UNP Community Affairs Committee Brief

Companion to agenda for UNP Community Affairs Committee meetings.

March 2008 - Makeda Zulu-Gillespie, guest editor
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UPDATE

NEWS & UPDATES FROM UROC

Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
The University of Minnesota Academic Health Center will discuss its plan for the Urban Area Health Education Center to be located in the new UROC facility. For more information on AHEC visit: http://www.mnahec.umn.edu/

The Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (formerly the Penn Shopping Center)
The University of Minnesota purchased the former Penn-Plymouth Shopping Center in February, 2008. It hopes to begin renovations in the spring, once all current tenants have relocated. RFPs for work related to this project will be forthcoming.

Conversations on Managing the Mortgage Crisis in North Minneapolis
As a follow-up to the forum, “Conversations on the Mortgage Crisis in North Minneapolis,” sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Studies, Center for Urban Affairs, Neighborhood Residents Redevelopment Corporation, the University Research and Outreach/Engagement Center, and the University Northside Partnership, on Wednesday February 13th, staff from each of these groups continue to meet with non-profits and county officials to determine what action steps can be taken to further coordinate relevant activities, and to get the message out to those residents who are affected. Towards that end, Don’t Borrow Trouble advocates will share information about their program at today’s meeting. For more information call the Don’t Borrow Trouble helpline at (612) 312-2020 or visit: http://www.dontborrowtroublemn.org/01.htm.

FIPSE Grant to Support activities for UROC
The three working groups (Vital Communities, Urban Wellness and Human Talent) are meeting on a regular basis to develop community-based projects. For more information on how you can become involved, please contact Geoff Maruyama at geoff@umn.edu or (612) 625-5861.
UPDATE FROM CTR FOR URBAN & REGIONAL AFFAIRS (CURA)

--Charles Krusell Community Development Fellowship

The Krusell Fellowship is the most comprehensive scholarship program for students interested in community development. Krusell Fellows are recruited from diverse backgrounds. During the two years of their academic program, students receive a full scholarship plus three paid field placements with community agencies. Prospective students interested in more information about the Krusell Fellowship can contact the Humphrey Institute Admissions Office at 612-626-7229 or HHHAdmit@umn.edu.

--Neighborhood Partnership Initiative Program (NPI) at the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) supports innovative and effective partnerships that involve new constituencies, solve problems, and improve the community for everybody. Grants up to $10,000 will be awarded to successful applicants. Deadline: April 15, 2008. For more information visit: http://www.cura.umn.edu/NPI.php

A SPECIAL UPDATE FROM MINNEAPOLIS PARK & RECREATION

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board – BCBS Active Living Grant Update

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board submitted a proposal to BlueCross and BlueShield of Minnesota in response to their RFP #599: Active Living Minnesota. This project will be a case study of physical activity level among a selected group of Near North Minneapolis residents. The pilot study group would participate in an "action research project" where planners, recreation, health, and education professionals and neighborhood residents would learn more about the residents' lifestyles. Special focus would be placed on what drives Near North residents toward activity, what keeps them from being active, and how best to support them in their active pursuits. Barriers would be documented as would successful techniques for overcoming the barriers.

The Park Board is partnering with the University of Minnesota/UROC and NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center for this initiative. Potential benefits for the community through this project are:

1. Neighborhood residents would be hired as researchers and paid for their work. They would receive training on how to collect, store and analyze data.
2. Transportation, child care and entrance fees would be funded, eliminating major barriers for participation.
3. Study participants would also receive honorariums and other incentives for their participation.

If funded, the Park Board hopes that it can rely upon the UNP Community Affairs Committee as a resource in identifying potential researchers and in reaching families and individuals who would like to participate in the study.

Successful applicants are notified some time in May.

For more information on the project, please contact:
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