

# Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works Project

## Community Input through November 2008

*The following notes are an accumulation of all public comment recorded from various public/community events regarding the Minnehaha Hiawatha Strategic Development Framework. These comments have been organized /sorted into topical areas and will be used to help the consultant team and technical advisory committee identify key issues and ultimately strategic initiatives.*

*These notes represent all public input up to and through the November 12 community forum.*

### Mobility

#### Crossing/Driving on Hiawatha

*Without question the most frequent concern to date has been the problems with crossing or driving Hiawatha since the LRT was opened. The short lights make pedestrian crossing risky for agile adults in good weather, and outright dangerous for people who are older, younger, or less mobile. Many people also noted that the combination of the LRT, busy Hiawatha highway, and impossible crossing create an almost impenetrable east-west barrier that they find not only frustrating, but sad. See below for details and please add your own ideas.*

- If you invest on one side of Hiawatha and people can't get there, the investment is wasted; protect pedestrians' rights
- Better ability to cross Hiawatha; hate crossing Hiawatha; Roosevelt students have a hard time getting to school; wait time is inconsistent; 46th Street can be awful!
- Fix the lights on Hiawatha so Hiawatha traffic does not have to stop at every light; let the cross traffic go after the train passes the later station; shorten the cross traffic lights at some intersections to 10 seconds; shorten to 30 seconds; fix 46th Street light – people rush to get across it to reach train.
- Pedestrian bridges across Hiawatha
- Overpass/underpass for trains
- Install yellow blinking arrows at all the right turns on Hiawatha; thousands of cars sit idling every day at intersections and there is no one moving because the green light traffic has moved off in a bunch and there are no cars following the first bunch; this would reduce pollution even more than having the train has done; street bottleneck at Holiday station; eliminate left turns into Walgreens and service station from 46th Street to change traffic flow
- Hiawatha crossing problems force us to take different routes; people often take Minnehaha instead of Hiawatha because the lights are so long

- At East 32nd let west bound traffic cross just before train instead of only east bound traffic. Add turning land back in from east and north.
- IF bridge is impossible consider a well lit pedestrian tunnel
- LRT level pedestrian crossing at Hiawatha and Lake
- One time it took 8 ½ minutes to left turn from 35th onto Hiawatha (west bound)
- Direct traffic off Minnehaha to Hiawatha where it is supposed to be!
- More traffic calming measures on Minnehaha.
- Traffic on Minnehaha due to LRT is unacceptable. Causing increase wear, damage and traffic problems for residents on Minnehaha.

### **Biking, Trails**

*Both bikers and non-bikers are interested in more and better bikeways. Trails or paths must be safe for both bikers and drivers, well connected, and support both commuter biking and casual biking within the community for adults and children. Like drivers and pedestrians, many bikers are concerned about how difficult and dangerous it is to cross Hiawatha, and that it is increasingly dangerous to ride on either Hiawatha or Minnehaha. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

### **Safety**

- Shift bikers to trails vs. streets for their safety; separate bike lanes from traffic lanes with a physical barrier; safer bike routes – not on major thoroughfares!; resolve bike conflicts in corridor; need 40th Street bike path
- Put the bike lane on Minnehaha where the parked cars are, then put the parked cars where the bike lane now is, this will protect the bikers more
- Biking along Hiawatha is dangerous; bike paths on Hiawatha should be more welcoming; we don't want people riding against traffic on Hiawatha
- Extend bike trail along heavy rail corridor; put in good lighting, green space, landscaping – this will reduce vandalism, vagrancy, ugliness
- More lights at night along greenway; lights on Hiawatha bike lane south of Lake like 38th or 42nd
- Road parallel to Hiawatha (in park) Minnehaha – bike lane zigzags across street, frustrating
- There should be a bicycle-only path along the Hiawatha corridor
- Bike lanes – more safety, better bike friendly sidewalk along west Hiawatha should be marked for biking; safe bike paths, better marked bike lanes

