

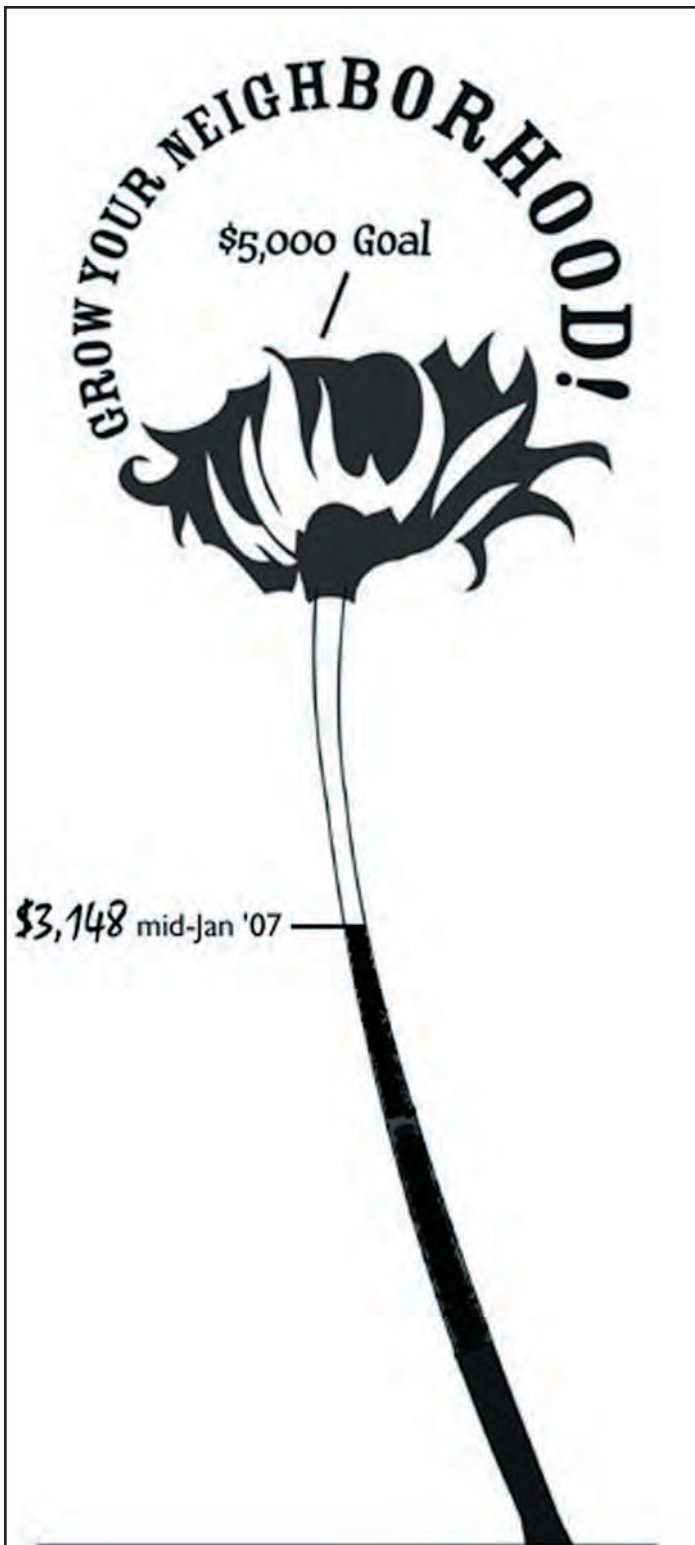


The Corcoran NEWS

February 2007

Volume 21 Number 1

Published by The Corcoran Neighborhood Organization



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Corcoran Neighborhood residents are encouraged to give the city feedback on its *Community Engagement Report*. A January 30 public meeting and a survey will gather resident feedback. **Corcoran residents are invited to a public meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 30 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m at Plaza Verde – 1516 E. Lake Street.** The meeting collect input from a number of neighborhoods including Bancroft, Bryant, Cooper, Corcoran, Longfellow, Midtown Phillips, Phillips East, Phillips West, Powderhorn Park, and Seward neighborhoods. The survey and the public meetings are a result of the Minneapolis City Council and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board's call for public discussion of the *Community Engagement Report* which was submitted by the City Coordinator to the City Council on Nov. 9, 2006. The report was written in response to a May 12, 2006 Minneapolis City Council resolution directing a staff work group to review and summarize recent, previously documented feedback, reports and recommendations on the City's current community engagement system and activities. The report sites changing demographics, declining Community Development Block Grant funding and the approaching final year authorized NRP funding (2009) as spurring the assessment of community engagement activities.

CVVGPF: Public meeting Jan. 30, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m at Plaza Verde – 1516 E. Lake Street.

