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Northeast Futures Partners

www.necdc.org
Northeast Community
Development Corporation

www.nemplschamber.org
Northeast Chamber of
Commerce

www.nemaa.org
Northeast Minneapolis Arts
Association

ABOUT NORTHEAST FUTURES

Northeast Futures is a community visioning and planning project for Northeast Minneapolis, MN. The purpose of the project is to help Northeast get on the same page and to work proactively and consistently when dealing with land use and development issues.

Northeast Futures seeks to evoke commonalities from a variety of groups and individuals, while encouraging them to work together on shared interests. We want to unite the Northeast community behind a common vision for the future of Northeast!

Our project partners are the Northeast Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association.

NORTHEAST FUTURES MEETING 02/27/08

Northeast Futures Committee members and interested Northeasters are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the planning of the Northeast Futures Community Convention.

This Community Visioning project will culminate with a *Northeast Futures Community Convention* in October 2008. At this memorable event we'll celebrate the old and new Northeast (people, places and things) with a focus on planning for the community's future. We'll present community education workshops, visual and performing arts, food and beverages, a plenary session where we will publicly reach consensus on Northeast's shared values and common vision for land use and community development, and a major keynote speaker. *This event will be informative, inspiring and entertaining!*

We need specific suggestions for the content and agenda of the Community Convention.

**We'll meet Wed. February 27th at 724 Lowry Ave. NE. Mpls, 55418
6:00pm-7:30pm.**

REACHING OUT

To learn the values and visions of Northeast residents for Northeast Minneapolis, NE CDC embarked on a Northeast-wide door to door canvass with the goal of interviewing a resident on every block in Northeast. According to the Minnesota Center for Survey Research we needed to complete 385 surveys to achieve a representative sample of +/- 5%. We completed more than 400 surveys before the winter stopped us. We will complete the remaining Northeast blocks in late spring '08. *PLEASE* help us canvass the rest of Northeast!

We've begun a series of Community Dialogue meetings to engage different segments of the Northeast community in the sharing of stories, information and ideas to gain useful perspectives and insights. We're trying to ensure diverse participation in the creation of Northeast's COMMUNITY VISION. The



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Northeast Neighborhoods

- Audubon
- Beltrami
- Bottineau
- Columbia Park
- Holland
- Logan Park
- Marshall Terrace
- Northeast Park
- Sheridan
- St. Anthony East
- St. Anthony West
- Waite Park
- Windom Park

“We moved here because of affordability 17 years ago and rented at first. I grew up in St. Paul. I discovered the neighborhood while attending the U of M and I wondered how I never knew of it. I loved it, it’s cute. It’s close to the river, convenient, safe, good for families, ethnic diversity – everyone has to blend.”

– Community canvass interviewee

Artists Dialogues in January were quite insightful!

WISE ELDERS STILL NEEDED

We are currently forming a **Northeast Futures Council of Wise Elders** which will make a powerful group presentation at the Northeast Futures Community Convention based on the findings from our Northeast Futures outreach activities.

The Council of Wise Elders will **(i)** analyze the surveys and Community Dialogue responses, **(ii)** present the values and vision findings at the Northeast Futures Convention where they will also **(iii)** recommend a common values and vision statement and **(iv)** propose common principles and goals for land use and community development in Northeast.

We are looking for experienced people who live in Northeast, care about Northeast and are capable of completing these tasks efficiently. A qualified elder will be able to transcend self-interest to represent the greater good of Northeast residents and businesses. Volunteer time will range between 12-15 hours over an 8 month period of time, concluding at the Community Convention. We are currently half-staffed and need a few more Wise Elders yet to begin in late March!

WHAT NORTHEASTERS SAY

I have been fortunate to speak with hundreds of Northeast residents. I have listened to authentic community experiences and perspectives, which best informs our advocacy at NE CDC. Indeed there were many commonalities and there are certainly shared interests across the diverse spectrum of "race," class, gender and family status. In random order, the following list highlights some of the greatest commonalities of what people want to happen in Northeast:

- Crime decreased and safety increased
- More home ownership and less rental, including many renters who want to be homeowners — Absentee slumlords and unruly tenants are widely despised
- Many people want their home values to appreciate, but more people want property taxes regulated so that people can afford to stay in their homes, especially low-income people / families and retired elders living on fixed incomes
- More affordable housing available for themselves and others
- Well maintained properties and yards in their neighborhoods and rehabilitation of dilapidated properties
- Greater diversity of small businesses (i.e., bakery, specialty gift shops and entertainment venues); restaurants are popular but people want American food and increased diversity of ethnic restaurants — franchise chains were widely condemned
- Better public transit – greater frequency of bus routes and LRT
- Better traffic management and road and sidewalk maintenance
- People are concerned about the quality of education at community schools and desire excellence
- More activities for youth to both keep them out of trouble and keep them safe
- Better parks and park programming, access to the river North of



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PLEASE FORWARD this E-NEWSLETTER

Visit our website for previous editions

Lowry Ave, and better bike paths

- More trees and green space and prevention of Dutch Elm disease which kills many Northeast trees
- Redevelopment of Central Ave is very popular — make it clean, safe, inviting and thriving
- Economic development that brings jobs to Northeasters in need of viable employment opportunities
- Many people love the arts community in NE and want it to grow and thrive
- More young families and youth moving in — more good neighbors
- There is plenty of racism in Northeast and many people want more cross-cultural understanding, tolerance and harmony — while many people here don't, many people do want increased diversity
- People want neighbors to know each other, cooperate and look out for each other

RETAIL HEALTH / HOUSING DENSITY CALCULATION

The *Central Avenue Plan Update* is nearing completion. † One of the key issues to be decided is how much housing density should be on Central. The updated plan worked on by The Cuningham Group, consultants hired by the City, will be submitted to the Minneapolis City Council this month for adoption into the *Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan* in March. ‡

Naturally, many people desire a pedestrian friendly avenue with a variety of appealing businesses. But, how much housing density, at what income levels, in what proximity to Central Avenue is needed to support healthy retail business on Central Avenue? NE CDC hired National Retail Consultant Mike Berne to lead a project to calculate the answer to this vital question.

NE CDC is presenting a Public Think Tank Forum co-sponsored by the City of Minneapolis and the Cuningham Group. **Mark your calendars for Thursday March 6th @ the Crescent Moon Banquet Hall 2339 Central Ave. NE Mpls, 55418.** Park in the Wells Fargo lot behind Crescent Moon.

We have devised a formula with which participants can create various scenarios for the amount of housing density at different income levels near Central that can be expected to support different retail lease rates and gross sales. We are going to put this formula up on a screen and let attendees create the future scenarios.

For more info call Julia Burman at 612-627-9366 or email jkburman@necdc.org.

† http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/planning/central_ave_plan_update.asp

‡ http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/Comp_Plan_Update.asp

❖ VISIT www.necdc.org to view our "ABCs of Development" tutorial.

TO VIEW A VARIETY OF NORTHEAST MAPS & DATA VISIT OUR WEBSITE

We would like to thank our funders and the volunteers who have helped to make the NE Futures Project possible:

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