

Neighborhood Community Relations Dept.
David Rubedor, Director
425 Crown Roller Mill
105 So 5th Avenue
Minneapolis, MN. 55401

Monday, August 8th, 2016

Dear Mr. Rubedor,

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC) created The Loring Park Neighborhood NRP Phase II Ten Year Action Plan conducting community participation from 2006-2008. In October of 2008 the Community unanimously approved this plan. In December 2008 it was unanimously approved by the Minneapolis City Council.

Within that plan, the following goals, objectives, and strategies were articulated:

Goal 7. Sustainability & The Environment

Strategy 7.1.3. Maintain and enhance the urban forest and green space.

A. Assist the MPRB in surveying missing or diseased trees in the neighborhood public right of way.

Goal 2. Urban Design/Improvements

Objective 2.6. The Loring Park Neighborhood will address critical needs for improvements to the Neighborhood's urban fabric that the community has identified as damaged, dangerous, ugly or underutilized.

Strategy 2.6.1. Improve the urban environment throughout the neighborhood when opportunities arise.

A. Improve Streetscapes including landscaping, lighting, pavements, crosswalks, etc.

Additionally, as a first priority to implement in our NRP Phase II plan, the Neighborhood initiated a 3-year planning process and created a Small Area Plan called The Loring Park Master Plan. This plan was unanimously approved by the Minneapolis City Council, the Metropolitan Council, and is now ammended to the City of Minneapolis' Comprehensive Plan. Within that plan 'Enhancing the Loring Park Tree Canopy' is called for. This Plan can be found at www.loringpark.org.

CLPC set aside 2011 Community Participation funds for Neighborhood Priority Projects. It was defined that these funds would be utilized to implement prioritized projects coming out of the NRP Phase II Plan and/or The Loring Park Master Plan.

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Neighborhood Tree Project

Developed from a Land Use Committee Goal in 2015, CLPC worked with MPRB Forestry staff and CLPC Boardmember Dr. Lee Frelich, an internationally known 'tree expert' and professor at the University of Minnesota to identify and map the types of neighborhood trees. MPRB created this map for the neighborhood. We noted that along Nicollet and along Groveland, all of the trees were Ash trees. A large number of Loring Greenway Trees were Ash and a large number of Loring Park Trees were Ash. We set our priorities for this project.

A. Walk Nicollet & Groveland with Dr. Frelich and Rainbow Tree Company and Identify trees to save/trees to treat. Coordinate with MPRB Policy board. Treat the trees, evaluate every two years. MPRB has a plan to replace all Ash Trees within Minneapolis. CLPC did not want to see the canopy on Nicollet disappear overnight and replaced with small trees taking decades to create a full canopy and shade. It was agreed to treat those trees prioritized through a Walk A Bout.

B. Harmon Ave Public Realm - The Loring Park Master Plan identifies Public Realm improvements for Harmon between MCTC and St. Thomas University. CLPC Coordinator, with the assistance of Ward 7 Policy Aide pulled a Team together to include Public Works Staff, Parking Staff, MPRB Forestry Staff, organization representatives, businesses, and two residents. The first priority was to research 'Enhancing the Tree Canopy' as one of the elements to improve public space on this corridor. We are in this phase at this time.

C. Work with the Park Board to Replace any missing street trees. We noted that trees were dead in front of St Thomas and they moved ahead to get them replaced. MPRB Forestry replaced Trees along 15th Street.

D. Add new Street Trees throughout the neighborhood. This will be our last Project Goal after A, B, C above are completed.

Request:. CLPC Requests that \$5,000 is moved from our Neighborhood Priority Fund and placed into our Neighborhood Revitalization or Community Participation Fund contract. Funds will be utilized for 1) Tree Inoculation and 2) Public Realm Improvements on Harmon TBD.

Treating the Ash Trees is a Summer / Fall 2016 goal. Harmon Avenue will be a 2017 Goal.

We look forward to implementing our plans. Thank you for the support.

Sincerely,

Jana Metge, Coordinator
Citizens for a Loring Park Community