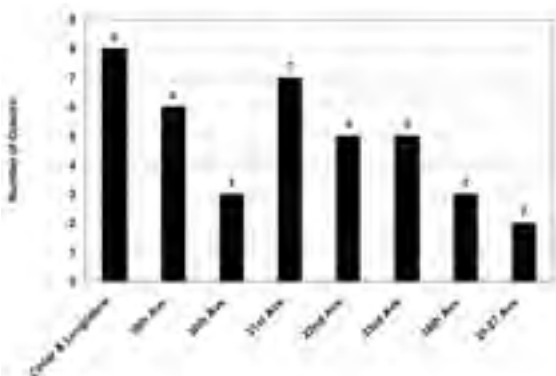
URGCM"OWV: Complete and mail the Community Engagement survey available at CNO or at www.nrp.org. Deadline for receipt of the survey is February 8.

always involves an impending city government decision." The report clarifies this by adding "... the primary purpose of community engagement –as defined above—is to empower people to influence decisions that shape their city and their lives." Many in the community feel the purpose expressed in the rider to the definition more accurately reflects the history and spirit of neighborhood organization involvement. Amy Arcand, CNO Executive Director, put it this way, "For many years, Minneapolis' neighborhood organizations have been successfully engaging people in policy, planning, development, and community building activities by

providing people a vehicle to partner with each other and the City. This history and its benefits are not duly acknowledged in the *Community Engagement Report*. In order to ensure that the strong tradition of neighborhood organizations continues in Minneapolis, we must insist that the city report values their existence and celebrates their successes."

Asked if it is important for neighborhood residents to attend the meeting and give input Amy Arcand said, "I think that it is extremely important for people to attend the community input meetings. Our country was founded on the idea of a "government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed." She further registered her dissatisfaction with the report process saying, "It seems absurd to me that our city government can create a community engagement report without the input of the community, in essence telling the people how they will be able to engage. Perhaps a better process would have been for citizens to create a "city engagement report" that describes how the people want the city to engage."

Watch Your Neighborhood Grow!



The report has been criticized by some neighborhood organizations for a lack of input from neighborhoods, and for having an overly simplistic view of community engagement. In response, a coalition of neighborhoods is circulating a letter to all city neighborhood organizations to formally request that the City expand the vision for civic engagement. The report states that "Community engagement



Two board members, Kevin Reuther and Gerry Tyrrell, have secured a \$5,000 matching grant from area resident Kim Lund to help CNO with general operating expenses. The money will match any individual donations made to CNO up to a combined total of \$5,000.

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If you donate any dollar amount, the fund will match that donation. Say you donate \$250, the fund will match your donation bringing the total donated up to \$500.

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CNO strives to continue the endeavor of making Corcoran a better place to live, work and raise our families. In order to continue and strengthen our goal, we rely on donations that allow us to continue working with the community.

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Just go to www.corcoranneighborhood.org and click on the Donate button at the bottom of the page. You will be taken to our partner site, Network for Good where you can choose how much you would like to donate, and when. You will receive an email reminding you of your upcoming withdrawal, which you can also save and use for tax write-offs. Don't forget to check our list of Minnesota companies that match their employee's donations to non-profit organizations.

Don't forget to check the paper, the website and the Neighborhood Advocate for updates on how close we are to reaching our goal and to see how your block is doing in our friendly block donation competition. To the left you will see a graph which represents how many people in each block have donated to our campaign. Here is your chance to make sure your block is number one. Looks like Cedar/Longfellow is in the lead with 21st Avenue closing in!

CNO is very excited about our new fundraising effort. We sincerely hope that you, the Corcoran residents, will be as excited as we are about this effort and reach into your pocketbooks to help continue to make Corcoran a great place to live. Please feel free to stop in the office form more information on "Grow Your Neighborhood!"

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Winter is finally upon us! Okay, I definitely did enjoy the delay in the cold and snow this year. However, I don't mind winter weather ... up until about the beginning of January and then it can go away. I would much rather the warm winter was at the end of the season. But I live in Minnesota and I don't get to choose.

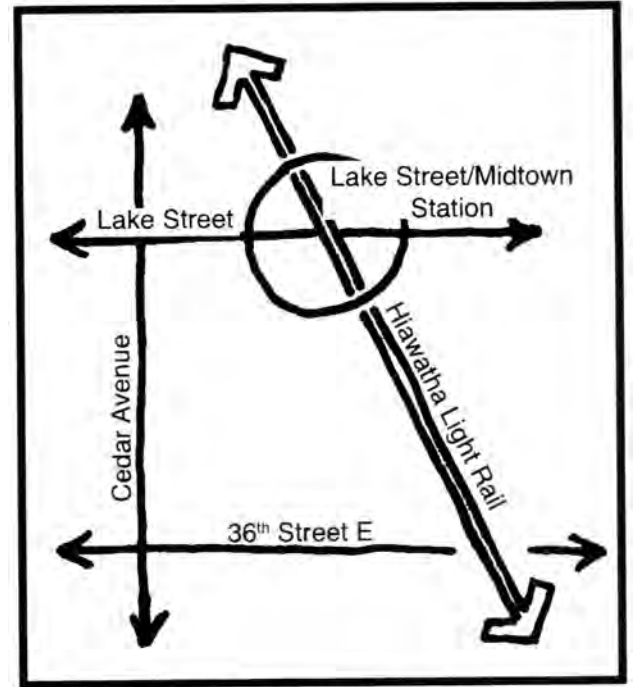
My least favorite part of winter is street parking. Years ago I was living in Uptown (worst parking situation ever) and it was snowing out. My roommate and I were really tired and went to bed early. This was before nearly every household had a computer. Yes, we woke up and there was not a single car on the street (I lived on a snow emergency route). I wasn't able to get my car until about midnight the next night and stood in line for what seemed like an eternity, to pay *ecuj"qpi{* to get my car. I then got in a large van with several other

people as the driver drove around the impound lot until you found your car.