- Education for drivers to respect and watch out for bikers; enforce traffic laws especially for bicyclists – provide safer bikeways so bikers go there vs. on sidewalks; dangerous getting off bridge at Lake street – people not looking for bikes
- Encourage biking with more bike trails, more park and rides, more bike racks; more off-street bike trails
- Better and safer bike lanes especially for kids
- More “destinational” multi-use trails
- Need more walking/running/biking trails like the greenway; promote the corridor as a walking-biking route; it is a great strip of wide pavement and very efficient to travel SE-NW
- I don’t like bike lanes
- Make intersections more pedestrian and bike friendly; pedestrian and bike crossing are too close to the roundabouts
- Bike racks; racks in front of businesses and shopping locations; racks at commercial nodes; secure bike racks
- More bike storage both on trains and at stations
- Have avenues for bikes only -- like a bike boulevard; more bicycle only lanes/streets; residential streets as bike lanes; dedicated bike paths on every street; maintain existing bicycle paths.
- Two-part bike trail for serious bikers and recreational bikers
- Lake Street should be more bicycle and pedestrian friendly
- Encourage bike commuting infrastructure; plow bike lanes in winter; implement call system for bike paths (one number to call about bike lane status, or website); bike trails for winter that are safe
- Create all-season bike/scooter parking and create more bicycle parking

### **Connections**

- Encourage cycling amenities at the LRT stations; better bike and bus connections; bike lanes between Ford Parkway and the 46th St. station
- Accommodate bike traffic along the corridor and make a nice connection between Minnehaha and the Greenway; actual paved bike trails to connect Greenway to corridor communities; create a bicycle greenway down the corridor
- Create more bicycle connections, especially from Hiawatha to Minnehaha Park – difficult to cross; bicycle access is important.

- Biking and walking paths; could bike path come from Parkway up Longfellow and around Lake Hiawatha and golf course?
- Bike path greenway—river parkway; drivers using River Road more frequently, but River Road should be just for bikers
- Connect Lake south bike lane with north bike lane
- A new greenway on freight rail corridor would better serve bike commuters in corridor; continue with plans to make the 40th St Greenway; I am a happy gardener and will help with the flowers; continue with plans to make 40th St a greenway
- Make sure walkways and bikeways are connected
- Finish the bike route plans already in place
- Add a bike lane so can we ride on the east side
- Do not expand # lanes on Minnehaha
- Connect the Minnehaha S bike lanes North to the Greenway, preferably via Minnehaha itself.
- Bicycle commuters want fast, direct routes. Recreational trails don't work for commuting.

#### **LRT Parking, Maintenance, Stations**

*The primary set of issues raised here was around more, better, and safer parking for LRT riders located at the stations rather than on neighborhood streets. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- More parking for the light rail; who was the genius who didn't think it through?; need parking for LRT users; where parking exists
- Parking for LRT riders so not on street all day, everyday in front of homes on 38th St; more off street parking by light rail station – light rail riders fill up neighborhoods so residents can't park; car towings occur – makes no sense; it's not fair to the neighbors to give up their parking spots to train commuters, but at the same time, it should be easier to “park and ride.” Hint. Hint. Tear down some falling-down, foreclosed properties and create parking lots.
- More public parking near LRT stations so people don't have to walk very far
- Lake Street Park and Ride packed before 8; it is busy; pay permits would be great for park and ride; ark and ride would be nice at 38th or 46th street
- More heated shelters for winter time; indoor waiting shelters
- Better maintain area along LRT to be more attractive; cut weeds (including in tunnel south), repair signage; make area much more attractive and appealing
- Better signage for LRT stations

- Install historical plaques to explain history of area, especially at LRT stops
- Why no station at Minnehaha Parkway? Perfect nexus and access to park; perhaps a shuttle into the park and other ways to draw attention to park such as a walking path, ramp, etc.
- Do not have an arm that blocks people from the intersection where the LRT is, it can hit you on the head.
- 46th Street Station is in good shape.
- Midtown station escalators don't work all the time and safety
- Lighting and security at larger park and ride lots.
- Building more parking lots is not an answer. The point of LRT is that it is an alternative to cars, not a transfer from car to downtown.

