the capacity to deliver. Clearer expectations of NRP and neighborhoods can be developed and agreed upon and neighborhoods must have the support they need to be successful.

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

I served on the board of my Neighborhood Association for several years and as its co-chair for two years. I was also involved in virtually all aspects of our Phase I NRP process. I served on our first NRP committee and helped draft our Participation Agreement. I was chair of our Social Environment Committee and served on the Steering Committee that drafted our Action Plan and for five years I served as chair of our Implementation Oversight Committee.

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

In general I will continue to work to maintain open and effective lines of communication. I welcome phone calls, letters and emails and try to respond to them in a timely manner.

I will continue to use electronic, person-to-person and print methods of communication and call for community meetings when appropriate. Next year, if elected, I would like to attend more neighborhoods meetings and provide more regular written reports to Neighborhood Association Boards.

Additionally, I will work to insure that the Policy Board and NRP as a whole makes communication with neighborhoods a top priority.

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

Now that many of the concerns about the future of NRP's second phase have been resolved, I will work to make certain that it is as effective as possible as a neighborhood-driven tool to improve our city. To do so, I will work to facilitate greater collaboration and cooperation with the City's overall planning process while making better use of the neighborhood organization as a fundamental vehicle for citizen participation and empowerment. I will encourage the Policy Board to look at what has and hasn't worked in the past and at how we can all make NRP more inclusive, more efficient, more accountable and more successful in the future.

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

I care deeply about our city and its neighborhoods and am convinced that NRP offers an enormous opportunity to improve both. I believe that I have represented the interests of neighborhoods and residents of Minneapolis well this year and that I have the experience, skills and values needed to continue to be an effective representative next year. I am eager to use what I have learned to help make the Policy Board and NRP even more effective in the future.

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

The Seward Neighborhood Group (member and volunteer)

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board Revitalization Neighborhood Representative  
 River's Edge Children's House (the child care, music education business I co-own)  
 Green Party of Minnesota (I am an unpaid party official)  
 Jola Publications (published my book "Together with Montessori.")

# George D. Jelatis

Information Security Architect

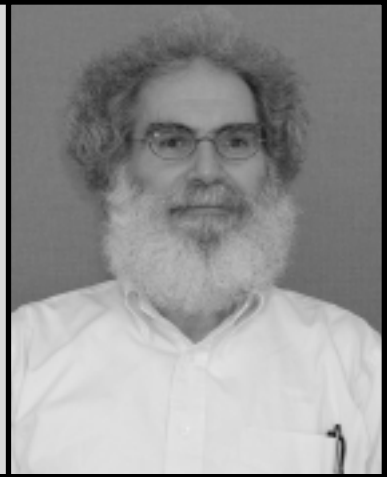
Address: 3015 E. Minnehaha Pkwy. (55417)

Neighborhood of Residence: Keewaydin

Years in Neighborhood: 22 years    Years in Minneapolis: 31 years

Phone: 612-721-6590

E-Mail: gdjelatis@mindspring.com



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

My participation in our neighborhood association has taught me the importance of respect and patience in dealing with community issues. My career as an information systems developer, researcher and consultant has taught me to listen well and to value collaboration. Living most of my life in cities here and abroad, and visiting cities all over the world, has given me a deep appreciation of the vital role cities play in human commerce, culture and civilization. I have followed NRP issues closely, especially governance and funding, at both city and state levels and have done my best to influence the outcomes.

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

NRP's greatest strength is that it has mobilized and involved city residents in shaping and improving Minneapolis, by giving them local decision making power and the funding to make local investments that improve the quality of life in the city.

NRP has also, through volunteer effort and "leveraged" funding, provided impressive results for the relatively small amount of money it has spent.

NRP's greatest weaknesses are the uncertainty of its long-term funding, and that it has not documented and communicated its successes as effectively as it could have.

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

My neighborhood volunteer activities began in 1994 when I helped draft the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) NRP participation agreement. As a member of the NRP Steering Committee I helped develop NENA's NRP First Step, Full Plan and budget. I have served as a Board member since 1996 and have been elected Board Chair every year since 1997.

