

November 15, 2011

Neighborhood and Community Relations Department
Tri-Tech Center, Room 220
331 2nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed revised CPP Guidelines.

We appreciate that the CPP guidelines (excluding the NPP section) are relatively similar to the first set of Guidelines. We do not want to "recreate the wheel" each time we write a plan. We also like the simplicity of writing the CPP section (excluding the NPP section) in that we can show how we currently engage residents and our plans to continue and increase our efforts.

We do, however, also have several concerns with the proposed Guidelines:

- Food should be an eligible expense- it helps to entice people to show up for a meeting or participate in an activity.
- Allow newsletter production costs regardless of advertising income. Written communication that is mailed out is the one thing we can be certain is at least getting to every resident. This is just another form of sponsorship, which neighborhoods do frequently. The income from the advertisers only offsets a small portion of the overall production costs.
- It would be helpful to have a more detailed list of eligible and ineligible expenses.
- It is unclear in the current form, but please allow entertainment expenses to be eligible. Entertainment at our Summer Festival is our biggest draw to get residents to attend. The festival is the best chance for us to bring people together and recruit them to work on other neighborhood projects.
- We would like to see a clarification of "may" submit an NPP plan. Is an NPP required?
- With the current funding formula, neighborhoods in SW Mpls do not have extra funds to apply to an NPP. In Kenny, nearly half of our funds are spent on the newsletter. The remainder is spent on a minimal amount of staff time, operating expenses and the summer festival. One alternative would be to have a neighborhood allocation threshold at which an NPP would be required.
- It is unacceptable to tell neighborhoods that they may fund NPP plans, but then not give them any extra funding to implement the plan.

- There is a significant amount of work that will go into generating an NPP. This is too much of an administrative burden on neighborhoods who receive little funding per the allocation formula. This extra work, for a plan that has no funding source attached, takes up a much higher percentage of their CPP funds and is not a financially sound use of their meager allotment.
- Representation of neighborhood elected officials must be part of the new Policy Board.

Lastly, Kenny Neighborhood Association would like NCR to consider a shift in its philosophy with regards to the funding allocation and support. We suggest that you reward neighborhoods for their hard work and livability rather than punishing them for their efforts that result in stability. This is not to say that neighborhoods in need be punished for their instability, but rather that recognizing the neighborhoods doing well have worked hard to achieve their level of stability but still have other needs that never get a chance to be addressed due to low levels of funding. We want to ensure that our neighborhood does not suffer a drop in livability due to relatively meager funding amounts.

Sincerely,

Kenny Neighborhood Association