### **Transportation and Transit, General**

*People offered a variety of general suggestions about transit and transportation, including extending the reach of light rail, better connections, and transit incentives. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Make Hour Car available
- Keep a main street
- Decrease transit fares to better serve the public
- People don't realize how good public transportation is in other cities, ours can be much better!; more frequency, better routes, lower fares; Just moved here from Chicago, and trains here are crap
- Expand light rail to more places throughout metro; extend light rail to Milaca
- Light rail coming to University – more stops, more frequently
- Pay attention to disabled people, easier access, access in winter to stops
- Better route for traffic into the neighborhood from 94; improved highway connectivity – it takes a long time to get downtown
- Density is good for train business; don't overdevelop – don't put in too many parking lots; be aware of neighborhoods while developing (parking, etc.); any added development needs to keep in mind traffic patterns
- Create more multi-modal transportation options servicing the corridor
- Make sure construction isn't an annoyance
- Glad to see progress was made with Hiawatha LRT, now Central Corridor is needed

- More mass transit – especially the way gas prices are now; make it so you don't have to use car – public transit; get more people to use public transportation; Apple gives \$100/mo for transit use, incentives, ½ take advantage of this program
- Better transit service along the long, dark stretch from 42<sup>nd</sup> to 54<sup>th</sup>
- Better lighting
- Take down wall on South side of Lake St at Hiawatha – can't see light rail station, unsafe, poor sight lines, creates wind tunnel effect

### **Light Rail Transit (LRT) in Corridor**

*The vast majority of contributors like and support LRT; their suggestions on how to make it better include increasing train frequency or number of stops and expanding it. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Really like the neighborhood, just started riding LRT
- Could expand LRT; continue Hiawatha light rail southwards; more LRT stops (35th or 32nd)
- LRT is nice; LRT is a plus; generally pretty happy with LRT; moved to area for LRT – not driven to work in 2 years; satisfied with LRT – take my child to school with it
- Frequency of trains could improve; run light rail 24 hours
- Don't like light rail
- LRT is too far to walk for those on east side of Minnehaha
- LRT is beneficial for veterans
- The LRT makes this entire project different – not just greenways and roads – also transit-oriented development and leveraging transit use
- Expand light rail because it increases growth in small businesses
- Like LRT but wish it were on heavy rail tracks
- Would love to be able to take dogs on LRT on at least some cars
- Give kids a break on LRT
- Simplify transit fares and the purchasing thereof
- Parking lots are always full behind the school at LRT and Lake. Need to plan for “park and ride” areas in future LRT Planning.

### **Pedestrians, Accessibility**

*As noted in the section on Hiawatha, people are very concerned about how dangerous it is and how long it takes to cross Hiawatha. They worry about traffic and cars hitting pedestrians. Many also encouraged better walkability throughout the community, more*

