



*Improving the quality of life for all Northside residents by increasing citizen participation and voice in issues and decision-making processes affecting the community, and building community by linking people and organizations*

## **Proud Winners of the National Neighborhood of the Year Award**

NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL & NORTHSIDE NEWS

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September 2, 2008

Community Services Commission  
City of Madison, Madison Municipal Building  
215 Martin Luther King Dr., Rm. 255  
Madison, WI 53701

Dear Members of the Community Services Commission:

Northside Planning Council leadership providing testimony at the Commission's July 29 public hearing reported that Commission members asked for additional information on several topics:

- 1) NPC accomplishments in 2007-08
- 2) Diversity of NPC's membership (minority representation)
- 3) The over \$7 million in financial resources that NPC has mobilized over the past 15 years.

Please find below information (in summary form) in response to Commission questions. This letter summarizes more detailed information that has been submitted to the Office of Community Services in NPC's regular quarterly and annual reports, in the Consolidated Application, and in supplemental documentation submitted as part of NPC's regular reports.

NPC representatives would be happy to appear before the Commission upon request should the Commission desire to further review or discuss the information provided.

On a separate topic, NPC would like to invite Commission members and Community Services staff to join 500 Northsiders on Friday evening October 10 to celebrate NPC's 15 years of building community on the Northside. This would be an excellent opportunity for the Commission to gain additional perspective on the scope of NPC's work and its support within the Northside community. Further information on the event is provided on the invitation all of you will be receiving later in September.

Thank you for your continued support of NPC and its work on behalf of the Northside community.

Sincerely,

Tim Carlisle, Lead Organizer  
On behalf of the Northside Planning Council

cc: Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway, Ald. Michael Schumacher, Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

# RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## 1) Summary of NPC Accomplishments in 2007-08

### 2007- January to December

- Organized an extensive **2007 Schools Campaign** in partnership with the East Attendance Area PTO Coalition which included:
  - A community mobilization in spring 2007 that helped defeat a district proposal to close Lindbergh Elementary School;
  - Intensive leadership training through weekly campaign meetings and individual mentoring with a core team of 4-6 leaders;
  - Over 20 house meetings in August and September involving over 100 people
  - A Community Roundtable September 27 attended by over 30 people
  - Individual meetings with each of the seven School Board members
  - A District-wide Forum on October 21 with six School Board members present
- Effectively moved the School Board to begin taking action on a long overdue **equity policy** (finally adopted in 2008), in addition to preventing the closure of Lindbergh School.
- Conducted the **2007 Northside Consumer Questionnaire**, completed by 565 people.
- Continued to work to aid **Pierce's Northside Market** - the Northside's anchor business.
- Provided extensive input to the **Northside Walking Audit** to correct barriers to walking and biking on the Northside.
- Addressed safety issues and assisted in the eventual sale of the troubled **Woodlands and Woodland Park Apartment** complexes.
- Engaged in an ongoing dialogue about actual and perceived **crime and safety** issues.
- Conducted an intensive six-week **Leadership Circle** for seven emerging Northside leaders.
- Mentored neighborhood leaders organizing and revitalizing three **neighborhood associations**.
- Held four **candidate forums** for City Council and School Board races.
- Produced six issues of the **Northside News** with over 30 volunteer writers and photographers who receive related newspaper training as well. Our newspaper, the **Northside News**, continues to be the "voice of the Northside" in its community building capacities.
- Produced the first annual edition of the **Northside History Calendar**, a fundraising success.
- Organized the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual **North Star Awards** attended by over 125 people.

### 2008- January to July

- Successfully organized against proposed cuts to **Northside Metro bus service**.
- Negotiated a community agreement for the **Tennyson Terrace** development.
- Celebrated the School district adoption of an **equity policy** NPC helped develop & advocate.
- Began developing & promoting an initial vision/concept for **Northside economic development**.
- Organized a forum on the City's proposed **Economic Development Plan** held on March 10 attended by over 20 people.
- Provided detailed input to the City's **Economic Development Plan**.
- Successfully advocated for the unification of the two **Northside Neighborhood Plan** areas and expansion of the project timeline.
- Initiated work with the **Northside Neighborhood Plan** Steering Committee to increase community input in the plan.
- Assisted the East Attendance Area PTO Coalition in meetings with each of the two candidates for **School Board**, which were uncontested elections.

- Held two half-day **training retreats** attended by 27 leaders.
- Assisted Berkley Oaks Neighborhood Association with response to development proposal.
- Organized a delegation to meet with the **new Police Captain** for the North Police District.
- Provided extensive feedback to the City's **Neighborhood Indicators Project**.
- Held two **candidate forums** for the County Board races.
- Initiated a mediated dialogue between three Northside neighborhood/community organizations about a proposed **community building at Troy Gardens**.
- Initiated a **15th Anniversary Campaign** to raise funds and build relationships.
- Submitted our **2009-10 Consolidated Application**.
- Produced three issues of the *Northside News* with over 30 volunteer writers and photographers who receive related newspaper training as well.
- Expanded membership in the **NorthsideDiscuss** E-List.

## **2) Diversity of NPC's membership (minority representation)**

Of NPC's current thirty-five members (board including alternates), seven (20%) represent racial or ethnic minorities (4 black, 2 Asian, 1 Hispanic). This makeup is generally reflective of the demographics of the Northside community, which is 83% white according to 2000 Census figures.

Perhaps in relation to this question, NPC leaders providing testimony on 7/29 also reported being asked by a Commission member "Why, if NPC trains and involves so many leaders, do the same NPC leaders seem to appear before the Commission?" According to our count, ten different NPC members have attended Community Services Commission meetings over the past two years, although not all spoke. NPC has tended to draw on its six member Executive Committee to provide primary testimony before the Commission, because those individuals are best acquainted with the overall work of the organization and its finances. If the Commission would prefer to see more or different leaders appear before the Commission, NPC would be happy to organize such a delegation.

## **3) Summary of Financial Resources Mobilized**

Please see the attached worksheet documenting the over \$7 million dollars that has been directly mobilized for the Northside community by the Northside Planning Council over the first 15 years of its existence.