



The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program

VOTER'S GUIDE

**For Neighborhood Representative Seats
on the 2012 NRP Policy Board**

Candidate Information and Questionnaire Responses

Compiled by the Minneapolis NRP

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 organization with which you are currently involved.
8. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

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

The Voter's Guide is compiled by the Minneapolis NRP to provide information to City residents about those candidates seeking a Neighborhood Representative seat on the 2012 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 each neighborhood will vote to determine a representative and alternate to sit on the NRP Policy Board from their neighborhood category and vote to determine an at-large representative and alternate.

The NRP Policy Board Neighborhood Representative candidate forums / election will begin at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, November 17, 2011 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 in advance and from audience members. Candidate forums are moderated by NRP staff and volunteers 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 the surface parking lot across the street from the Crown Roller Mill building and in the Gateway and Depot ramps. **However, NRP will NOT reimburse parking fees.** To request language interpretation or childcare services during the election events, please call 612-673-5150 by November 1, 2011. For more information about the NRP Policy Board election process call or email Carsten Slostad, Policy Board staff secretary. 612-673-5150 or cslostad@nrp.org

For bus information, call the MTCO Bus Line at 612-373-3333 or www.metrotransit.org



Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board Candidate Forums and Election

WHEN:

*Thursday, November 17, 2011
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.*

WHERE:

*Crown Roller Mill Building
105 Fifth Avenue South
Minneapolis*

THE AGENDA:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 6:30 – 7:00 | Registration of Electors and Elector Alternates
Meet the Candidates Social <i>Refreshments Served</i>
Election Rules Presentation |
| 7:00 – 7:45 | At-Large Candidate Forum & Voting |
| 8:00 – 8:45 | Revitalization Neighborhoods Candidate Forum & Voting
Protection Neighborhoods Candidate Forum & Voting
Redirection Neighborhoods Candidate Forum & Voting |

Revitalization Neighborhood Representative Candidates

**Brad Conley
DeWayne Townsend**

The Revitalization Neighborhood electors will select a representative and alternate from the list of candidates.

REVITALIZATION NEIGHBORHOODS

**Bancroft
Beltrami
Bottineau
Bryant
CARAG
Cedar Riverside-West Bank
Cleveland
Cooper
Corcoran
Ericsson
Field
Folwell
Hiawatha
Holland
Howe
Jordan
Keewaydin
Kingfield
Lind-Bohanon
Logan Park
Longfellow**

**Loring Park
Lowry Hill East
Marcy-Holmes
McKinley
Minnehaha
Morris Park
Northeast Park
Northrup
Powderhorn Park
Regina
Seward
Southeast Como
Standish
Webber-Camden
Wenonah
Windom Park**

Revitalization Neighborhood Candidate

Brad Conley



Address: 116 Oak Grove Street #107 (55403)
Occupation: Student / Staff Minneapolis Community & Technical College
Neighborhood: Loring Park
Years in Neighborhood: 3 months
Years in Minneapolis: 19 years
Phone: 612-978-8241
E-mail: btc4nrp@gmail.com

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

As the current and two-term Student Senate President at Minneapolis Community & Technical College, current and returning Metro West Regional representative on the Governing Council of the Minnesota State College Student Association, the first student elected to a committee of the Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health (Ethics), and as the first student elected to the board of Citizens for a Loring Park Community, the past three years have been a rush of personal growth and astounding community involvement. The amount of experience is proportional to the dedication to the people who are my life.

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

I first became involved with NRP in the mid-1990s when living in the Lyndale neighborhood. In that time I have seen the undeniable benefit of the work of NRP - housing, parks, businesses. Yet these are the physical reminders of the greatest of NRP's strengths; empowering Minneapolis citizens. Projects are successful because they are built from the ground up; developing identity, increasing efficacy and blossoming relationships within homes, blocks, and neighborhoods. The weakness that stands out most is the lack of external awareness of the good that NRP has done - not boastful promotion but humble, effective declarations of accomplishment.

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

My most recent participation with NRP has been with Citizens for a Loring Park Community and the effort to regain the funds frozen by City Council action in December 2010. The endeavor required thorough study of State Statute, City Charter, and both House and Senate bills, as well as the financial impact that the action had on every neighborhood in Minneapolis. Letter after letter, official after official, day after day at the Capitol, there was the urgency of a resolution that would guarantee the less fortunate neighborhoods of Minneapolis their opportunity once more.

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

Relationships are more than simply one being available for another, they take a great amount of mindfulness, communication and empathy. In a diverse city like Minneapolis the complexities of communications based on limited lexicon can be simplified through an empathetic understanding of experience. The relationship with the neighborhood would begin on my end first. A representative needs to initiate the conversation, offer an environment of openness and candidness, and welcome not only the leaders of communities but any and all queries.

Name one thing you would like to work on if elected?