*sidewalks, better snow removal, and way-finding signage. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Better crossings; Hiawatha is a barrier; safer pedestrian crossing for Hiawatha; pedestrian bridges should be built over Hiawatha; light timing – takes forever, not enough time for pedestrians; people don't obey anyways; crosswalks for people crossing Hiawatha
- More pedestrian friendly; help pedestrians; improve the pedestrian friendliness of the area especially around 46th and Hiawatha; lack of pedestrian friendliness; more pedestrian friendly, keeping theme of LRT; move people not cars – high pedestrian focus
- Traffic is a problem; improve traffic; traffic is heavy; traffic calming; slow down traffic; too much traffic in the corridor; traffic safety problems; fear of traffic; people terrified of hitting pedestrians; anything to reduce traffic congestion
- The more traffic and more people, the more accidents occur
- More “walkable” community; good signage (promote way-finding); promote walking and walkability throughout the corridor
- Encourage more use of existing walkways and bikeway; add more walking paths in the corridor
- Install cutouts for pedestrians in medians at streets without signals
- Widen sidewalk on east side for pedestrians; improve sidewalks at 38th St. station – particularly bad for wheelchairs and strollers, needs to be plowed often in the winter, needs lights; better snow removal on sidewalks and cross walks; use pedestrian crossings while crossing streets; better sidewalks to serve pedestrians; double sidewalks are good; work on the sidewalk north of Lake; make the sidewalks bigger on Minnehaha
- Intersections, coming from the west, at Lake and Hiawatha is confusing
- More pedestrian crossings around LRT stations
- Greenway pedestrian bridge a waste, there are already places to cross the street
- Put a tunnel at 38th Street for pedestrian crossing
- Drivers don't know the rules concerning pedestrians and bikers
- Speed bumps; people speed down 23rd Ave!; need a four-way stop at 37th and 23rd Ave. We have funerals and the nursing home, and many older people can't get across the way people speed down! Then they honk and yell obscenities. Install a rotary/traffic circle at 27th and Minnehaha to have people slow down
- More retail would cause more traffic; can't attract mass numbers of people – traffic is already bad

- Enforce snow removal laws. Its hard to get to the light rail if the sidewalks are full of snow.
- Make it easier to cross Hiawatha from 46th Street Station at 45th Street. Add more lighting for pedestrians.

### **Busing**

*These ideas included expanded and different routes as well as specific amenities. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Good public transit; bus routes good
- Buses don't go where I need; bus service too infrequent (Route 27 every half hour) doesn't go downtown anymore
- Better connecting buses; better bus connection with light rail; better bus service to and from the corridor
- Improve 38th street and Hiawatha buses/ light rail conflicts
- Buses are often almost empty; keep the frequency up but make the buses smaller when logical to save on costs; more frequent buses
- Enclosed bus stops
- Seats in all bus stops
- Lake Street has too many stops
- Subsidized transit
- Buses can't turn by VA station to drop people off
- Add buss routes through neighborhood to the U.

### **Roadways and Freight Rail**

*People offered suggestions to improve roadway surfaces and configurations. They offered far fewer comments on the freight rail lines once they learned these would remain in place to service the grain silos. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Better street paving – too narrow – widen streets add curb cuts like along Lake; wider roads
- Not enough space in interchange between Hiawatha and Lake for traffic – maybe decrease the median; add right turn lanes on Hiawatha
- Minnehaha should be repaved, especially above the Greenway – lots of potholes; create more level streets-potholes everywhere
- Create turnabouts or one ways on Minnehaha at intersections where there are triangle parcels of land to reduce accidents, or make access to intersection clearer; roundabout in Minnehaha Falls is lethal; use roundabouts instead of stop lights on Minnehaha

- Fix railroad crossing – track pops out of ground
- Keep the bumps in the intersections where the train tracks are; kids think they are fun to bike over
- Install four-way stop sign at 31st Street and 22nd Avenue
- Lake Street underpass too unfriendly
- Confusing to cross light rail tracks
- Good street maintenance
- One-way streets in North Longfellow need improvement; make more one-way streets; keep 27th by Perkins a one-way
- No one-way streets
- Eliminate heavy rail south of 38th Street; if rail line ended it would be good for greenway expansion
- Reuse freight lines for other transportation, more distinct commuters – or use for energy supply