I find the snow emergency parking guidelines very confusing. In this great age of technology, there are a few ways to prevent your car from being towed. Call 348-SNOW, watch the news or listen to the radio, or watch City Cable TV channels 14 and 79. My favorite method is to go to the website www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us and sign up for an email alert. Now I will be emailed every time a snow emergency is declared. You are also given the option of selecting to receive a number of other various alerts regarding things related to the city of Minneapolis.

I will never be towed during the winter again! Get out there and enjoy the snow.

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Corcoran neighborhood.

Corcoran to Thank Volunteers at Annual Dinner

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Our neighborhood will pause on Monday, February 5th to give thanks to all those who dedicate their time and money to making our neighborhood a better place to live.

As a token of our appreciation, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization will host its annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on Monday, February 5th at Corcoran Park. The event gives neighborhood employees, residents, and local restaurants a

chance to give thanks for all the volunteers who help our neighborhood grow and flourish. A meal will begin at 6:00, and a formal program will follow.

We are currently in the middle of our "Grow Your Neighborhood" fund drive. The Volunteer Recognition Dinner gives us an opportunity to recognize those who not only grow our neighborhood through monetary gifts, but also through the donation of time and self for the betterment of

our neighborhood. Our volunteers are indeed priceless to this neighborhood, the neighborhood organization, and many outside our borders.

This year's event will align with the fund drive theme, "Grow Your Neighborhood," by first expressing the importance of volunteers to positive neighborhood growth and organization. The evening will also be a "No Waste Event," encompassing a broader interpretation of "Growing Your Neighborhood" which will

include eco-friendly practices that encourage healthy growth. We hope the event can simultaneously express appreciation for our volunteers and for our environment through a more holistic "Grow Your Neighborhood" theme.

Please join us if you have volunteered or donated to our neighborhood this past year. RSVP to Matt Wieland by calling 612-724-7457, or emailing info@corcoranneighborhood.org.

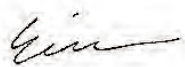
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For the last three months of '06, I ran around to neighborhood meetings all over Minneapolis, including Corcoran in November, telling people about easy steps they can take as individuals and as neighborhoods to make a real dent in the rising energy demand that's causing global warming. I believe strongly in this message, even though I'm unqualified to deliver it.

The Okppguvc"Gpgti {"Ejcmgpi suggests 30 household conservation choices ranging from simple and cheap to more serious investments. At this time—for my household—I've checked only 8 of those 30 boxes. But the choices I've made, like replacing conventional light bulbs with compact fluorescents, washing clothes in cold water, and programming my setback thermostat, are real actions that will help curb climate change and

save money. (Oh, and the fat heating bill I got last month brought more motivation.) For now, the 22 unchecked boxes are food for thought. They've got me thinking and wanting to learn more, even if I never commit to taking 5 minute showers; even if I can never afford to replace my car with a hybrid.

Anyway, 'perfection' was never the goal. The goal—I hope—is to learn more about these choices we make about what to use and where to spend, to investigate how these choices relate to world events and current debates, and to better understand how choices big and small impact the neighborhood we live in.



Eric Gustafson
CNO Community Organizer



Register to receive CNO's free e-mail newsletter, The Neighborhood Advocate, by visiting www.corcoranneighborhood.org.

- up-to-date news & information
- neighborhood events
- volunteer opportunities
- receive about once a week

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|----|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 1 | Longfellow | 168,205 | 20 % | \$14,080 |
| 2 | Linden Hills | 165,036 | 18 % | \$14,233 |
| 3 | Fulton | 2,312 | 16 % | \$10,047 |
| 4 | Windom Park | 109,170 | 18 % | \$7,023 |
| 5 | Seward | 88,449 | 19 % | \$5,960 |
| 6 | McKinley | 84,641 | 13 % | \$7,156 |
| 7 | Armatage | 79,297 | 22 % | \$6,407 |
| 8 | Lynnhurst | 79,119 | 20 % | \$5,174 |
| 9 | Hale/Page/Diamond Lake | 59,220 | 15 % | \$4,902 |
| 10 | Corcoran | 51,535 | 15 % | \$4,722 |

Take the Challenge at **yyyo ppggti {ejcmgpi}qt i**

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 Margaret Vaillancourt
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 Contact CNO at 612-724-7457 for rate sheet and information about special discounts and classifieds.
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The grand re-opening of the fully renovated and expanded East Lake Library is set for Saturday, March 3, beginning at 12:30 p.m. with an outdoor gathering and ribbon-cutting at 1 pm. It will be the public's first opportunity to become reacquainted with the transformed library. A full schedule of events to introduce the community to its "new" library will include music, talks by the architects and artists, food and more. The library is located 2727 East Lake Street, just east of Minnehaha Avenue, within walking distance of the Hiawatha LRT Line, and near the Midtown Greenway. The library's hours will be Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., which is consistent with all other

community libraries in Minneapolis.