The top priority as an elected policy board member would be to guarantee an equitable opportunity for advanced, strengthened infrastructure for all neighborhoods. A strong neighborhood needs a strong agenda, a strong method, and most importantly a strong constituency. Self-efficacy is as important in a community as it is an individual's life. Efficacy can be amplified through vicarious, persuasory, and other external means, as well as internal factors. Within the identities developed over the past twenty years needs to be an infrastructure that can sustain the winds of change, the tremors of imposition, and the waters of generational transition.

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

I am seeking a seat on the NRP Policy Board because it allows a unique opportunity to keep strong one of the most beneficial projects Minneapolis has seen in the past half-century. Little else compares to the potential contained in the work of NRP to bolster the citizen and the community in which they live, and by doing so the whole of the city. Personally I feel my work with large populations, larger budgets, and ever larger diversity issues is a key consideration for this field of work. A life of compassion is beneficial for the individual and all relations.

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

Citizens for a Loring Park Community

Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

None

Revitalization Neighborhood Candidate

DeWayne Townsend



Address: 3222 39th Avenue South (55406)

Occupation: Biochemist

Neighborhood: Cooper

Years in Neighborhood: 39

Years in Minneapolis: 41

Phone: 612-724-7010 (early evenings)

E-mail: d-town@tc.umn.edu

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

I have a natural curiosity and scientific training that has always made me study how things work and one of my favorite subjects is neighborhoods. I have been involved with the Longfellow Community Council for nearly 40 years so I have a good understanding of what makes a neighborhood organization work and how it helps encourage community & residents. I am currently its treasurer.

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

The greatest strength is giving neighborhoods the ability to organize. This is followed closely by the financial support it provides which allows neighborhoods to actually do things. Other strengths of note are: a financial distribution formula that seems fair, an organizational framework and tremendous support in the form of classes, workshops and personal instruction.

The weak points are lack of formal interaction between the neighborhoods; i.e.: Annual Congress of Neighborhoods and organized meetings of neighborhood leaders.

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

I have helped my organization write NRP Plans I & II and to prepare for what ever NCR/NCEC brings. I have been on the board nearly as much as the organizational term limits allow, with several terms as president, secretary & treasurer. I have been active in committees, especially the Environment & Transportation Committee. Some of my favorite projects are "The River Gorge Master Plan", a handicapped playground at Hiawatha Park/School, lots & lots of planted trees, support for the YWCA building, on the task force for the Lake Street Revitalization, East Lake Library and the Midtown Greenway. I initiated and completed the process that facilitated the State-Wide Community Pride Comprehensive Award that NRP received in August of 2010.

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

My phone & e-mail are public and I have always been available for discussions with any neighborhood leader or person(s) just ask. I would like to continue to develop personal connections with each of the Revitalization Neighborhoods. While the number of Revitalization Neighborhoods may seem like a lot, I have already engaged in relationships with a great number of them. I have spent years fighting city hall for the survival of NRP. I plan to push for more neighborhood leadership get-togethers to encourage cross-fertilization of ideas and projects.

Name one thing you would like to work on if elected?

The City of Minneapolis is full of great ideas and projects to increase the livability of neighborhoods, but in far too many cases, the ideas are not disseminated widely. It was apparent from the "Save NRP" meetings that neighborhood leaders would like to interact on a personal level more often. I would like to push to make that a reality. At a second level, I want to work on the speed with which neighborhood requests are processed. My work will be to make the neighborhoods as strong & vibrant as possible.

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

NRP is going through a very rough time with the city and I think that my experience with NRP and neighborhoods will be a valuable asset. I consider NRP to be an icon of what makes Minneapolis great and what it provided for my generation needs to be there for the next.

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

Treasurer of the Longfellow Community Council, Volunteer for Neighbors4NRP, member of Environment and Transportation Committee and Community Connections Committee

Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Paid: Analytical Instruments, LLC

Unpaid: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

University of Minnesota Alumni Association

St. Olaf Alumni Association

University of Iowa Alumni Association

Minnesota Chromatography Forum

Sigma Xi

Redirection Neighborhood Representative Candidates

**Tom Bissen
Carol Ann Pass**

The Redirection Neighborhood electors will select a representative and alternate from the list of candidates.

REDIRECTION NEIGHBORHOODS

**Central
Elliot Park
Harrison
Hawthorne
Lyndale
Near North
Phillips –Ventura Village
Phillips – EPIC
Phillips – Midtown
Phillips – West
St. Anthony East
Sheridan
Stevens Square-Loring Heights
Whittier
Willard Hay**

Redirection Neighborhood Candidate

Tom Bissen



Address: 2427 Clinton Avenue South #1 (55404)
Occupation Bank Manager (currently on medical leave)
Apartment Building Manager
Neighborhood: Whittier
Years in Neighborhood: 17
Years in Minneapolis: 17
Phone: 612-229-1942
E-mail: tombissen@gmail.com

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

I have an extensive banking and finance background. I have been a Whittier Alliance board member for 13 years, 8 years as treasurer. I was chair of the Whittier Alliance Rental Property Owner Committee and chair of the NRP steering committee. I was treasurer of the Old St. Anthony Business Association for 6 years. I have been a redirection neighborhood representative on the NRP Policy Board previously. I attended the 2008 Neighborhood Summit in Omaha.

