



EVENT RECORD

Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

November 6, 2010

Community Workshop *II* Visioning Loring 2030

Event Preview (published ahead of the event by web & email)

Event Summary & Results

Warm Up

Exercise #1 What We Value & What We Want

Exercise #2 The Character & Qualities of Place

Exercise #3 Bringing the Vision 'To Scale'

Event Notes by Jana Metge



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Event Summary

by Tom Borrup & Peter Musty, updated November 21, 2010.

A lively visioning session was conducted Saturday, November 6, at the Wesley Center on Grant Street and 1st Avenue. About 35 Loring Park residents and stakeholders participated in a three-part session, facilitated by a consulting team put together by Peter Musty LLC and Creative Community Builders (CCB). The goal was to engage the neighborhood in both blue-sky thinking and practical change concepts.



Warm-Up

The first part included a physical and verbal warm-up led by CCB associate, Harry Waters Jr., a theater artist and professor at Macalester College. Participants got up and moved and interacted in the Wesley Center space, exercising speaking and listening skills.

Exercise 1: What We Value & What We Want

They then engaged in a small group exercise to identify qualities found in the Loring Park neighborhood they would like to experience more of in the next ten years. Each individually wrote down five things. In small groups of five or six, they found common ground with each other and arrived at their collective top three to share with the full group. The most frequently cited qualities among all the groups were:

- **green space**
- **public art**
- **community activities**

Also often cited:

- **more food**
- **small retail business**
- **transportation options** (See detailed listing below.)



Participants combined and then grouped their answers.



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Exercise 2: The Character & Qualities of Place

In the second portion of the visioning session, CCB associate, Ta-coumba Aiken, a visual artist, provided materials and instructions for collage-making using 8-inch cube cardboard boxes, magazines, scissors, glue, and acrylic markers. At round tables, with five or six people each, creations emerged that expressed desires and visions for Loring Park over the next 20 to 30 years. Visual references ranged from the



pleasure of cozy personal spaces, to the hustle and bustle of busy urban streets. Visions addressed public art and gathering in public spaces, stewardship of the natural environment, and multiple transit possibilities. Some reflected visions related to housing choices, to dining and retail, and to social and cultural activities. (See full listing below.)