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

I plan to continue my participation in NENA, which is comprised of 4 Revitalization neighborhoods, and to continue my participation in city-wide neighborhood meetings and activities. I will also make a point of speaking with as many of the board members and staff representing the 37 Revitalization neighborhoods as I can during my Policy Board tenure.

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

I would most like to help ensure continuation of neighborhood organization based community improvement projects. This will likely require the development of new funding sources and methods, to complement the current revenue sources. My goals would include working with the City of Minneapolis and the State Legislature to ensure a basic, foundation level of public support for NRP, as well as working with NRP and the neighborhood associations to identify new sources of funding for neighborhood programs.

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

Nine years of neighborhood and NRP volunteer activity have given me a deep understanding of the needs and sentiments of the residents of Minneapolis neighborhoods. This volunteer work has convinced me that attractive, successful cities depend upon citizen participation, and that NRP is an effective way of empowering residents and involving them in improving their city. I believe I can help the Policy Board to focus on the issues that challenge both neighborhoods and the city, and to reach consensus with the City Council and the Legislature on resolutions to those issues.

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

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (unpaid volunteer, Board Chair)

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

Guidant Corporation (employee, Information Security Architect)

University of St. Thomas (paid, seminar lecturer)

Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (unpaid volunteer, Board Chair)

several professional associations (unpaid)

# Steven A. Miller

General Manager

Address: 4827 Park Ave. S. (55417)

Neighborhood of Residence: Field

Years in Neighborhood: 3 years      Years in Minneapolis: 6 years

Phone: 612-250-8950

E-Mail: StevenMiller2000@aol.com



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

My aptitude for problem solving has been my greatest personal resource. My second greatest resource has been my drive to carry a solution through to its result. Over the last four years of founding the Chatterbox Pub organization, I've been able to demonstrate that I could recreate a neighborhood institution that is now in line with current community ideals and needs. This required thinking outside of the box (pun intended), as well as the drive to see obstacles as things you find your way around. To do this I've listened, studied, evaluated, planned, explained, convinced, implemented, and verified.

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

NRP's strength and weakness is the independence of its individual organizations. This allows the flexibility for neighborhoods to address their priorities in ways that they feel most comfortable with. This empowerment is really rewarding for people who want to be involved in their community and encourages active participation. It also means that the wheel is reinvented over and over again, but sometimes it doesn't work very well and yet others far exceed their original intentions.

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

I've served on the board of the Corcoran Neighborhood Organization for three years as the Treasurer, as well as serving other roles such as sitting on the personnel committee. I've dealt with the struggles of trying to figure out how the NRP process works. I've worked hard to help pull together strong staffing, as well as retaining that happy, enthusiastic staff which equated to happy, enthusiastic volunteers.

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

I think at this time it is very, very important to get the neighborhoods involved and informed. At CNO we've seen things come before us recently from the policy board with no explanations. This would not happen with me on the board. So first I would like to gather representatives from the neighborhoods together to quantify their individual and collective priorities. I would create an e-mail and mailing address list to send regular updates on our progress as it happens. I would also happily be available for monthly Q & A sessions.

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

Phase II funding, but more immediately we need funding for neighborhoods caught in the middle. The most successful neighborhoods with the strongest organizations are the very ones in danger of losing their momentum when funding runs out. This means losing staff that hold irreplaceable knowledge, relationships, and dedication. For these neighborhoods to have to start over would be tragic. Current grants could be lost and future grants would be harder to obtain. This is an immediate problem. I feel I must and can present a solution.



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

Beyond my answer to the previous question, I've come to be very proud of our city for the hard work and results that these organizations and individuals have done. I want to ensure that this avenue is maintained, cherished, and becomes a generational fixture in our city.

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

Corcoran Neighborhood Organization

**8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.**

None

# Notes

# Notes



## **Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board Forums & Election**

### **WHEN:**

**Thursday, November 20, 2003  
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 13. 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.**