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

NRP has been a success story that has been recognized worldwide. The program is envied by many. The grassroots control and independent Policy Board has empowered and engaged many citizens in Minneapolis. The additional investment of funds in neighborhoods that was catalyzed by NRP is astonishing.

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

See answer in the first question..

I was a 2006 NRP Policy Board Redirection Representative and in 2007 served as an alternate. In 2008 I did not run due to health problems. I returned to the Policy Board again in 2010 as an alternate.

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

I would continue my involvement with the Whittier Alliance Board and reach out to other Redirection Neighborhoods.

Name one thing you would like to work on if elected?

Continue to work to preserve grassroots empowerment and citizen involvement in the City's decision-making processes. Continue to work with elected officials to guarantee a neighborhood-funding stream. Be a steward of NRP funds so they are used as intended.

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

I was a part of the great success story of NRP in the Whittier neighborhood. I have been a positive influence in my neighborhood and in my advocacy to elected officials. I would like to see NRP thru its sunset.

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

Whittier Alliance Rental Property Owner NRP Loan Committee
Whittier Alliance Neighborhood Association (volunteer treasurer)
Whittier Alliance Fundraising Committee
OSA member

Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

No paid

Volunteer: Whittier Alliance
 AZ Honorary Fraternity
 ISU Alumni Association
 Minnesota Rental Property Association

Redirection Neighborhood Candidate

CAROL ANN PASS



Address: 2536 18th Avenue South (55404)
Occupation: Retired College Professor, Property Manager
Neighborhood: East Phillips
Years in Neighborhood: 25
Years in Minneapolis: 30
Phone: 612-280-8418
E-mail: cpass@runbox.com

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

Regarding the present situation, the most important experiences I have had are 8 years on the NRP Policy Board as Redirection Neighborhood Delegate or Alternate. These have been years responding to challenges to the value of NRP's contribution to the City. Studying and defending its value, tweaking it to make it better and listening to criticism and accolades have been key and a daily experience. It is, unfortunately, going into sunset years. However, the value, democratizing and empowering character of the revenue sharing experiment of a major city is utterly unique in the US and perhaps the world and should not be downplayed or forgotten. I am sure it will not be by those with any depth of understanding of governance and NRP's history. Since it apparently will be sidestepped and replaced by the NCEC Advisory group, then so be it, but I believe experienced persons should be in place as that occurs so that what is of value is retained as much as possible and so that change is carefully and lovingly done. I believe I am well suited to do that, especially for those who wish to see NRP, its values and principles, treated with care and value.

Regarding those other life experiences that assist me as a Redirection Representative: helping to rebuild a shattered neighborhood with NRP funding and direct funding and localized decision-making to do that. Contrary to Downtown Leadership, we in Phillips agree with Obama's statement, "Change we need happens from the bottom up, from the grass roots!" But it is also true that working in a "red-lined" neighborhood, as many of the redirection neighborhoods are, creates unique skill sets.

I have lived in Phillips Neighborhood for 25 years, raised my two sons here (one teaches at North High and the other in St. Paul), a few years ago led the fight to stop a powerful coalition of City 'worthies' from building an asthma-enhancing wood-burning incinerator in our child-filled neighborhood, helped get the "Clark Bill" passed to prevent such things from happening again, helped build a coalition of Hispanic, Somali, Native American, and Euro-American neighbors to lobby the state legislature for 3.5 million for our NRP project, a Community Center for East Phillips Park, been president of East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) Board, which now reflects Phillips' demographics, helped create and fund-raise our many ethnic programs like the Hispanic Baseball League, and helped with many NRP projects restoring East Phillips with affordable housing, both for home owners and renters. My experience in Phillips and my passion has been that no group and no issue should remain un-served by the neighborhood organization and that fiscally responsible leadership means that the funding is for the broadest base possible.

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

Strengths: The great strength of NRP is its administration and significant implementation funding for the most local level of governance, the neighborhoods, and the freedom allowed them in decision-making in the use of their own funds, i.e. what has contributed most to the large citizen participation and the revitalization of all sectors of the city. Trying to organize participation without the possibility of actually implementing something important is a "fool's errand", but giving ordinary people meaningful control over assets so they can better their lives and beautify their surroundings brings volunteers out of the woodwork. This process has also contributed to a real growth in organizing sophistication on the part of much of the citizenry of Minneapolis. NRP has resoundingly confirmed this for me and many others.

Weaknesses: The chaotic and unrepresentative character of the future and lack of downtown governmental support for the people in favor of a commitment to top-down governance, which has gone on for years has been draining and stultifying. It has been detrimental to the grass roots democracy of NRP in both funding and governance, has demoralized many volunteers as well as created difficulty in planning, hurting participation levels. Neighborhood residents are clearly paddling upstream at City Hall.