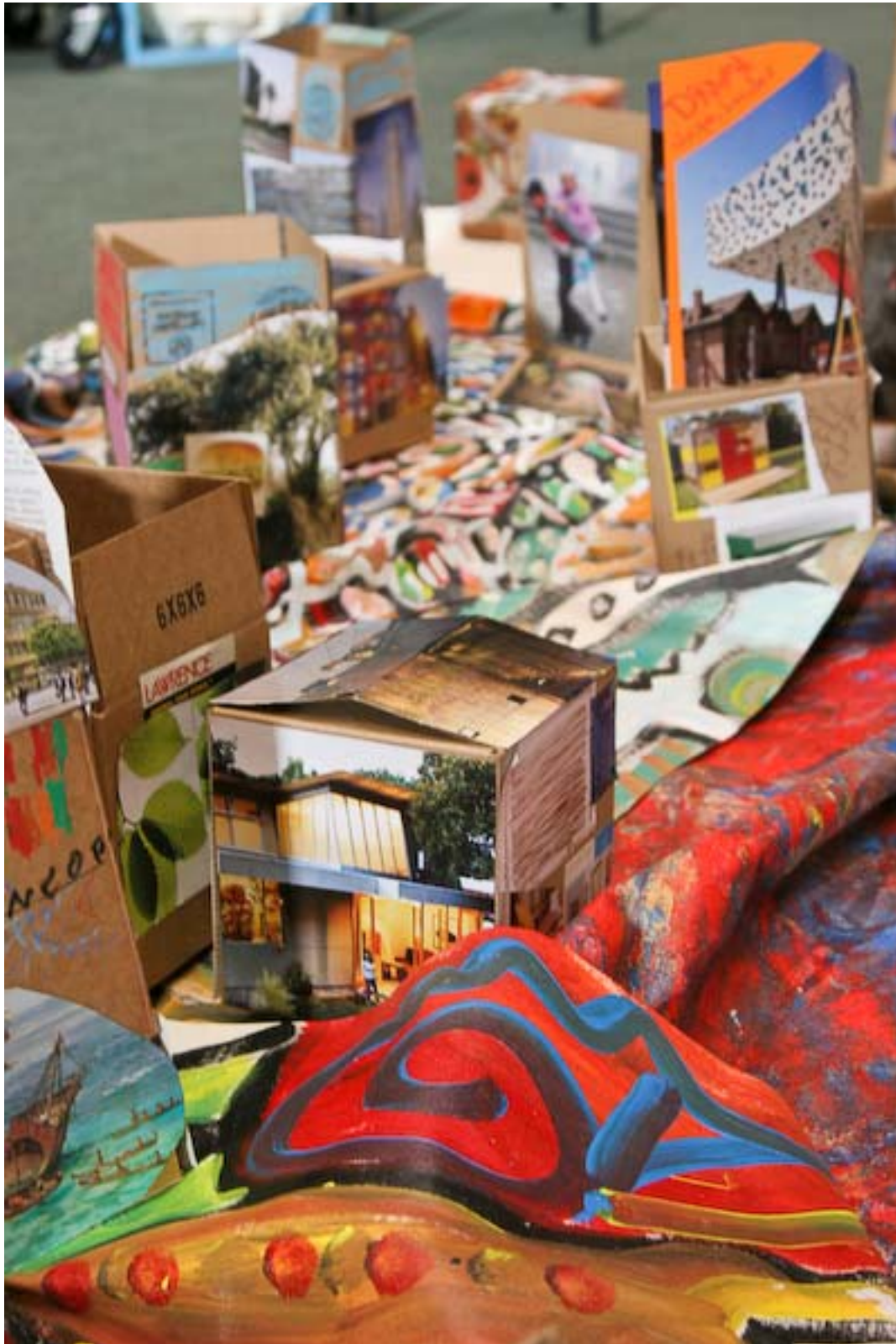
At the conclusion of the individual collage making, one member from each of five tables took part in a land-forming activity, creating a map of sorts made of large pieces of canvas on the floor that approximated the Loring Park area. Each participant in turn described their box and placed it in a location on the canvas map and described its relevance to them. The assemblage was then discussed, with several characteristics standing out; 1) There was a wide distribution of boxes, indicating a concern for all parts of the neighborhood; 2) Many related to the park and the desire for other green spaces; 3) Some expressed a desire to animate the key commercial nodes along Nicollet and Harmon. 4)



Participants also expressed visions of safety in public places, vibrant social activity, public art, and housing variety. Video of the group summary can be viewed at: <http://blip.tv/file/4450506>



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Exercise 3: Bringing the Vision ‘To Scale’

The abstract visioning exercise then led to the third portion of the session where Peter Musty, lead planner, returned the group to their round tables with detailed base maps, markers, and post-it notes. He asked participants to write down on small and large stickies small and big ideas. He then asked them to map them and mark them on a map – public realm improvements in green, development opportunities in blue. Favorites were identified by each person during a final review. Results pertained to specific changes and additions.



Park

- boats on the lake
- boats on the lake
- ice skating on the pond
- public relations campaign about Loring to make park maintenance an exciting topic
- refurbish berger foundation
- replace berger fountain plaza. fix pathways into park
- berger fountain plaza
- more green & art small projects
- cattails cut down so people can see pond while sitting on benches
- frisbee course in Loring Park
- cattail eradication
- long term: Loring Park improvements - sidewalks, lighting, food vendors, activities (music), public garden, signage
- Berger Fountain Plaza
- Berger fountain rebuild
- park
- foster more retail around the edge of the park
- educational event about history of Loring Park
- get rid of the cattails
- make new and bigger fishing dock
- lake - clean up
- clean Up Loring lake & pond
- get rid of cattails
- park: clean up lake, improve park office facility



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Nicollet

repair the divide between Loring and Stevens at I-94 bridge
develop 15th & Nicollet (think huge - millenium park meets bzns Appts)
a revitalized Nicollet Avenue where a lot more people live and visit
pedestrian cross-walk into Loring Park @ 15th & Oak Grove
extend nicollet mall into the neighborhood (restrict traffic on nicollet, 15th & LaSalle)
crosswalk on 15th by Loring Park Office Building
housing 14th & Nicollet
Meter Farm developed
Markers site devel. Hotel?
develop Nicollet Avenue to be extension of downtown + a place to go from Convention Center
mid-size hotel 16th & Nicollet

garden where Markers Liquor building stands
new development!
new bridge
pathways next to Hwys, tunnel or trees
w/openings to community gardens

streetcar & creation of development on Nicollet Avenue
streetcars (Hennepin & Nicollet)
redevelopment of Nicollet - Grant to Franklin
housing Nicollet 15-16th area
Nicollet Street - renovate / clean up buildings between Grant / Interstate, fill in gaps, ???