## **Livability, community image, community identity...**

### **Image, Look and Feel**

*People find the Hiawatha corridor generally gritty and ugly, and say that much of it looks vacant and poorly maintained – and not reflective of how they'd like their neighborhood to look. They stress that this can be an attractive area, appreciate efforts that have been made, and offer specific recommendations. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Clean it up so it's not so dumpy and ugly; does not look nice or cute; better aesthetics; make it look better
- Really bad view—doesn't look good; it is a dump (Hiawatha); seems as if time forgot it; area is so cut off; it's sort of a dead area
- Fix up factory parking lots – they look crappy, for example on 38<sup>th</sup> it looks sad!
- Don't like industrial buildings that look abandoned and are in disrepair with faded paint, etc.- fix it up; get rid of old industrial buildings that look vacant; better maintenance of sites – they look vacant and out of repair; fix unkempt buildings; some may be unoccupied
- Make area visually attractive; improve looks of industrial buildings; some warehouses ugly; industrial is out of context – can it be aesthetically integrated better?; it's only pretty at 5 am when I ride the train – everything looks so ugly and rundown otherwise; it's getting seedy

- Improve industrial facades like painting the silos
- Clean storefronts (e.g., fresh paint, modernize looks); at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Snelling – scrap metal place with horribly ugly fence around it -- needs new fence and would be ok
- Improve views; for example, going north on LRT the view NW north of Lake is so depressing; is or was a scrap yard; could be a green space but need to ensure peoples' security in area
- It will be a facelift to the neighborhood to get rid of the silos along Hiawatha; tear down unused grain elevators
- Do something with vacant land; develop vacant land along 38<sup>th</sup> Street; vacant land all along corridor – do something with it
- If we take care of what we already have it won't look so bad
- Make the area nice for the railway – something nice to see – “eye opener”
- Attractive places to walk without a car, it is a little gritty
- Keep nice neighborhoods; make Minnehaha a beautiful street – it could be the spine of the neighborhood; Minnehaha has potential to be pretty – is not
- Do “Adopt the Boulevard” like they do on highways
- Nice looking fountain!
- Do new multi-family buildings need to look cookie-cutter?
- Bump outs and plantings on Minnehaha to create nicer pedestrian environment and shield pedestrians from traffic and noise.
- Higher quality, homey, cute boutique business need to be added...ala 44th and France.
- Homey feel—leave the silos for future grain storage.
- Re-brand Longfellow identity to “Wonderland”
- Develop Longfellow neighborhood identity and brand.

### **Connections, Opportunities, Relationships**

***Contributors see the barrier that Hiawatha creates, as well as the broader need to create stronger bonds between people and more vibrant sense of community. They recommend community activities, better physical connectivity, and gathering places to build relationships. See details below and please add your own ideas.***

- Corridor cuts through the city, creating broken neighborhoods similar to what happened when the interstates were created; Hiawatha Avenue makes you feel cut off from the other side of Hiawatha; noise wall creates physical and psychological barrier; cuts you off; feels like a ghetto; need to be able to access and get across

- Foster community: grain elevators and light industrial interrupt neighborhood fabric; need more restaurants, coffee shops, poetry and music/arts
- Create small-town feel by supporting more community events, parks and school activities
- Build relationships and partnerships within community
- Activities like corn feeds and National Night Out bring community out and together, like they're part of something bigger
- Strong block clubs
- Gardening competitions to bring people together and strengthen community
- Get community members to band together like the Latino community has done on Lake Street
- Encourage more community spirit, one way to do this would be to paint the street, like what they did in the Hamline neighborhood in St. Paul
- Find a way to celebrate the diversity of the area; increase diversity east of Hiawatha but focus on families
- Reflect the community – not just white, promote ethnic businesses/street corner neighborhoods
- More gatherings, do more stuff as a community
- Longfellow community festival of some sort (like Powderhorn art fair) for community participation
- Farmers markets, etc.; community events are key
- Community-based skill cooperatives (I know plumbing/you know sewing)
- Great libraries throughout community that are open long hours every seven days a week for both adults and kids
- Better park programs; small community parks to bring people together
- More community-based programs; create community centers
- Periodically put up signs with different languages to learn
- Peace posters
- Don't take advantage of the blue-collar residents
- Create a suggestion box for the neighborhood
- Hiawatha is a barrier between neighborhoods – separates physically and in perceptions; connecting between east and west sides of Hiawatha; streets shouldn't start and stop; better connections east-west to neighborhoods