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

I served on the People of Phillips NRP Housing Board for two years, served on the NRP Implementation Board, helped rebuild a new organization when People of Phillips failed, was treasurer of EPIC for three years and have been president for six years, have chaired major housing and redevelopment projects in the neighborhood, which were accomplished with NRP dollars, and have been an NRP Rep to the NRP Policy Board for ten years for the Redirection Neighborhoods. I helped create our Housing Rehab Lottery and First Time Homebuyers Grants, using NRP funds to leverage other dollars. Many people who have been here through these times credit these efforts with literally saving the livability of East Phillips and our business district on Lake Street. I am very proud that our neighborhood organization, with the help of NRP, moved home ownership here from about 13% to nearly 35%, all of it affordable. Roughly \$400,000 NRP funding leveraged about 20 million in affordable housing, all this through the volunteers of East Phillips. Last, I have helped lead a collaborative team of neighborhoods and other groups toward building a Community Center in our park, an NRP project. So far our NRP funding has leveraged 4.1 million dollars. We finally have a place to put programs for all our people, especially our youth.

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

This issue is doubly important for the Redirection Neighborhoods, given the lack of focused, or significant representation on the new NCEC Board. We are still a grouping of areas and people with similar concerns. I do not believe that should be lost. Whether I am elected or not, I hope to promote these connections and relationships that have grown over the years. I am in frequent contact with many friends and acquaintances in the Redirection Neighborhoods and will continue to maintain these connections. We also have email connections going on especially when any concern that effects all of us comes up. We will need to maintain unity regarding our unique issues and be sure to create an ongoing connection with which to respond to concerns at the NCEC Board. I am now on the NCEC board and will continue to represent the interests on the Redirection Neighborhoods in that capacity.

I hope to continue to attend functions in the Redirection Neighborhoods to hear concerns, share information and connect with folks, and attend community events and meetings on both the North and South Sides, a very efficient way to build relationships with volunteers from all over the city, to hear their concerns. I have continuously visited many neighborhoods and spoken with many people throughout the city who have conversed face-to-face with me about special concerns, a main one being their continued need for future and consistent funding. Face-to-face is my preferred mode, but email has been effective. I also hope to continue and improve connections between the other Redirection neighborhoods, so we can better empower and assist one another. I have strongly supported their concerns, even when this meant standing fairly alone on issues. At times my lone voice has turned the tide on critical issues affecting the Redirection Neighborhoods.

Name one thing you would like to work on if elected?

- At this point I will continue to work on what I believe is of primary importance to all neighborhoods, but especially the "impacted" ones and those near that status; the difficulties with the sunset time of NRP and the right to full equity for neighborhoods that lost funding, given the actions of the Mayor and City Council last December. I will to see that every penny is either returned or compensated for fully. In addition, I will work to safe-guarding their remaining Phase II funding and program income. I will advocate for fairness to those groups that still have outstanding financial commitments from the City, work for communication with the NCEC representatives and responsible treatment from this commission. This is especially important for the struggling future of Minneapolis inner-core neighborhoods, given the foreclosure catastrophe and the current job loss. It appears that these neighborhoods are significantly under-represented on the NCEC Board.
- I also think we must work toward strong communication with the NCEC, to be sure those 'best practices' and valuable assets of NRP find themselves included in the goals and strategies of the NCEC as much as possible. I am very concerned that those neighborhoods, which make up the Redirection Group, find expression and empowerment in the NCEC; again, where it appears that their representation is significantly diminished. This means greater connection and knowledge/strategy sharing between the inner-core neighborhoods to build a more unified neighborhood political voice to help these things to happen. I hope to work on this and strongly represent this voice at the NRP Policy Board and to the NCEC.

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

I believe I have the tenacity, boldness and experience to be very effective in these waning and transition years of NRP. I understand the value of and am committed to the continuance of grass roots neighborhood-based decision-making and funding, which is the genius of NRP, and wish to continue to work for something as close to that as possible. I have demonstrated that I will work hard for these things in my years on the Policy Board. I almost never miss any of the Policy Board or Briefing meetings and have spent the past year attending many meetings beyond these. Sadly, I was a part of the lobbying team of neighborhoods speaking for NRP at the legislature and was intimately involved in working with Rep. Clark and Sen. Torres Ray to craft and defend the bill that bought the promise of funding the neighborhoods back to the city. This did not turn out as many of us had hoped. In spite of setbacks regarding the future of NRP, I have remained a strong voice for the unique needs of the Redirection Neighborhoods, whether I have been a delegate or alternate. I believe I have become especially good at bringing forward the special concerns of these neighborhoods and defending grass roots decision-making in general. My commitment to the value and entitlement of local volunteerism has always been key and I have seen and been a part of what that can accomplish. I have consistently been there and been vigilant for these concerns and would be honored and wish to continue to defend it and help create such a future as these policies and ideas can have in Minneapolis, given the present situation.