Land Use

encourage (small & mid) business viability & redevelopment
cheap eats! carts? Ice cream trucks?
retail & grocery & smaller restaurants on south side
"enterprise zone" for business entrepreneurs (ad agency) marketing firms
study & compile use for spaces other than coffee shops
concerts in Wesley Sanctuary
parking lot next to Joe's Garage redo
Eitel Phase II Tower



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find uses for vacant buildings
enforce current zoning to 84ft or less except all
on Nicollet
save (Emerson) school building
save mansions (Loring Hill)
build buildings on 75% of the surface parking lot
area within the neighborhood
historic preservation - mansions, wesley
defend against harmful (high) development
vendors/food
sidewalk cafes restaurants resturants
attract more restaurants that drive evening dining
build buildings here! save others

15th Street

improve 15th street as major pedestrian/auto
corridor interconnector neighborhood
pedestrian passage down hill from Oak Grove to
15th St.
15th & Oak Grove traffic light
manage key commuter rush hour traffic - like
15th Street @ Groveland
improve crossings into park
get safer crosswalks to Loring Park
pedestrian crossing Willow/Yale
get crossing on 15th to Park
safer crosswalks
cross walk
crosswalks
15th crosswalk to park
greenway/walkway to connect hill & park

Greenery/Landscape

zoning encouragement for green roofs
green rooftop gardens with restaurant
green art / landscape projects
rewards / recognition for flower box & other
building greenery
create pocket park with art sculptures
community mural / graffati
landscape buildings



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Multit-Modalism

improve transit options to connect better across downtown
slow traffic speeds through neighborhoods
streetcars on nicollet & hennepin
direct commuter traffic around (instead of through) the neighborhood
downtown zone extended to the Walker & Hennepin Meth. Church - buses
road improvement
street trees / roads

Gathering

public connecting spots/events
meeting places - eat/study/art/work
promote community interaction with the schools, each other, lectures, music, theater
develop events for Park & destination areas
build a community arts / cultural center where neighbors come together for artistic, cultural and/or artistic experience
events/gathering
go out more at night

Lighting

better lighting park & beyond
improve lighting (Park & all over)
street lighting enhancement
park - lighting, makein ??? more visible / accessible,
more lighting

Community Garden

community garden
community food garden
community garden
community food garden

Gateway

demarcation of neighborhood visually "you are now entering Loring"

Greenway

Greenway maintenance
fix greenway - access to LaSalle



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MCTC	work with metro state & MCTC to reduce need for parking; work with MCTC for sensible expansion, once Metro State abandons MEC
Lyndale/ Hennepin	long term - lyndale hennepin intersection redo (safety, aesthetics)
Build Over Freeway	bridge the freeways with buildings/plaza
Clean It Up	encourage SuperAmerica, liquor store, mall to clean up!!!
Loring Amber Ale	loring amber ale
Urbane Renewal	urbane renewal
Remove Crime	remove all of the crime from the neighborhood!
Help Homeless	help homeless



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1. repair the divide between Loring and Stevens at I-94 bridge
2. "enterprise zone" for business entrepreneurs (ad agency) marketing firms
3. improve crossings into park
4. make new and bigger fishing dock
5. long term - lyndale hennepin intersection redo (safety, aesthetics)
6. streetcars on nicollet & hennepin
7. promote community interaction with the schools, each other, lectures, music, theater
8. frisbee course in Loring Park
9. long term: Loring Park improvements - sidewalks, lighting, food vendors, activities (music), public garden, signage
10. Markers site devel. Hotel?
11. get rid of cattails / bring back nature plant Loring Pond
12. garden where Markers Liquor building stands, new development, new bridge, pathways next to Hwy's tunnel or trees w/ openings to community gardens
13. save mansions (Loring Hill)
14. Berger Fountain Plaza
15. build buildings on 75% of the surface parking lot area within the neighborhood
16. encourage Super America, liquor store, mall to clean up!!
17. defend against harmful (high) development
18. Build a community arts/cultural center where neighbors come together for artistic, cultural and/or artistic experience
19. events/gathering
20. street trees / roads
21. Sidewalk cafes restaurants restaurants
22. more lighting
23. attract more restaurants that drive evening dining
24. Revived Harmon Business District
25. Greenway/walkway to connect hill & park



