

NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL NEWS

Community services funding cut

Planning councils escape chopping block for now

The Northside News

The Madison Community Services Commission recommended \$93,020 in cuts at its July 25 meeting, based on a request by Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, which will impact numerous long-term programs, including domestic violence intervention, sexual assault and youth integration services, and neighborhood center core costs.

Also considered for elimination at the July meeting was funding for the three planning councils—Northside, South Metropolitan and East Isthmus Neighborhoods. The city has funded planning councils since their inception, and, as Ald. Paul Van Rooy noted during discussion, they are the highest priority in the “neighborhood organizing and capacity building” pro-

gram area. The Commission ultimately decided to retain planning council funding in its recommendation to the Mayor, but Commissioners dedicated a great deal of discussion to the issue over several meetings.

Planning council volunteer leaders and staff met with the Commission in May to answer questions and discuss how the community benefits from their work. At its June meeting, Commissioner Ald. Lauren Cnare worried that planning councils are “political machines,” an issue she neglected to raise with planning council representatives at the May meeting. When asked to explain what she meant by being “political machines,” she replied that planning councils are “well-organized and mobilize people.”

Although the Community Service Commission recommended planning council funding, the 2007 budget process is far from resolved. Only days before last year’s Common Council budget deliberations, several alders,

Mayor’s Public Hearing on the 2007 Budget

Tuesday, August 22
6:00 pm
Central Library
201 W Mifflin St.

including Van Rooy, proposed a controversial amendment changing the nature and availability of planning council funding. Van Rooy later withdrew his support.

2007 budget process

Mayor Cieslewicz will take budget recommendations from Community Services and other departments and create his executive operating budget, which he will release on October 3.

Before then, he will hold a public hearing (see sidebar).

Anyone who supports existing programs or services, or favors reduced spending, should attend. The mayor’s proposals define much of the budget debate and your opportunity to influence him is on August 22.

After the mayor’s proposed budget is made public, alders can offer amendments to change or add to the budget, which will culminate at a Common Council meeting on November 14.

The executive capital budget, which funds construction costs like the

State Assembly Candidates Forum

Northside District 81 candidates
Henry Sanders, Jr
and **Dave Travis**
are competing in the
September 12
Democratic primary.

Since there are no other opponents in the general election, the primary winner wins the race!

Tuesday, Sep. 5
7:00 pm
Warner Park Center
1625 Northport Dr.

Sponsored by the
Northside Planning
Council and Northside
News

Neighborhood leaders needed

Council seeks a wide range of people to help improve quality of life for all Northside residents

The Northside Planning Council is a community advocacy organization composed of various neighborhood associations and community organizations that is actively recruiting new representatives from neighborhoods that currently do not have an active association and are not represented on the Council.

NPC can offer assistance in getting your neighborhood group going again, and offers excellent opportunities for leadership development.

We all want to make our community a better place to live--starting with our own neighborhood, which is the key to making this happen.

People of color and low-income residents are especially encouraged to join.

Contact Jim Powell, NPC facilitator, at 661-0060, to learn more.

Welcome to new NPC members!

- Kristin Gibbons - Northside Timebank
- Edith Hilliard - Berkley Oaks
- Willy Holden - Berkley Oaks
- Veronica Lazo - Northside Timebank
- Fernando Cano Ospina - East Bluff
- Cyndi Wood - Nobel Park



Leaders needed from these neighborhoods

- Karstens
- Kennedy Heights
- Lerdahl Park
- Lindbergh School Area
- Northport Apts
- Northridge Terrace Apts
- Packer Townhouses
- Sherman Village
- Woodland Park Apts
- Woodlands Apts

No experience needed.
You just need the desire for change.

cont. from page 2

Warner Park

cry) and when a no-hat policy was unevenly enforced (youth were targeted; adults were not).

In addition, many Madison youth service groups did not feel welcome at the center and looked elsewhere (including the Monona Community Center) for free space to hold award dinners and programs. At the behest of NPC and MSCR, city staff received cultural sensitivity training to aid the staff in serving a diverse community. And today, at monthly “Neighborhood Center Nights,” several neighborhood centers bring youth to the center.

Support remains strong

Far from being “special interests,” the community partners that created the center—NPC and NESCO—and the community partners that provide

Cherokee Marsh boardwalk and the Mallards Stadium replacements bleachers, is made public on September 5, and is also subject to amendments and confirmation by the Common Council on November 14.

the programs and services—NESCO and MSCR—ensure that the general interest of the community—meaning everyone—is served by a city-owned facility that offers services through its community partners, for a very diverse group of youths, adults and seniors.

Ald. Benford is seeking an opinion from City Attorney Michael May about whether the Park Commission action is legal. Mayor Dave Cieslewicz has re-affirmed his support of NPC, NESCO and MSCR retaining their full voting rights on the committee, as has Ald. Van Rooy.

Here’s hoping that the Park Commission decision can be reversed.

Don’t take the “community” out of Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Don’t remove citizens from the advisory committee, and don’t throw out the so-called “special interests” that make the Center special.

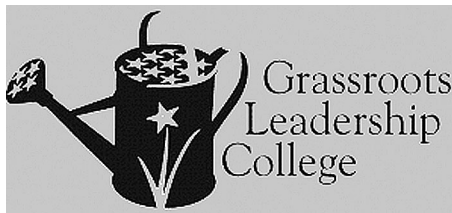
Grow into leadership

Semester-long training offered this fall

The Grassroots Leadership College offers a low-cost, semester-long program to Madison area residents who want to create positive change in their communities. Participants learn how to run meetings, recruit volunteers, transform conflict, organize across cultural boundaries, bring people together to win positive changes, and more.

Developing leaders work with volunteer coaches to carry out projects of their choice. Past projects include introducing Hmong culture to non-Hmong people, working on water quality in Lake Monona, building neighborhood associations, and establishing a support group for women facing family court.

The program provides childcare and



evening meals, as well as scholarships and transportation, if needed. Grants, donations, and volunteers contribute to the program’s success. It was founded in 2003 by Madison Neighborhood Planning Councils and Community Exchange, a leadership development program active in the community in the 1990s.

Applications to participate in the fall 2006 semester are now being accepted through August 15.

To apply, check out www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org or call program coordinator Amy Mondloch at 441-0085.

6th Annual AppleFest

23 September 2006, 10 am-4 pm

Saturday Activities

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Bake Sale | Chair Massages |
| Craft Sale | Popcorn & Slushies |
| Kiddie Carnival | Sloppy Joe Lunch |
| Apple Pie Contest | Farmers Market |
| Raffle & Drawing | Apple Treats |
| Door Prizes | |

Entertainment

- Music
- Clowns
- Mascots

Used Book Sale

- Friday: noon-7pm
- Saturday: 9am-4pm
- Sunday: 9am-1pm

Adults \$1, Kids Free
Warner Park Community
Recreation Center

North/Eastside
SENIOR
Coalition