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

NRP Policy Board Redirection Neighborhoods Rep. 8 years
East Phillips Improvement Coalition EPIC, past treasurer and current President
East Phillips Park Community Center Design Team
Bloomington/Cedar/Lake Commercial Association
Bloomington Avenue Citizens' Patrol, founding member
Park Avenue Methodist Church
Hispanic Baseball League, fundraiser
Somali American Community, Board Member, Somali American Autism Project
Lake Street Council, University of Minnesota Alumni Association

Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

All positions noted in #7 are unpaid

Protection Neighborhood Candidates Candidates

**Nicholas T. Kakos
Jeffrey L. Strand**

The Protection Neighborhood electors will select a representative and alternate from the list of candidates.

PROTECTION NEIGHBORHOODS

**Armatage
Audubon Park
Bryn-Mawr
Cedar-Isles-Dean
Columbia Park
Diamond Lake
Downtown East
Downtown West
East Harriet-Farmstead
East Isles
ECCO
Fulton
Hale
Kenny
Kenwood-Isles
Linden Hills
Lowry Hill
Lynnhurst
Marshall Terrace
Nicollet Island-East Bank
North Loop-Warehouse District
Page
Prospect Park East River Road**

**St. Anthony West
Shingle Creek
Tangletown
Victory
Waite Park
West Calhoun
Windom**

Protection Neighborhood Candidate **NICHOLAS T KAKOS**



Address: 3240 Humboldt Avenue South (55408)

Occupation: Certified Public Accountant

Neighborhood: East Calhoun

Years in Neighborhood: 65

Years in Minneapolis: life

Phone: 612-825-9709 (mornings)

E-mail: nkakos@q.com

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

Lifetime experience working as a volunteer leader, organizer or director in church, community, school or youth recreation programs and the American Legion has provided me a broad and strong understanding of the needs and capability to work effectively with neighborhood organizations. Having served on the NRP Policy Board the past 16 years has enabled me to actively participate and understand the many complex ramifications of the program and provide guidance and direction on an equitable basis for all neighborhoods.

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

The strength of the nationally renowned NRP program is derived from the tremendous volunteer citizen participation enabling neighborhoods to cooperatively determine their own Action Plans in attaining their long-term strategic visionary goals and objectives. NRP has been most effective in providing a direct and economical means of communication between the neighborhoods and the governance of the City of Minneapolis. The only weakness of the NRP program is the failure of the Mayor and City Council to accept the major improvements in the city made possible by NRP the past 20 years by supporting continuance of NRP with adequate funding and their false belief the City can do a better job in involving community participation by spending unnecessary dollars of the taxpayers by creating a costly ineffective bureaucratic department, Neighborhood Community Engagement Department.

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

Served as Chairman of the East Calhoun NRP Steering Committee directly responsible for development and implementation of the neighborhood's Phase I Action Plan. Served several terms on East Calhoun Organization's Board of Directors. Also served as Chairman for many years of East Calhoun's Zoning Committee.

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

Previous experience on the NRP Policy Board has shown it is very difficult to maintain direct communication and attend meetings of all 30 Protection Neighborhoods. Currently, all relevant information on issues, policies and directives are very effectively communicated to the neighborhoods by NRP staff under direction of the NRP Policy Board. Nonetheless, I am available to attend all meetings and forums when requested and will answer all inquiries and provide any assistance when needed.

Name one thing you would like to work on if elected?

Since the City has already established its' new Neighborhood Community Engagement Department and elected its' Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission, the die appears to have been cast for the transitional phase-out of NRP. However, to accomplish this in a orderly and efficient manner so all neighborhoods are treated fairly, I would concentrate on seeing that NRP receives all the funding it is entitled to so that all neighborhoods whose Action Plans have not been processed receive the funding they have been promised.

To accomplish this will require an all-out effort by the neighborhoods through the legislative process or other legal means to force the City Council and Mayor to restore the \$10,000,000 they improperly seized in December 2010 on the false pretense the funds were needed to balance the City of Minneapolis budget for 2011

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

My 16 continuous years of experience as a member of the NRP Policy Board, including tenure as vice-chairman, will be extremely beneficial in planning an orderly and efficient phase-out of the NRP program in a manner that will assure all neighborhoods receive the funding they have been promised to complete their Phase I & II Action Plans.

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

NRP Policy Board, Protection Neighborhood Representative
Fifth District American Legion, Legislative Chairman,
American Legion Post 129, Adjutant & Finance Officer
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Insurance & Risk Director
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Treasurer, Mission and Outreach Program

Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

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

Protection Neighborhood Candidate

JEFFREY L STRAND



Address: 5100 Thomas Avenue North (55430)
Occupation: Administrative Manager-Administrative Treasurer
Neighborhood: Shingle Creek
Years in Neighborhood: 22
Years in Minneapolis: 33
Phone: 612-588-4817 (Weekdays between 6 -7 p.m.)
E-mail: Jeff_Strand@msn.com (or via Facebook Page)

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

How the NRP Policy Board will be constituted in 2012, following the expiration of the Joint Powers Agreement is yet to be defined. Despite this uncertainty, I am a candidate for election to the Policy Board in order to make a difference. I have been blessed in my paid professional and unpaid volunteer work to have worked with many compassionate and innovative staff, leaders and neighborhood partners who sought positive change through collaboration. My professional work and neighborhood experiences have demonstrated that collaboration and constructive engagement helps us identify goals and solve problems creatively. Now more than ever, the four elected NRP neighborhood representatives have to work effectively for their constituencies, seeking out common interests and building coalitions to ensure the ongoing support for neighborhood programs.