25 Favorite* Visions
 (* not listed in order of importance)

Saturday, Nov. 6th, 2010 – Community Workshop – “VISIONING”

Welcome & Overview of Day – Pete

Attendees: 26 residents (condo owners, coop owners, and renters) – 10 staff (Wesley & Consultant Team & CLPC) – Walker Arts Center – City of Minneapolis Planning Commissioner – NCEC Director – Cathedral of St. Mark’s – CLPC Boardmembers/MPlan Steering Committee

Wesley Center (host) – John Novak

120 year old church – process of reuse plan – Dec. 1st – World Aids Day/Speakers and food by Big E. Dec. 12th – Gospel Brunch/music & food by Big E.

Harry – Opening Exercises

Tacoumba – Opening Exercise – 5 post it notes each – “What you want more of”

People – Ways to Serve – People to Pitch in – Sidewalk Cafes – Late night coffee shops – Pedestrians – Food Gardens/Organic – Boats on the Lake – Public Art – Public Transit – Public Art – Housing – Knowing one another – common places – money to preserve buildings – Trees – Children – Flowers – Trees – Traffic Calming – Art – Brew Pub – Community Gardens – Plants – Elevators @ Wesley – parking – Time to Meet – Music – Opportunities to Encourage – Singing – Parking – Pocket Parks – Public Art – Institutions – Knowing each other – music – Art – Diversity – Events – Art – Artists – Green space – community green space – trees – art – grocery stores – dogs – peace – diversity – mom & pop business – love – lights – friends – green – sustainability – community – grocery stores – flowers – trees – wildlife – plants – trees upgraded architecture – ways to serve – activities – shopping/clothes, specialty stores – pedestrians – children – parking – food – people – music – police presence – gay people – supermarket – music – more lighting – street lights – pedestrian crossings – festivals – community gatherings – music in the Park – grass/trees – flowers – views with a “wow” factor – people on the street – bikes – people out at night doing good/positive things – festivals – picnics in the park – movies in the Park – community art/murals – Loring as a destination neighborhood – better street lighting – pedestrians crossing safely to the park – close streets to commuter traffic – pedestrians crossing safely – better access to Sculpture Garden – Safer crosswalks to the Park – small grocery store – food carts – classes & lessons on acting, history, cooking – live music – an urban civic focus for the neighborhood – more affordable restaurants – water in Loring pond – public art – more color – activities for residents – places for neighbors to interact – green – flower boxes – visual demarcation of neighborhood – gardens – green up medians- art offerings – preserve old things – safety outside – traffic signs – pedestrians to be safe – deli & bakery – more inexpensive places to eat – retail – access to daily goods & services – crosswalk @ 15th & Oak Grove to Loring Park – Music – Public Art

***Assignment/Tacoumba– Creating – Boxes – what you like and would like to see in the neighborhood** – *Respect space, but pull in elements/opportunities for change – Vision for Loring Park – Now – Future – or Leave Alone – Step 1 – a person from each group created the neighborhood base from painted art drop cloths.*

Design Boxes – Overview of statements by all prior to placements on the above neighborhood-

- Food & Greenery / 15th Street needs help
- Art – Natural Environment – Landscape & Japanese sculpture – skyline & contemporary design
- MCTC & Dunwoody/Better connection to students – books & art galleries – unique architectural elements – build art into Public Works projects – light up Loring neighborhood – supermarket – green – food options in the Park – bring folks to Park
- Meter Farm – contemporary hi-rise with art – Improve Nicollet Ave. – Pocket Park – pavilion with green walls
- Modern – office – architecture – green – public spaces – more people out – sustainability – Kids – bridge over the freeway – public space