- Better connectivity to the greenway, Minnehaha Creek trail system, between communities and parks/lakes, from 46th to Greenway and Metrodome along Hiawatha, and east/west connectivity to LRT, and neighborhoods to highways
- Trolley cars to connect parks, lakes, and communities
- Use signage to emphasize LRT connection to local businesses around the stations.
- Minnehaha Avenue as a neighborhood corridor; Minnehaha is not a place for commuters, but for local destinations; maybe want Minnehaha to be like Central Corridor
- Ensure strong connection between city and county; implement current plans; politicians need to be held accountable!
- Block club and neighborhood organizations should be integrated more throughout neighborhoods to fight crime, develop relationships, and build strong stable economic networks
- Reduce taxes; no tax assessments, especially for businesses; no taking from those who chose not to give; money should be invested in stopping the midtown burner, not invested in the corridor
- Neighborhood kiosk at LRT stations listing places nearby.
- Offices on Minnehaha could bring people out throughout the day and create a “full time” neighborhood—and provide customer base for local businesses.
- Fabric shop somewhere ... please.
- Trader Joes
- Pedestrian lighting.
- If we buy locally local stores will succeed and there will be cleaner, brighter vistas.
- Quality plantings hanging flower baskets Sanford Job Corps could water them.
- Try to identify reasons to slow down, stop and enjoy the neighborhood (with signs.)
- Close alleys, they breed crime. Agree.

### **Cleanliness, Nuisances**

*As always, quality of life includes issues around litter, garbage, street cleaning, and noise. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Regular trash pick up along heavy rail; area around railroad tracks is weedy/trashy
- More frequent street cleaning
- Keep the neighborhood cleaner – get kids involved; clean up neighborhoods; too much dumping and trash; make more attractive and appealing

- Lots of garbage in the streets; have some sort of clean-up day organized like National Night Out; more public garbage receptacles
- Clean up along bike trail along west side of LRT tracks – junky along Lake Street tracks; many cigarette butts on the ground LRT station – need ashtrays
- Pick up some trash! All the way up to Cedar, there is lots of litter; keep area clean, less litter, trash, garbage
- Keep alleys neater
- Better enforcement of noise ordinance
- People come to the snelling?? (H-M) to dump tires, etc... One neighbor had 50 tires dumped on his lot.
- Much better noise enforcement needed.
- Increase the # of garbage cans on Minnehaha. There is garbage everywhere.
- Thank you for mowing the rail corridor south of 46th Street. Looks Great!
- This area is covered in filth. People's yards, alleys, streets, etc...

#### **Youth, Elders, Families, People in Need**

*People had a great deal to say about supporting others, much of which is included in other sections. Here the focus is on improving community livability, and looks at ways to meet people's needs. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Create youth center to attract teens – rather than only to the Mall of America and downtown; set higher expectations of teens
- Places for the youth to go and use computers – something kids can relate to with partnerships and/or mentors; youth-oriented community center to meet youth needs; safe alternatives for young adults
- Art projects that connect today's kids through the arts
- Activities for kids; create a daycare for parents to drop kids off so they can run errands and have free Nintendo there; clubs/ groups for kids
- Family events at parks, community centers, churches; more kids' programming in the parks
- More stuff for families; there's no family environment; McDonalds playground – more family destinations with parks and food
- More schools for the little ones to enjoy and go to; education is important; improving community schools
- Properly fund schools, county, park board because these kids are lost; school system can't afford to buy all the stuff the kids need for school

- Raise awareness for folks who need extra help (seniors) / bartering service
- Benches in front of stores and places to shop; benches for walking and people with limited mobility; benches at light rail stops
- Intergenerational things – encouraging community
- More communication among neighbors to support seniors, children, etc.
- Get people off streets into shelters, lots of people standing around; places for homeless people to stay; need better resources for homelessness and alcoholism; homeless live along freight tracks – where do they go?