Neighborhood organizations and electors should evaluate my extensive experience on the Policy Board (2001-02, 2004-11) as well as service on other deliberative bodies such as the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (2009, 3-year term), the Minneapolis Capital Long-range Improvement Committee (17 years), the Community Engagement Task Force, and Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association board. Electors know where I stand; they know I have demonstrated the ability to develop and articulate policy positions, and to move action items to vigorously represent the Protection neighborhoods' interests.

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

Strength: Minneapolis residents are the greatest strength and asset of the NRP. The homeowners and renters, business entrepreneurs and stakeholders who volunteer and collaborate through the neighborhood organizations to improve their communities and the city are the program's greatest strength. NRP has documented the significant leveraging of resources and enhancement to quality of life from the program.

Weakness: Key weaknesses have been the uncertainty in funding that has plagued the program since 2001 tax reforms, the pitting of neighborhood programming funding against property tax increases, or funding for other critical public services (e.g. fire department, police department, fixing potholes), and the failure to achieve reasonable compromise between NRP administration and the City administration. The termination of the Joint Powers Agreement at the end of 2011 adds another layer of uncertainty about how the City may choose to reconstitute the Policy Board, which legally must continue into 2012 and beyond.

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

I have been privileged to serve from 1992-2011 on the Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association board, including 10 years as neighborhood president. I served as the board chair from 1997-2006, marking the period from when the organization had begun to implement Phase I NAP to the period when the Phase II NAP had been approved. I currently serve as vice-chair. I have represented the SCNA on several North Minneapolis/Camden Community organizations, ad hoc task forces, or projects. I currently serve as president of the Community Action Board of CommonBond Communities Shingle Creek Commons/Kinglsey Commons community action boards. I have participated in the Camden Alliance of Neighborhoods, and the Northside Neighborhood Alliance.

I have been required, as a neighborhood activist and board member, to lead board and community meetings, to speak at public meetings, to testify before the City Council and other bodies, including committees of the Minnesota Legislature. From time-to-time I have submitted articles for the Camden Community News, usually on topics such as NRP, community engagement, or housing/economic development or capital improvement projects.

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

Most Neighborhood Organizations, board members, activists and residents have access to information from the NRP web site and e-mail subscriptions, Facebook, e-mail, etc as an efficient, low-cost method to disseminate Policy Board updates, agendas and meeting minutes. I support the "NRP Link" as an important resource for distributing program and Policy Board information to neighborhoods and residents. I practice a balanced approach to obligations of family, work life and community service. Over the years, I have met with neighborhood organizations and boards upon their request. I attended 17 of 64 "listening sessions" held when the NCEC/NCR gathered information and input prior to adoption of the Community Participation Program guidelines for administrative support for neighborhood organizations. I have sought to bridge the transition between the NRP and the City program.

Name one thing you would like to work on if elected?

If elected, I will be a strong voice in support of the retention of neighborhood representatives on the reconstituted 2012 NRP Policy Board. I served on the City's Community Engagement Task Force, and supported the recommendation for ongoing support for administration of NRP contracts post-2011 and for a residents' based commission. I will vigorously oppose any attempt by the City to eliminate the residents and community interests from the NRP Policy Board.

NRP Director Miller recognized the need for an orderly transition between the neighborhood programming of the NRP and that to be provided through the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission. The Policy Board must continue to exist and function to fulfill the legal obligations and responsibilities under the NRP Statute regarding expenditure of NRP funds

My "track record" includes moving and supporting the June 2009 resolution (NRP/PR#20009-08) resulting in obtaining legal clarification of the Future of NRP. The legal opinion was provided to the Policy Board on 9/21/09, as noted in the Minutes: "The first part of the opinion gives a legal analysis of NRP law, sources of revenue and the use of NRP funds. Then the opinion provides an analysis of the impact of the Neighborhood Community Relations Department (NCRD) on the existing NRP Program. In answering the questions posed, he stated that the City's new NCRD and the new 2008 legislation have no legal impact on the NRP. Also, the NRP funds have to be spent for qualifying expenditures under the NRP law".

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

Minneapolis residents and neighborhood organizations need to retain the best elements of the NRP as the new community engagement system in Minneapolis evolves. Despite the termination of the Joint Powers Agreement, there will be legally mandated work remaining for some version of the NRP Policy Board to serve the needs of city residents and neighborhood organizations. Bob Miller has reported details as to the number of Phase II Neighborhood Action Plans yet to be developed and approved, along with open contracts from Phase I and Phase II that must be monitored and managed. My record of volunteerism and neighborhood activism shows my commitment to neighborhood work, the NRP, and the successful transition to the next phase of neighborhood revitalization in Minneapolis. The NRP has made Minneapolis a better place to live, work, and play. The neighborhood organizations, board members, and the electors and alternates they empower in the NRP election process know that the Minneapolis NRP has been recognized nationally and internationally as a model for civic engagement and citizen participation.