- Open & Welcoming – Loring Park designated as a Regional Park – Dwell – “Born Again” recycle – open – bridge over the Freeway
- “RLS Loring” – Republic of Loring – 1st fleet of 3 made by Seniors and students in and for the Park – Loring is home – the place we come to as we journey through storms and difficult times – shelter from the storms
- Love our neighborhood – perfect as it is – LK & B / more like that – folks on the street at night – welcoming – public spaces – great place to live – Millennium Park in Chicago
- Parks – dog walking – entrances to Loring – Gateways – energy – public art
- Helping each other – green space – architectural elements – music center/arts – diversity of people
- Nicollet Ave. – continue to develop restaurants & night life – more places to gather at night – smaller gathering places & art – places to sit – create drama – bring folks in
- Create a branding for the neighborhood – positive – community/style/arts
- Enhance lights – people – Grant to the Freeway – pop it up – Light it up – people on the street – positive energy
- Folks getting together (i.e. common bathing area) – Central City Square as in Europe where people come out to and gather every evening – dog dishes out – reduce car traffic – create a signature building/exquisite architecture – preserve old architecture – create development with small living spaces – may be a need for future development on Nicollet or Harmon
- Trees – more green space – green up concrete walls – traditional neighborhood feel
- Inside box is the future – children – birds – green – play – sustainability – outside of box – interesting art building
- Small things – deli – farmers market – pizza – salad bar – safety @ 15th & Park
- Need is critical – choice is clear – develop vision block by block – uniqueness of Loring Dazzle – add design – green space – performance (i.e. Loring Theatre & Wesley)
- Invite more families in – especially in Loring Park – Save Loring Pond – remove cattails
- Development as an Urban Neighborhood – Iconic images – bridges – center of medieval town – outside street performances at night – images that added color and light at night ideas for Nicollet Ave.
- Flow – stillness – syncopation – river runs through – nature & city – flow of traffic commuter traffic – bikes – pedestrians - stillness in beauty – art – nature – energy of neighborhood
- Tiered gardens in front of buildings – stairs to sidewalk – community spaces – places for informal community gathering in front of each door, each building – meeting spots – connectivity to building and public street – transportation – people – diversity – generations – culture – Inside the box – home – looking at energy – community & home
- More green spaces vs. gray rooftops – “save lives” – outside – diverse backgrounds
- Space to look out and see community vs. walls/cement – informal places to meet – community places to entertain & talk to people

****Assignment – 2 BIG ideas and 2 Small ideas – Put on post-it notes....***

Small Post-it Notes:

Safer Crossings to Loring Park
 Better lighting in the Park, around the Park, and beyond
 Crosswalk on 15th x Loring Park office
 Frisbee course in Loring
 Crossing from 15th to Loring Park
 Find uses for vacant buildings
 Develop events for the Park & for destination areas
 Pedestrian crossing at 15th St.
 Pedestrian crossing at Willow

***Assignment – 2 BIG ideas and 2 Small ideas – Put on post-it notes....(con't.)**

Small Post-it Notes:

Get rid of the cattails in the lake
Enforce current zoning on the hill at no more than 84 feet
Improve the parking lot next to Joe's Garage
Connect Convention Center to Nicollet
Improve the connection and aesthetics at Lyndale/Hennepin
Expand the Downtown Fare Zone to Walker/HN Church and 15th St.
Promote community interaction with the schools – lectures – music – theatre
Foster more retail around the edge of the Park
Sidewalk Cafes
Get rid of Cattails in the pond – clean up the lake
Housing at Nicollet & 15th/16th
Crosswalk at Oak Grove & 15th
Landscape boulevards – flower boxes by buildings and on trellis/balconies
Street Trees
Sidewalk Cafes
Educational event about the history of the neighborhood
Go out more at night
Pocket parks
Develop more community gardens/food gardens
Redo Berger Plaza
Community Murals – in place of graffiti
More Events – Gatherings
Create places for folks to gather throughout the neighborhood
Encourage SA to clean up
Create pocket parks with Art sculptures
Berger Fountain
Park
Crosswalk
Save Emerson School building
Garden where Marker's Liquor used to be
Green Roof Gardens and Restaurants
Zoning encouragement for greenroofs
Improve Woman's Club dock
Get rid of Cattails in lake
Concerts in the Wesley Sanctuary
Cheap Eats – food carts –pizza – ice cream
Flowers & building greenery
Improve all crossings to the Park
Gentle neighborhood connections
Lake Clean Up

