

NRP II Action Plan

The NRP Steering Committee is currently drafting the Action Plan. In the interest of keeping the process open and having the maximum input, a current draft of the plan will be posted here for neighborhood review. THIS A WORKING DRAFT and changes and updates will be posted as they are approved by the Steering Committee. See also NRP-2 Steering Committee page for copies of minutes of all Steering Committee meetings.

Comments and additional proposals are welcome and may be forwarded to the Steering Committee for consideration either by email (bartajm@yahoo.com), or by US mail to:

PPERRIA
66 SE Malcolm Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Final consideration and adoption of the Action Plan will occur at a neighborhood meeting on June 29th at 7:00 PM at Luxton Park. Notice of the meeting will be mailed to every resident of the neighborhood.

The purpose of the Action Plan is to define neighborhood objectives and outline strategies to meet those objectives. The strategies include an allocation of NRP funds. In some cases the strategy is quite specific, with directions about exactly how the funds will be used. In other cases the strategies are stated more generally and the specific allocation is expected to be made through the NRP fiscal agent, PPERRIA.

Action Plan Draft dated May 23, 2005. **WORKING DRAFT**

The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31 (7:30 at Luxton).

I. PROGRAM SUMMARY

PROGRAM:	Amount
Education: Pratt School Transitional Funding	58,000
Education: SEMCOL	5,000
Human Services: SE Seniors	12,000
Livability: All programs	12,800
Housing: Home Improvement Loan Program	TBD*
Housing: Affordable Home Grant Program	TBD*
Housing: SWIM Home Purchase Education Program	TBD*
Housing: History Project Completion	28,000
Administration by PPERRIA	TBD*
	\$349, 251

**TBD – To be determined.*

The neighborhood's fiscal agent for NRP Phase 2, PPERRIA, will allocate and release the funds in accordance with the objectives and strategies detailed within each program area in section II.

II. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Education: Pratt School Transitional Funding

NRP I resources were invested heavily in the renovation and support of the Pratt Community Education Center and its services. The start-up of an elementary education program at Pratt began in 2000. It is still in its developmental phase. The program has been slow in building due to frequent threats of the Minneapolis Schools to close the program. Enrollment has been building in the last three years, but the program needs continuing support. The presence of the school has brought new families with young children into the neighborhood and the school provides opportunity for the consolidation of the residents from the Glendale neighborhood with the larger Prospect Park neighborhood.

Objective - to ensure that Pratt School continues to provide primary school education to the neighborhood.

Strategy - to provide support to the Minneapolis School staff until the school attendance reaches its full potential.

Resources - \$58,000. To be made available through early access, since the funds will be required beginning with the fall school term.

Education: SEMCOL

Outreach: Pratt School has been a successful model for integrating across cultural boundaries because of the inclusion of the Glendale residents. It is important to support this program strength by assuring that students from Glendale have the family and community support necessary to assure their success.

Objective – Ensure that early learning and student support opportunities are readily available to neighborhood residents.

Strategy - Support educational and vocational work with parents and children in Glendale

Resources -- \$5000; contract with Southeast Minneapolis Council on Learning (SEMCOL, see Appendix A). This amount must be matched by funds from other sources in at least an equal amount

Human Services: SE Seniors

The availability of human services and participation in those services are an important part of any viable neighborhood. Many current neighborhood services have resulted from initiatives taken over the years by the residents of PPERR. Some of the current needs involve outreach to senior citizens, to provide livability at home where they contribute to the overall vitality of the neighborhood.

Objective – To encourage and support programs that can enhance the quality of life for seniors who may find continuing residence in the neighborhood requires resources exceeding their fixed incomes.

Strategy – To specifically support neighborhood programs that can provide home care, food savings, and/or transportation options for senior citizens.

Resources - \$12,000.

Livability:

Prospect Park and East River Road has always been considered an appealing and attractive neighborhood with easy access to services and cultural resources.

Objective - Strengthen the characteristics that make the neighborhood attractive and livable.

Strategies -

1. To improve the overall physical appearance of the neighborhood by supporting community gardening, neighborhood clean ups and exotic plant control, both along the river and within the neighborhood.
2. Support efforts to enhance the use of Luxton Park
3. Increase community awareness of neighborhood activities and issues through the use of electronic and physical bulletin boards.
4. Promote the management of traffic on neighborhood streets.