The ongoing transition from NRP to the next neighborhood revitalization and community engagement program must respect the integrity and legal responsibilities of the NRP and the Policy Board, while providing for the seamless transition of support and contract management services for neighborhoods. Because the City is using NRP consolidated TIF funding for neighborhood programming for 2012-2013, it is going to have to adapt the new city program to adhere to the NRP Statutes. There also is a large body of work in the form of NRP policies and procedures that should be carefully reviewed, to carry forward the best practices, but to discard obsolete or excessive bureaucratic practices. Experience will be valuable in this task.

I ask for your support as 2012 Protection Neighborhood Representative to help further this goal.

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

- Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association, Board Member/Secretary
- Shingle Creek Commons and Kingsley Commons Joint Community Action Board (CommonBond Communities), Board President
- DFL Party, Associate Chair, Senate District 58

Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

- Employer: Hennepin County Taxpayer Services - Administrative Manager;
- Minnesota Foreclosure Partners Council, Hennepin County Alternate

Unpaid:

- Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, City Council Appointee
- Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association, Secretary/Board Member
- Shingle Creek Commons and Kingsley Commons Joint Community Action Board (CommonBond Communities), Board President
- Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee
- Camden Alliance of neighborhoods (CAN!)
- DFL Party, Senate District 58, Associate Chair
- Cardinal Stritch University Alumni Association
- Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business Administration, Kappa Alpha Chapter
- South Dakota State Agriculture Heritage Museum
- Minneosta's Machinery Museum, Life Member
- Minneapolis-Moline Collector's Association, club member
- Hart-Parr Oliver Collector's Association, club member #7821
- J. I. Case Collector's Association, Inc. club member
- Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, donor
- Minnesota Public Radio, member
- TPT-Twin Cities Public Television, member

At-Large Neighborhood Representative Candidates

**Debbie Evans
Wizard Marks**

All electors will select a representative and alternate from the list of candidates

***Representing
All of the Minneapolis neighborhoods
Participating in the NRP***

At-Large Neighborhood Candidate DEBBIE EVANS



Address: 3807 Zenith Avenue South (55410)
Occupation: Marketing Promotions Manager
Neighborhood: Linden Hills
Years in Neighborhood: 23
Years in Minneapolis: 23
Phone: 612-860-2526
E-mail: debranevans@comcast.net

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

I was a member of the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC) Board for 13 years and have been a Board co-chair, a founding member of Neighbors4NRP, Co-Chair of Citizens Organized for Improved Neighborhoods (COIN) and a volunteer coordinator of many community projects.

As your NRP Policy Board At-Large Neighborhood Representative for the past eight years, I have been an energetic and ever-present advocate for neighborhoods and the continuation of NRP, as we know it. During this past legislative session, I was at the Capitol almost every day, helping to draft legislation and working with residents, NRP leaders and legislators to return the \$10 million that the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor took from neighborhoods without prior notification or *ANY citizen engagement*. I helped organize testimony supporting NRP at the Capitol and have testified in support of NRP and neighborhoods many times before State legislators and the Minneapolis City Council. I have served as Policy Board Vice Chair, on several important Policy Board task forces and have the best attendance record of any Policy Board member. I take my responsibilities seriously.

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

Strengths: Resident *empowerment* is the essence of NRP. Resident *engagement* has been the emphasis, and at best is the current direction of the City. Under the current City engagement program, residents can voice their opinions to the City. *But is anyone listening?* With empowerment, residents have control of resources and responsibility for setting priorities. Through NRP, residents have had a strong, positive impact on their neighborhoods. Neighborhood organizations have used NRP funds to leverage more than **ONE BILLION DOLLARS** of additional improvements in their neighborhoods.

Weaknesses: The absence of City elected officials' support for NRP has resulted in volunteer disillusionment, frustration, burnout and staffing challenges. The Mayor and City Council's taking of neighborhoods' funds may keep neighborhood organizations alive but without the ability to effect real change. They can have meetings, but they no longer have a meaningful seat at the table when investment decisions are being made for their neighborhoods.

A neighborhood supportive NRP joint powers governing board that continues beyond 2011 is crucial. The neighborhoods' vulnerability with the City Council and Mayor's increased control is an indication of how tenuous our community empowerment effort is. The new Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) has no control over the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department budget nor hiring and firing of its director. The NRP Policy Board has responsibility for both.

We need to oppose any efforts by the City Council and Mayor to change membership structure and neighborhood representative determination on the Policy Board.

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

I have co-chaired the LHiNC Board and served on all of LHiNC's standing committees, chairing several of them as well as the annual fundraiser. I was the editor of the *Linden Hills Line* for 12 years. I have been actively involved in my neighborhood's NRP Phase I and Phase II planning, implementation and review processes. I helped implement almost all of LHiNC's dozens of NRP projects. I have secured volunteer support, grants and extensive matching funds for neighborhood NRP dollars. I have worked closely with Council Members; the City's CPED, Finance, and Public Works Departments; and the Park, Library and School Boards and have experienced the challenges of each.