"The reopening of this library, with its new services and wonderful spaces, is certainly a cause for celebration. It brings a new vibrancy to East Lake Street, new opportunities to community residents, and open the door for new connections among people of all ages and backgrounds living and working in the community," Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak said.

The changes to the East Lake Library are noticeable from the street, starting with an open and welcoming entrance with a wall of windows overlooking Lake Street, as well as a new entrance from the parking lot and convenient outdoor book drop. Library users will enjoy the new exterior lighting, landscaping, and a rain garden

on the building's east side that features an engaging, large-scale granite and steel sculpture designed by local artist Zoran Mojsilov.

Community members will be able to take advantage of an expanded array of programs and services at the library: New parents can learn the best ways to read to their young children while families enjoy family story hour. Teens will get help with homework and, along with younger children, enjoy movies on holiday breaks. There will be a monthly Discover Saturday with special hands-on program for younger children. The library will host Spanish-language book clubs for adults and teens and there will be a Spanish- and Somali-speaking staff to assist people with how to use the library.

"The East Lake Library will be serving a lively community where small businesses serve with thriving neighborhoods," Anita Duckor, Minneapolis Public Library Board President, said. "We will be offering new programs that meet the needs of this community, from training on how to start a small business to Spanish-language book clubs to help with homework for Somali-speaking library users."

The atmosphere inside the fully accessible library is welcoming and filled with natural light, earth-friendly finishes, engaging art, and colorful, comfortable furnishings. There is ample seating, age appropriate furniture and design, state-of-the-art technology, and a service-friendly staff.

Keep Advocating for the Library

By Kathy Ford, Standish Resident

Roosevelt Library Shuttered It's Doors December 29

The doors to our Roosevelt Community Library may be closed, but the building is not for sale. Strong public outrage at the prospect of permanent closure for three (Webber Park, Southeast, and Roosevelt) community libraries led to a barrage of e-mails and lobbying of public officials to keep the libraries open. This grassroots support for our library system continues as advocates work to reverse these "temporary" closings. There is no timeline for reopening since decisions are dependent on finding a permanent financial solution to the library system's budget woes.

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Already experiencing budget concerns, the Minneapolis Public Library system was adversely affected in 2003 when the state cut local government aid (LGA) funds to cities. Since that time, deep systemwide cuts in operational hours and staff positions have been made. With two renovated libraries (East Lake and Northeast Regional) scheduled to reopen in 2007, the decision was made to operate only 12 community libraries, on a uniform schedule. While apologizing for the decision to approve closings, the Minneapolis Library Board stated that there simply was not enough money to run the entire system.

Throughout this process, library advocates have refused to pit one library against another. People worked for and continue to advocate for the entire system. Library supporters point out that all Minneapolis residents have been paying additional taxes due to the passage of the library referendum six years ago. The referendum promised that, in addition to a new Central Library, *all* community branches would benefit. Obviously, the current situation does not benefit all branches.

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Final decisions about the closed libraries won't be made before summer 2007 at the earliest. What can we, as Standish and Ericsson residents, do to hasten the day when the doors of our library reopen? Some suggestions for involvement and advocacy include the following.

1. Join or volunteer with the Friends of the Minneapolis Public Libraries. This support group has been instrumental in lobbying on behalf of our library system and debunking myths that have circulated regarding the libraries. Its weekly

e-mail update gives information and important news. You can connect through the general library Web site (www.mplib.org) or directly by phone (630-6170) or e-mail (friends@mplib.org).

- 2. Call or e-mail the governor and your state representatives and encourage them to support additional LGA funding for the City of Minneapolis.** For most people in our neighborhoods, the state representative is Jim Davnie and the state senator is Patricia Torres Ray. Other people can get contact information for representatives from 651-296-6646 and for senators from 651-296-0504. Gov. Tim Pawlenty's number is 651-296-3391 (tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us).
- 3. Continue to e-mail or call the City Council and mayor to voice support for the entire library system and the reopening of the three neighborhood branches.** The City Council makes the budgetary decisions for the system, and members need to continue to hear from the public regarding library support. Even if the state increases LGA monies for Minneapolis, the City Council determines how it will be spent. In addition, members need to hear that the public wants permanent, ongoing funding, not a one-time allocation that does not permit long-term viability. Gary Schiff and Sondar Colvin Roy have been supportive, so thank them and ask them not to give up.
- 4. Continue to voice support for Roosevelt Community Library and the library system to Library Board members (www.mplib.org/boardadmin.asp).** Past experience has shown that the board considers Roosevelt the least valued of the neighborhood libraries. Members need to hear that this area values its library and the services it provides.

5. Don't accept the myths. Residents of Standish and Ericsson have been told that Roosevelt is too close to East Lake and Nokomis. The actual distance is 1.8 miles to either one. Most libraries in the system are in similar proximity to other libraries. (For instance, the distance between Sumner and Central is 1.7 miles; East Lake and Franklin are 1.8 miles apart.) In fact, most of the libraries are about 2 to 3 miles apart.

