



NOKOMIS EAST STATION AREA PLAN PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY



Project Name: Nokomis East LRT Station Master Plan

Date: December 8th, 2005

Location: Keewaydin Community Center

Purpose of Meeting: Public Workshop #1

Start Time: 7pm

In Attendance: See sign-in sheet

End Time: 9pm

Items	Summary
<p><u>Welcome & Introductions</u> Rita Ulrich and Doug Walter, NENA staff</p>	<p>Rita Ulrich and Doug Walter welcomed the participants. Each participant introduced themselves, including where they lived and how long they've been in the neighborhood. Steering committee members also introduced themselves.</p>
<p><u>Community Planning Process</u> Mike Larson, CPED Planning Division</p>	<p>Mike Larson explained that this was the first of four public meetings being held to develop a plan to help shape the future of the area influenced by the 50th Street and VA Medical Center LRT stations. Mike explained that the planning process was being funded by Hennepin County and would be supported by a steering committee and a consulting team that has various expertise in urban planning and design, market research and transportation planning. These consultants would join us at future meetings.</p> <p>Mike answered questions about the plan, the role of the plan and the role of citizen involvement. Some expressed concern that their voices might not be heard or that consultants might not understand the neighborhood. Mike explained that while the City has established policies that influence the plan, neighborhood and resident involvement are essential in shaping these policies and guiding development that supports the neighborhood. Mike also explained that the plan was not 'zoning', but would influence any rezoning that occurred in the future. Mike also explained that the role of the plan is not to identify properties for eminent domain, and that the City does not like to take private property because it is very unpopular and expensive. Others expressed the need for affordable housing, preserving open space, and making it easier to cross Hiawatha Avenue to reach the park.</p>
<p><u>Planning and Urban Design</u> Mary deLaittre, Steering Committee member and faculty at College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture</p>	<p>Mary deLaittre, also a neighborhood resident, led a session on planning and urban design. NENA staff and Mary brought maps and photos of the neighborhood for participants to view. Important goals of the session included creating a common ground or understanding of the area and its history and what connections and opportunities there are to build on (e.g., such as the connection with Minnehaha Park and the presence of the light rail). Mary reviewed patterns of land use (e.g., residential, commercial and institutional uses, as well as open space), block patterns, and connections and barriers in the area (e.g., links to Minnehaha Park and Hiawatha Avenue).</p>

Writer: Mike Larson, CPED Planning

Cc: All in attendance

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