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

As I have been doing for the past eight years, I will continue to communicate with neighborhoods regarding important Policy Board issues. I will continue to meet and work with board members, volunteers and staff from all neighborhood categories to inform them of important NRP issues and be a source of support. I will continue to attend neighborhood organization meetings to which I am invited. I have been, and will continue to be, readily available to disseminate and exchange information. I will continue to be your tireless advocate on the Policy Board. I welcome your input. As I have done this past year, I will continue to facilitate and elicit neighborhood responses to elected officials on the very important decisions being made regarding NRP's future and your neighborhood's improvements.

Name one thing you would like to work on if elected?

I would work on at least two things:

1. ENSURE A SMOOTH CONSOLIDATION OF NRP AND THE NCR DEPARTMENT WHILE MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE NRP PROGRAM.

2. ENSURE CONTINUED EMPOWERMENT OF RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

This **can** and **must** be done.

In 2008, the State Legislature provided the City Council with a financing mechanism that the Council could have used to support NRP and neighborhood organizations. This legislation had the potential of providing full funding for a Phase III of NRP, neighborhoods' citizen participation efforts and neighborhood organization investments, **if City elected officials had wanted to support this effort**. They did not and the result is the ineffective and poorly funded Neighborhood and Community Relations program that the City has created to replace NRP.

We MUST support neighborhood organizations in their efforts to improve their neighborhoods by not allowing the City Council and Mayor to *take* control over NRP and the last significant City investment in neighborhoods. In essence, we must maintain the integrity of NRP so that all neighborhoods will have access to 100% of their NRP funding.

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

There is a lot of work yet to do to support neighborhoods at the Policy Board level. I have a deep respect for neighborhood volunteers. I have been and will continue to be a strong and ever-present advocate for neighborhoods. At the Legislature in 2008, we were able to secure the ability to fund for neighborhood **purposes**, i.e. *purposes* as defined by the City elected, but the City Council has not supported or chosen to establish **SECURE LONG-TERM funding for neighborhood organizations** and in the short term for anything more than minimal administration costs. In the Mayor's 2011 budget, he almost doubled the NCR administrative staff (from 8.5 to 16 FTEs), while the budgeted funds supporting neighborhood organizations remains at the 2010 level (less than half of current NRP funding to neighborhoods). This shortsighted approach will minimize the demonstrated ability of neighborhoods to leverage their public funds with millions of dollars of private and other public monies. As you may know, and as of the filing of this application, a date well beyond the chartered deadline for the Mayor to submit his budget, the Mayor has yet to release the details in his 2012 budget including the funding for neighborhoods.

My questions to you:

The City Council and the Mayor will be providing only a minimal amount of funding to support neighborhood organization administrative costs. *Where will the resources come from to invest in neighborhood improvements? How will the neighborhoods' needs be addressed?*

It will take a major effort by all of us to begin to reverse the current efforts to minimize the empowerment of residents and neighborhood organizations. The City Council and the Mayor are assuming that we will not put out the effort. It is our quality of life and the future of our neighborhoods that is at stake. We need strong neighborhoods if we are to have a strong city.

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

NRP Policy Board At-Large Neighborhood Representative
Neighbors4NRP, Founder and Member /COIN, Incorporator

Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Marketing Promotions Manager, HMT Marketing, Inc.
All of the positions in #7 (above) are unpaid

At-large Neighborhood Candidate Wizard Marks



Address: 3001 Oakland Avenue (55407)

Occupation: Non-Fiction Writer, Retired

Neighborhood: Central

Years in Neighborhood: 38

Years in Minneapolis: 40

Phone: not available

E-mail: wizardmarks@q.com

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

I have had jobs from chicken de-beaker to bus driver to secretary to toy librarian. I've lived in cities from New York to Edwardsville, Illinois and interacted with people from the wealthy to the penniless homeless. I'm very good at listening to people's stories and understanding what they tell me from their perspectives.

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

Its strength is in giving residents the opportunity to fashion and take control of their neighborhoods. That is also its weakness as often the last man standing syndrome drives better heads away.

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

Oh yes, from before the NRP chose the first neighborhoods to initiate the process, I was covering the story for neighborhood newspapers. When Central was chosen, I participated from the beginning in several committee efforts including housing, which dealt with the largest part of the requirement for use of NRP funds, and community building, which initiated the revitalization of Hosmer Library at my request.

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

I'm willing to go anywhere in the city to listen to people about their NRP concerns.

Name one thing you would like to work on if elected?

I would like to see that the NRP sunsets peacefully without interference from those who are hell-bent on tearing it down..

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

If elected, this will be my third year. I'm finally getting the hang of it and may even begin to be of use.

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

Hosmer Library- Friends of Hosmer

CANDO

12th Avenue Community Garden

Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

CANDO (as a resident of Central)