Another myth says that the three closed libraries are in need of expensive repairs. Although true, it must be remembered that Roosevelt

was scheduled for building renovations in 2002 and that it was bypassed in favor of other libraries. None of the three libraries has received the amount of money that has been put into maintenance of other buildings. Some library trustees have publicly said that neglect of certain branches does not make these libraries less important than those that have received the building funds. It only means that a less-fancy facility has continued to serve the public with fewer amenities than the renovated buildings.

A related myth says that because Roosevelt is in need of repairs, it is costly to operate. In fact, Roosevelt operated well in spite of its needs. With its small size and limited staff, it was one of the most cost-effective libraries in the system, according to a cost analysis presented to the Library Board.

Finally, a myth says that Minneapolis has too many libraries. According to data presented to the Library Board analyzing several cities of comparable size, this is not true. Minneapolis is actually at the low end of average, even when all branch libraries are operating.

- 6. Voice your support for the initiative to fund Central Library's operational costs as part of the Hennepin County Library system.** Central Library houses many materials that are unique, and much of the collection is used on a regional basis. According to studies of central and regional libraries in other cities, the size of the Minneapolis Central Library is appropriate for the centerpiece of a regional system. Currently, the residents of Minneapolis are funding something that is of value to the entire area. Discussion of a city-county partnership is under way, led by the Hennepin County Commission.
- 7. Don't start making plans for what to do with the building if it does not reopen.** That implies that the neighborhood can get along without it. Instead, talk about when the library reopens, and encourage friends to do likewise. Make it clear to everyone that permanent closure is not acceptable.

Roosevelt Community Library has been part of the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods since 1927. Let's work so that in 2007 we can celebrate its 80th birthday and plan for 80 years more.

This article was reprinted from the SENA newsletter and edited for space. See page 5 for photos.

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Attendees: Amy Arcand, Alexis Bell, Sue Duoos, Kath Lenk, Gwen McMahon, Kevin Reuther, Gerry Tyrrell, Jessica Ward-Denison, Billy Weber

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 Made by Alexis, second by Kath, motion carried unanimously.

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The General Membership Meeting went well. There was a good turnout. The new city attorney was well received.

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CNO has hired Margaret Vaillancourt to do advertising sales for the paper. She will start in January and will be responsible for at least \$600 per month in sales, ad billing and layout. Margaret is a Corcoran resident and will be working approximately 20 hours per month.

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The Individual Giving Campaign is going well. The Task Force Members will be visiting the committees and encouraging committee members to participate in the match program. The board reviewed, discussed, and gave an enthusiastic endorsement to the graphics being used to

promote the fund drive in the paper.

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The board discussed the Executive Director's performance review. The Executive Committee will conduct the formal review. The entire board and staff will give input using a "peer review" form provided by the Committee. The review will take place in January.

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The Board discussed closing the office between the Christmas and New Years weekends and giving the staff the days off as a paid bonus. It was noted that this is in line with previous years and much appreciated by the staff. The Board noted the staffs' hard work through out the year.

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 Made by Kevin, second by Alexis, motion carried unanimously.

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Attendees: Amy Arcand, Alexis Bell, Kath Lenk, Kevin Reuther, Gerry Tyrrell, Jessica Ward-Denison, Billy Weber

The Board Meeting scheduled for January 3 was rescheduled to January 8 due to multiple absences.

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 Made by Gerry, second by Alexis, motion carried unanimously.

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A motion was brought forward and discussed by the board by the Housing Committee and staff to make changes to CNO's housing program. It was noted in the discussion that the estimated funding is conservative, and may be higher depending on program income. The board felt the program met long term goals given the resources available. The emphasis on loans verses grants is intended to create revolving funds, rather than one time allotments. The board thanked the committee and staff for their thoughtful consideration in development of the programs.

OQVKQP<"With regards to NRP Phase II housing dollars, CNO resolves to offer the community five (5) low interest loans per year for 2007, 08, and 09, and 'as available' after that. Also offer \$1,500 in 'new programming' with details to be decided each spring through 2010 and as available after that. Discontinue existing 'Homebuyer Program' once its funds are used. Low interest loans will be available to all residents at 4%, to those who earn \$50,000 or less at 3%, and to those who earn \$35,000 or less at 2%.

Made by Billy, second by Kath, motion carried unanimously.

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Amy is in the process of conducting the staff year end reviews. She will be meeting with each person to review the previous years efforts and to establish goals and work plans for the coming year. The Personnel committee will be conducting Amy's review by the end of January, and will update the board in February. Amy will also update the board on staff review progress in February.

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Amy gave the following updates. Regarding the on going concern of drug dealing around the Shell Station at the corner of 34th and Cedar, progress is being made. A camera, similar to the one at Bloomington and Lake may

soon be installed. Council Member Schiff has pledged \$5,000 and Adam Ali owner of the station has pledged \$6,000 to cover the estimated \$11,000 installation costs.

The intent is to have the camera join the city system of cameras which have proven effective as a crime deterrent. As of January 3, the individual giving campaign had reached \$2,818 in pledges, another \$2,182 is needed in order to maximize the matching funds.

