

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**  
390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101

**LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMARY NOTES**  
October 23, 2008

**Committee Members Present:** Dan Marckel, James Barton, Gina Bonsignore, Don Jensen, Janet Jeremiah, Peggy Lucas, Lance Neckar, Doug Snyder, Blair Tremere and Charleen Zimmer

**Committee Members Absent:** Chair Ruth Grendahl, Gary Fields, Glen Hardin

**Others Present:** Peter Bell, Council Chair; Staff: Joanne Barron, Jan Bourgoin, Paul Burns, Deb Jensen, Linda Milashius and Mark VanderSchaaf  
Guests: Aaron Buffington, City of Forest Lake

**Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Dan Marckel called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Approve Agenda and Summary Notes**

Marckel called for the approval of today's agenda and approval of the Summary Notes from the October 9, 2008 meeting; upon hearing no changes, stated they were approved as written.

**Discussion with Council Chair Peter Bell**

Council Chair Peter Bell thanked committee members for their service and said he appreciates their hard work. He views the LCDA program as a very useful and important aspect to municipalities within the seven county metro area; and he mentions this grant program in many of his dialogues with communities.

Blair Tremere asked how we could better market the program to get more communities to apply for the available grant funds. This year has the lowest number of application requests. Bell said one reason for that is in the current market there is not much development happening. Don Jensen commented that the "but for" requirement may deter many projects and there may be a need to mold the criteria to better fit today's economic environment. Bell believes the process and criteria should continue to be explored as times and circumstances change. Lance Neckar questioned if we market innovation enough. Bell said that with the economy as it is, there's an adverse risk and it will get harder. Peggy Lucas said she believed the viability of projects is a critical criterion for putting the dollars to work. Jim Barton said he felt the Council has a tendency to focus on process but instead we need to be proactive in mining successes of the projects funded with grants, what are the elements of success. Janet Jeremiah concurred with Barton's comment. Jeremiah also said she thought there weren't as many applications because the expectations of receiving the funds are low and communities do not have the time and staff necessary to complete the application. She suggested better educating the applicants and streamlining the application process. Bell noted that government doesn't spend enough time being user-friendly, and said a retrospective look at the program would be useful. Bell again thanked everyone for their time and the energy they put into the grant evaluation process. Marckel thanked Bell for his leadership and for the opportunity to be involved with this program.

## Review Evaluation Scores

Linda Milashius distributed the scores members had sent to staff this week. The scores are listed in the following table. Scores for projects requesting more than one unrelated element have not been scored yet, and therefore are not included in the table.

			Part I Innovation & Demonstration  <u>Average Score</u> (0-30 points)	Part II Catalyst <u>Average</u> <u>Score</u> (0-20 points)	Total  Average  <u>Score</u> (Up to 50 pts.)
A.1	Bystrom Brothers	Minneapolis	22.6	16.2	38.8
A.2	Creekside Commons	Minneapolis	23.4		
A.3	Jackson Street NE Artists	Minneapolis	23.8		
A.4	Linden Yards West	Minneapolis	18.8		
A.5	Salem Redevelopment	Minneapolis	25	15.6	40.6
A.6	Arlington Jackson West	St. Paul	15		
A.9	Schmidt Brewery	St. Paul	22.6	16.3	38.9
A.10	2700 the Avenue	St. Paul	20.2		
B.2	Cobblestone Senior Housing	Apple Valley	21.1	17.2	38.3
B.5	Boat Works Square	White Bear Lake	15.0		
C.1	Redevelopment of Block 8	Centerville	17.6	13.1	30.7
C.2	The Landing	Chaska	21.9		
C.3	Forest Oak Apartments Oak Grove Dairy	Forest Lake	18.8	15.5	34.3
C.4	Redevelopment	Norwood YA	20.2		

## Discussion of Catalyst Elements

After some discussion, it was agreed that for the projects yet to be scored in the Catalyst section, the committee would discuss which element or elements members believe to be a catalyst, for these projects requesting multiple elements, and complete the scoring during the meeting. The committee then discussed the catalyst elements for projects A.2, A.3, A.4, A.10, B.5, C.2, C.4, and completed the scoring. Linda Milashius recorded the notes from this discussion.

Staff will send today's notes on the catalyst elements for these projects to absent members Ruth Grendahl and Glen Hardin, so that they will have the opportunity to send their remaining 'catalyst' scores to staff (Gary Fields did not contribute any scores thus far, so no additional scores will be requested from him). The scoring will be completed by the next meeting on Nov. 6.

## Discussion of Innovation and Demonstration Elements

The Committee also discussed the innovation and demonstration elements for the above seven projects as they were discussing the catalyst elements. Committee members then discussed the innovation and demonstration elements for the remaining projects: A.1, A.5, A.9, B.2, C.1, C.3.

Milashius recorded the committee's comments on projects from this discussion. The comments will be distributed to members for their use in the remainder of the evaluation process.

### **Checklist to Determine Feasibility of LCDA Funding Only With LCDA Grant**

Copies of the checklist that was used last year were included in today's packet. Marckel asked members to take a look at it in preparation for the next meeting. The committee will make a determination at the next meeting on whether each applicant has satisfactorily addressed the questions in the checklist.

### **Other Business – Debriefing Meeting**

Jan Bourgoin will again poll members to determine a date for a committee debriefing meeting in December. There will be a group lunch following the meeting.

### **Adjourn**

The next committee meeting is on Thursday, November 6th from 9:00 am to noon in conference room LLA.

Vice-Chair Marckel thanked members for the good discussion and adjourned the meeting at 12 p.m.