Resources: \$12,800

Housing: Home Improvement Loan Programs:

A recent survey of the housing stock in the PPERR neighborhood shows a limited availability of affordable housing, and little opportunity to expand affordable access to any additional units (see Appendix C). Affordable rental properties are concentrated primarily in the Motley neighborhood, an area that has been the target for developers and University expansion, making investment difficult without considerably more resources than are available through NRP 2. Moreover, development of affordable housing in the other parts of the neighborhood within the constraints of the current NRP resources is seen as infeasible given a general lack of developable real estate combined with higher

than average property values. Based on this analysis, neighborhood objectives are aimed both at improving the current affordable housing stock and at stabilizing residential housing overall.

Objective 1: – To facilitate improvement and rehabilitation of the housing stock in the PPER neighborhood.

This will be a loan program offering below-market rate interest home improvement loans

Objective 2 – To encourage the upkeep of affordable housing in the PPER neighborhood

This will be a deferred loan (grant) program for moderate to low income home owners

Strategies and Resources for these programs are currently being discussed and developed. They will be the major agenda item for the May 31 Steering Committee meeting.

Housing: History Project Completion:

Development pressures from transit expansion on University Avenue and speculation have focused the need to preserve the existing residential character of the neighborhood. An essential component of this, and one that has attracted new residents to this inner-city neighborhood is the maintenance of a viable neighborhood school and community education center.

Objective – To assure that future development is compatible with neighborhood vitality by employing mechanisms like historical district designation..

Strategy – Complete phase 2 of the process that will lead to historical district designation.

Resources - \$28,000

Housing: SWIM Home Purchase Education Program:

Outreach: PPER has long valued the inclusion within its boundaries of the Glendale Housing project, which provides an ethnic and cultural mix to neighborhood and school. In recent years this housing facility has drawn several refugee communities to Minneapolis as it provides them with transition housing. The community has been engaged in programs designed to acculturate these immigrants to our society.

Objective – To support continuing efforts to help Glendale residents transition to non-public housing.

Strategy – Support a program specifically designed for Somali refugees, in their quest to become knowledgeable renters and first-time home buyers (see Appendix B).

Resources and details of implementation are under discussion.

Administration:

Strategy – To allow for PPERRIA to provide general administrative support for the support of NRP-2 activities in the neighborhood. This would include staff time as well as resources for printing, supplies, and other expendables.

Resources will be finalized after other allocations have been made.

III. APPENDICES

A. Southeast Minneapolis Council on Learning (SEMCOL) is a grassroots organization whose board is made up of 4 members appointed by each of the three main neighborhood organizations in Southeast. The PPERRIA members on the SEMCOL board are Susan Larson Fleming, Susan Gottlieb, Jerry Stein, and David Galle. Donald Fraser, former Minneapolis Mayor and Congressman is one of the representatives from the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood and is the president of SEMCOL.

Two years ago PPERRIA gave SEMCOL \$5,000 to help with start up of that organization. SEMCOL has raised an additional \$35,000 from the other neighborhood organizations in Southeast and also from the General Mills Foundation and the Musser Foundation. Using those resources SEMCOL currently contracts with a family worker to work primarily in Glendale with families. SEMCOL also published Southeast Reads during the year, and will again. Thus the PPERRIA \$5,000 helped leverage seven times that amount to support learning in Southeast, much of it going to Glendale. SEMCOL is working hard at raising outside funds, and though these things can't be guaranteed, it is likely that these PPERRIA NRP funds will also have a high leveraging effect.

SEMCOL would work with a Neighborhood Education Worker to help families in Southeast who need support in order for their children to be successful in school.

B. Somali Women in Minneapolis (SWIM) is a program of the East Side Neighborhood Services. One of the long-term goals SWIM participants have expressed is home ownership. In response, SWIM has created a new initiative called MOVE ON to help families realize their goals and to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

MOVE ON is designed to teach principles and methods for developing financial assets, stability and financial responsibility. MOVE ON will provide a 12-month

education program focussed on the financial ABCs that potential homeowners with the resources, knowledge, and information that is practical and essential to taking this step. Monthly programs will feature speakers and resources to help participants understand financial and practical usage issues supporting home rental and/or home ownership. Field trips will provide concrete information and insight that will improve skill levels.

Additional Appendices will present the Steering Committee analysis of affordable housing opportunities in the PPERR neighborhood, and an outline the NRP process with a record of decisions that have been made along the way.