Citizen Engagement meetings are being held to gather citizen input on the city Citizen Engagement Report. It is felt that the report lacks vision and has lacked citizen input. Amy encouraged the board to get involved with this issue and come to the meeting on January 30th.

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Review of financials found them in order. It was reported that CNO has received a grant from the McKnight Foundation for \$35,000 a year for two years. \$5,000 dollars each year will go toward the Market, with the remainder going for general operating expenses and salaries.

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Amy reported that the initial application to the Bush Foundation did not result in an award. However, she noted that the Foundation did request a meeting to discuss the project, and has encouraged CNO to resubmit. This was viewed by all as a very positive sign. The funding would be to create a neighborhood based program focus on neighborhood health, encompassing safety, homes, and energy. The program is intended to serve CNO and surrounding neighborhoods.

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Ncpf"Wug" ("Vtcurqtvcvkqp"Eq o o kvvgg - The committee requested a motion be made affirming the following resolution.

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 CNO supports public open spaces on land adjacent to the Midtown Greenway for the creation of:

- Graceful entrance ramps to the cycling and walking trails in the trench segment of the Midtown Greenway, designed with more gradual slope grades and long sight lines in and out of the Greenway,
- Plazas and/or greenspaces at future Midtown

Gxgpvu"6 Kath Lenk. Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held 7 February 2007. Nominations for "Volunteer of the Year" and "Life Time Achievement Award" will be accepted through the third weekend in January.

Octmgy"6 The Market is closed for the season. Planning for next season is on-going, with a retreat in December. The board was informed that the Market will end the year on tenuous financial footing, which may require the board to offer financial support to the market during the off season. The board expressed concern and discussed the need for the Market to be financially self sufficient. Further discussion focused on the changing nature of the Market as it enters its fifth season, and the challenges it will face as it grows and sustains itself over the long term. The Board will be briefed on market planning in January.

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 Made by Gwen, second by Gerry, motion carried unanimously.

- Greenway rail transit station locations, and Additional public greenspaces that will use ecologically sustainable landscaping and provide safe gathering places.

In addition,

- CNO advocates for high-density, transit-oriented development (TOD) around transit stations such as Lake Street/Midtown in accordance with the Corcoran Midtown Revival Plan. Therefore, creation of new public open spaces at or around transit stations should not preclude future TOD and transit connection opportunities including a new housing or commercial development or a future streetcar connection at Lake Street/Midtown, and
- CNO advocates for improved connections between the Midtown Greenway and existing neighborhood green spaces and amenities such as Corcoran Park, Powderhorn Park, and the Midtown YWCA.

Furthermore, CNO will work with the Midtown Greenway Coalition and our adjacent neighborhoods to evaluate and advocate for appropriate public open spaces along our stretch of the Midtown Greenway. Made by Kath, second by Gerry, motion carried unanimously.

Gxgpvu"6 Kath Lenk. Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held Monday, February 5, 2007 from 6 – 8:30. The event will include neighborhood awards, a state of the neighborhood address, and information on the individual giving campaign. The committee is aiming to have the event be waste free.

Octmgy"6 The Market is planning for next season. The funding from McKnight pushed 2006 into the black. Overall the market raised 98.31% of its goal, but due to some decreased spending will carryover \$3,155 into 2007. The committee continues to plan for the fifth anniversary 2007 season. The focus through the winter and spring will be on creating a sustainable platform for the market to ensure its success into the future.

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 Made by Billy, second by Alexis, motion carried unanimously.

Connect With Neighbors Through the Cold Months!

By Kath Lenk, Corcoran Resident

We Minnesotans tend to hibernate through winter without seeing as much of our neighbors. It takes some extra effort, but these connections are good for crime prevention and security, and might illuminate hidden joys of life in our extreme northern neighborhood. After all, neighbors are the people that shovel and slip on the same sidewalks. Some ideas that you and you neighbors could consider:

- €# Have an **indoor** block party. My block did this one year and it was a great success. It was easy to plan—just chose a date and distribute flyers. And if you inquire warmly, the friendly staff at the Corcoran office might help you create your flyer. Don't forget: they offer free photocopies year round for block club activities.
- €# Have a bonfire with your neighbors (in one of those outdoor fire pits or fireplaces that seem to be everywhere these days) and share neighborhood memories around the fire.

- €# Support local businesses by meeting some neighbors at a local pub or restaurant for drinks, food, and games.
- €# Offer to shovel snow for an elderly neighbor, or form a 'shoveling brigade' to benefit the whole block. (And, it never hurts to know who owns a snow plow!)
- €# Chill your block's heating bills and curb climate change with an 'energy' theme. Share ideas like weather stripping, setback thermostats, and compact florescent bulbs, and showcase these easy savings using the host's home. Talk to Corcoran staff for information on energy audits, block party freebies, how your household or block can take the Minnesota Energy Challenge, and more.

Enjoy the winter and stay warm (which is not as hard these days, unfortunately, with global warming!).