Large Post-it Notes:

Develop Phase II of the Eitel site
Extend Nicollet Mall to the neighborhood
Improve the Lyndale/Hennepin intersection
ReUse for vacant buildings on Harmon-10th-Spruce-Review the scale of Harmon
Streetcars on Nicollet / Hennepin
Change Harmon Avenue into a pedestrian mall
Harmon Area revitalization
Work with MCTC to reduce their need for parking
Work with MCTC for site expansion needs once Metro State University leaves

Large Post-it Notes (con't.):

Develop mid-size Hotel at 16th & Nicollet
Develop housing at 14th & Nicollet
Develop the Meter Farm
Bridge the Freeway with buildings and plaza
Develop Nicollet Ave. to be an extension of Downtown and places to go from Convention Center
Loring Park improvements – lighting – sidewalks – programs – entrances/gateways – food
Vendors – public gardens – signage – activities
Streetcars
Crosswalk at 15th & Oak Grove
Defend against harmful high-rise development (especially on the Hill)
Building buildings on 75% of parking lots within the hood
Street car & creation of development on Nicollet
Historic preservation/Mansions & Wesley
Revive the Harmon District
More lighting
15th Street Crosswalk
Save Housing
Land Bridge over the Freeway
Get rid of Cattails
Fix Loring Greenway/access to LaSalle
Replace Berger Fountain plaza
Encourage vitality & redevelopment/business
Develop 15th & Nicollet
Safe places to study – work – play – eat – enjoy – socialize – art
PR Campaign about Loring to make park M & R an exciting topic
Greek Art – Large projects
Grocery and smaller businesses
Green rooftops/gardens
Manage commuter traffic
Create Gateways to Loring
Slow down traffic and speed through the neighborhood
Zoning – encourage policy for “green”
Improve transit options to connect across neighborhood

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Last Exercise:

*Group # 5 –*

Cultural Centers – Places to gather  
Make connections & environment / lighting & trees / HN, 15<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet  
Further Development/investment – investing in new or reuse – Nicollet Ave – create it as a  
Destination spot

*Group #4 –*

Build buildings on 75% of surface parking lot areas–“replace the missing teeth” in the landscape  
Defend against harmful hi-rise development (on Loring Hill) – maybe look at Nicollet  
Save historic character in the neighborhood – Keep the battle  
Pressure on SA and other businesses to keep areas in front of businesses cleaner, free of trash  
Put community pressure on owners to clean up – Raise the community standard &  
Expectations  
Redo Berger Fountain base

*Group #3 –*

Nicollet Bridge over the freeway and take back the land on both sides – build a Frank Gerring Building across the freeway  
Cattails – Get rid of this evasive species from Loring Pond  
Save mansions/develop community gardens in side yards, parking lights, vertical plantings,  
Grow our own food  
Clean up south part of Nicollet

*Group #2*

Loring Park Improvements – sidewalks, Berger Fountain, more events, public art, better lighting, improved signage  
Expand the Downtown Bus FareZone to 15<sup>th</sup> & HN Methodist Church – ride for 50 cents!  
Street cars on Nicollet & HN – Plan for it and be ready for it  
Frisbee Golf course in Loring Park  
Create a pedestrian mall along Harmon Ave.  
Develop a mid-size hotel x Freeway on Nicollet (Former Marker's liquor site)

*Group #1 –*

Entrances to Park/Walkways – safe at all edges  
Create Enterprise zone for restaurants & retail – south side of neighborhood – encourage funky retail/laundry/dry cleaning/restaurants  
Cattails – Get rid of them – recover the 2 lakes & restore the lakes back to beauty  
Safe pedestrian crossing to 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Better connections across the freeway infrastructure – Repair the divide at 94 bridge along Nicollet Ave. with Stevens Square – Nicollet/94 hurt viability of the commercial district

**John (Master Plan Steering Committee Chair) thanked all for coming and all Consultants & CLPC Staff and Wesley Church for hosting!**

Jana encouraged all to sign in prior to leaving, fill out pink slips/questions, and join us for lunch following at the Market BBQ!

**Closing Exercise** – Each person, one at a time, called out 1 top item from today!