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I placed a classified ad and got more than I bargained for. Cleaning out unwanted clutter just before the New Year, I made a pile of doors and lamps and whatnots to bring to the ReUse Center. ReUse gladly took my lamps, but had doors coming out their ears, they said. I still can't figure out where the doors came from—they didn't fit any frames in my house, but were cobwebbed and hibernating in the basement when I moved in. They needed some mending, sanding, and painting, but they were usable.

So how on earth would I find an interested party? I'd heard about **VykpEkvkguHtggOctmgvøqti** and gave it a skeptical try. To my surprise, I received an e-mail just hours later asking "when can I stop by?—I want all three doors!" Susan from Orono explained that she was fixing up an apartment for her college-aged daughter. I set the doors in the driveway and she picked them up the next day. That evening I had one more note from Susan in my inbox. "Thank you, Eric, the doors will be perfect for our daughter's new home."



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Closing Dec. 29th

You may return books at this bookdrop until Jan. 5, 2007.

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Twenty-four community members attended a meeting at the Corcoran Neighborhood office last Thursday to discuss crime around 34th and Cedar.

Shell gas station owner Adam Ali acknowledged problems around the store but said he is actively working to improve the atmosphere, and has hired a security guard for Thursday through Sunday from 6 to 11 pm. The measure is one of 18 'business license operating conditions' agreed to by the owner and Minneapolis Licensing in response to ongoing youth loitering and drug dealing activity unaddressed by station staff and documented by Licensing. The conditions will require station staff to actively deter and stop such activity, and include installation of three exterior surveillance cameras.

Another surveillance option, which was discussed at previous

community meetings, is a police camera similar to those installed recently at 'Safe Zones' on Bloomington Avenue and downtown. While the Third Precinct has discussed a Safe Zone camera for this corner, explained Council Member Gary Schiff, Precinct leaders are wary of pushing current activity a block in either direction without permanent resolution.

Minneapolis Police Lieutenant Dan Roen said that some enforcement progress is unseen but ongoing, including a three-year investigation of area racketeering activity, including drug dealing, led by federal attorneys. Roen said he hopes City Attorney Paula Kruchowski will have the opportunity to prosecute area drug dealers. Kruchowski said she hopes to keep offenders out of the area using geographic trespass restrictions. She plans to encourage greater cooperation between City

and County Attorneys since the County takes the lead on cases involving juveniles but is often unable to share information.

Licensing staff Julie Casey shared a sense that improvements were underway at 34th and Cedar, but urged residents to support the Shell station, create a positive presence in the area, and continue to report illegal activity using 911. A proactive attitude was evident amongst residents on hand, though several stated they would boycott the gas station until the dealing and loitering are gone.

Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch urged residents to use 911 to report suspicious or illegal activity, and to provide specific details to 911 operators or herself about observed behavior. "The operators sit in a blank room, so paint a picture for them. Help them to see what you see so that officers can best use the information."

In addition, Notsch said she is

available to assist in a security audit for any home or business owner wishing to optimize safety at their property. Jeff Soderlind of Brothers Electric said his Cedar Avenue contracting firm has shown a willingness to offer a reduced rate for group-sized projects, such as a block of residents wishing to install motion lighting at alley garages.

Community Impact Statements are one more tool residents can use against crime. Paula Kruchowski shared blank Impact Statement forms that can be completed and returned to the City Attorney's office. When an offender goes to trial, she explained, these statements written by residents, describing how they have been adversely affected by the offender's actions, can be compelling and effective in the courtroom. Blank Impact Statement forms are also available in the Corcoran office.

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Design a Garden to Reduce Stress

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I have a question for you: have you ever come home from work and realized that you are stressed out? I think I know the answer, a loud yes! Just relax and put some of these garden tips into action, and your life will be more meaningful and less stressful.

A garden that reduces stress will be simple and natural. They will be like any woodland or flower garden, but with certain color, height, and texture designs.

How many out there know what the primary colors of designs are? They are warm and cool. If you want to reduce stress use cool colors, they are soothing and relaxing. At this point I suppose you want to know what a warm and cool color is. Warm colors

are red, orange and yellow. Cool colors are green, blue and violet. I am going to change my story a bit about warm colors, you can use a few warm colors to create a focal point, but on a very small scale. I suggest using 95 percent cool colors. You may use some tints (lighter) or shades (darker) of the primary cool colors, or pastels (light combinations of colors), but don't use white because it is so powerful it will take you attention away from the cool colors.

For the last two design principles of heights and textures, avoid out of control contrasts. That mean using plants that are the same height and textures; they are more relaxing than having one big and one small plant next to each other.

Think large groups of same color and textures. They should be cool colors. They need to be a fine textured, but don't bring in thorns. Thorns would aggravate your stress level.

You also want to think about horizontal lines, curves, etc. Horizontal lines are more calming than vertical lines. Which one of these would you think is more relaxing? I hope you selected horizontal. Have you ever looked at the waves on the ocean, they are calming, and they are horizontal. Create this principle with many plants of the same height and colors. Also, curves and round lines are more relaxing than sharp and straight edges. All we want is peacefulness. It is a natural in

nature! The way you create your stress free garden depends on your personality. It could be informal or semi-formal. Enjoy your strolls in the cool garden. Remember cool colors, height, gentle curves, water and scent.

Water and scent, I almost forgot water and scent! They are useful like the other features. Gentle sounds of water are relaxing, so bring in a small stream or bubbling water, but don't bring in Minnehaha Creek, it won't be relaxing. Stay simple and enjoy that "cool, stress-free" garden.

Johnny Jones, Jr. has a home based business selling bedding plants. Contact at plantmaster345@aol.com or 612-724-4817

Get Fit Twin Cities — Passport for Fitness Program



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According to the City of Minneapolis website, the Get Fit motto is “feel better, look better and live longer.” A community-wide fitness challenge has started in the Twin Cities. In the online fitness program, adult groups can register for the health and fitness challenge to develop healthy habits. Teams can be two to ten people. There are two divisions – weight loss or activity minutes. The program started January 10 and ends May 10, 2007. Registration ends March 1, 2007 and is free for the first 10,000. There are two registration categories - family and friends and companies or organizations.

Your fitness passport makes club and class discounts available throughout the metro area. A link on the website to a PDF document provides a list (local excerpt below). Your fitness team must have a captain and a handbook is provided for guiding the team. The Team Captain is there to cheer on their members and provide support and resources. The Team Captain takes the overall responsibility for registering the team and managing their online progress.

Tools and education links are available on the website getfittwincities.org. A weekly walking club, Step it to the Southside, has been formed and meets at the Sabathani Community Center room 120 at 8 a.m. during the winter to walk indoors. The walkers will move outside in spring.

The program forms are also available in Spanish.

Local Get Fit Passport Partners

- **Okfvqyp" I tggpy c{"Eqcnkvkqp** - 118 East 26th St. Suite 100b, 612-789-0106, www.midtowngreenway.org; Free Weekly Walking Program Wednesdays at 5:30pm and Saturdays 11:00am.
- **Okppgerqnu"Uejqqnu"Eq o o wpkv{"Gfwecvkqp** - Convenient sites throughout Minneapolis, 612-668-3939, www.mplscommunityed.com; \$5 discount on fitness and dance classes. Class begin the week of January 22, 2007.
- **Okppgerqnu"Rctm"cpf" Tgetcvkqp" Dqet f** - www.minneapolisparcs.org; Free one-day pass for cross country skiing at Hiawatha Golf Course, 4553 Longfellow Ave, Minneapolis, 612-724-7715.
- **Xgtqpkc"Xkfc"Ucpc** - 612-237-6129, www.veronicavidasana.com; 50% discount on bilingual Salsa Aerobics classes (\$5 per session) Midtown Global Market, Mondays 10:30am to 11:30am.
- **[YEC"Okfvqyp**, 2121 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, 612-215-4333, www.ywca-minneapolis.org; Access to Community Gym and Swim on Fridays 7pm to 9pm and Sundays 2pm to 4pm. \$4 per adult and \$2 per child. Free walking groups on Tuesdays 2pm to 3pm and Saturdays 2pm to 3pm.

New Preschool Program & Classes Start at Corcoran Park

Corcoran Park is offering three days of preschool a week for neighborhood families to take advantage of this winter. The Kinder Tots preschoolers meet at the park Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00am -1:00pm for three hours of fun and learning in a warm and quiet park setting. Tammy Williams is a Corcoran neighborhood resident and loves teaching kids to share, explore, and learn about basic preschool skills in her classes. Tammy also has hour long

classes for preschoolers starting at 1:30pm and 2:30pm on the same days with Disney, science, and ABC themes. The MPRB Environmental department is also offering some nature themed programming for preschoolers at Corcoran Park. Classes consist of crafts, stories, and learning through exploration of the park; mostly indoors and on a nice day outside in the snow. Come to the park for more info on programs or go online at www.minneapolisparcs.org.



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Indoor Playground at Corcoran Park

If your children miss the outside playground at Corcoran Park due to the winter weather we have a solution for you. An indoor playground has been constructed by staff at the park in a portion of the multi-purpose room. The room has soft mats on the floor and is full of tunnels and tents to hide and play in. There is a mini jungle gym with slide and hoops and

holes to throw balls at and play games with your kids. The indoor playground is geared for kids up to 5 years old with parent supervision. Open free to residents during operating hours at the park unless occupied by existing classes. Register at the front desk prior to use or go on line at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

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| Monday - Friday | 1 PM - 9 PM |
| Saturdays | 9 AM - 4 PM |
| Sundays | CLOSED |

Please call 612-370-4919 for more information or visit them at www.minneapolisparcs.org, and select Corcoran Park from the Park & Lakes finder.

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 Sunday + Monday 11AM-3PM

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 One Sandwich Of Equal Or Lesser
 Value FREE With This Coupon!

Expires 3/5/07

Susan Hensel Gallery

3441 Cedar Ave. S



The Great Family Vacation Show, a reading.

by TalkingImageConnection. Six writer-performers will unleash stories & poetry about that famous oxymoron (family/vacation?) in response to **We Drove, We Saw, We Ate** Saturday, Feb 17, 7pm doors open at 6pm for more info contact 612 722-2324 • susan@susanhenseldesign.com



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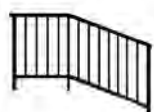
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