### **Crime, Safety**

***Community respondents are extremely concerned about the increases in crime around the LRT stations where returning riders are easy targets. To improve safety throughout the corridor they recommend secured LRT parking (see more at Mobility station), much better lighting, more visible police presence, neighborhood watch groups, attention to graffiti and gang issues, and better trained police. See details below and please offer your own ideas.***

- Crime concentrated on the transition from the LRT station to the neighborhoods (2-3 blocks from stations); crimes occurs when people come to and from LRT stations and bus stops – in route; concentration of people at LRT (east and west) increases crime against riders; commuter parking in neighborhoods results in larceny from vehicles
- Crime centered around transit stations; station safety; need restricted access to and from LRT stations; good visual cameras at stations; inadequate security at LRT stations: poor lighting, infrequent patrols; need more cameras
- Security issues on and off LRT; robberies near 38th and 54th Street stations and on train; people accosted on LRT platforms and nearby; 38th Street station has had attacks – safety concerns; crime between 23rd and 21st;; at bar by LRT station
- While you stand and wait for a bus, you have to keep an eye out
- Make streets safer; put in better lighting or whatever it takes to make it safe; better street lighting particularly near grain elevators
- Reduce crime along Hiawatha bike trail – improve lighting and make more pedestrian- and bike- friendly
- Street lights too bright – don't shine down
- Better lighting around light rail stations; encourage brightly lit walkways to light rail for safety
- Lighting in neighborhoods – really dark at night; many street lights are burned out; better street lighting – there are dark spots a couple blocks down
- Better lighting on streets around and within the corridor

- Better lighting on greenway east of the new bike/pedestrian bridge
- Better lighting at Longfellow School Park
- More attractive lampposts
- Clean up graffiti along corridor, at transit stations (creates fear), covering the wall on 50th Street; graffiti is an eye sore; stop gang graffiti; boarded-up homes attract drugs and graffiti
- Less gangs = no gangs; keep out low-income people who bring drugs and gangs; get rid of the gangs (move them to the suburbs)
- Make area safer – keep it economically strong and viable
- Increase/maintain involvement in neighborhood watch
- More neighborhood lookouts for sex offenders and gang members
- Put more eyes on the street
- Snelling between 42nd and 46th has a lot of “hanging out”; being used as a traffic shortcut; steady complaints; stabilizing as properties fill in and bring more eyes on the street
- Greenway behind Target and new bridge; homeless camps; land owned by railroads that are not responsive to police department
- Emergency buttons; citizen call boxes – i.e., “panic button”
- Need clear sight lines to reduce crime
- Enforce the curfew
- Make heavy rail corridor safe
- Lower speed limits in the neighborhoods from 30-25 mph.
- More safety signs for pedestrians
- Make sure construction companies finish their projects or seal them off so kids don’t get hurt.
- Crime – business robberies are of concern (Minnehaha coffee shop and nursery).
- Getting crowded in this area
- Safety is the biggest thing; need crime patrols; more police in parks, security
- More police coverage in the evenings – relative attacked by 50th Street
- More police on foot and bike from the Greenway to Lake especially in North Longfellow; visible walking police from the precinct to the river and from 26th to the river to deter car and home break-ins; more police “visible”

- Better public safety – more police presence and more security at late night venues
- Cameras on the Greenway; security cameras
- We had two cars stolen and broken into in three months; I do day care and I'm usually here to watch. I did catch 1 trying to take my 15-passenger van, and he did over \$500 worth of damage; insurance did not cover and he got away
- More awareness of children's security (ex: dangerous dogs)
- Hard for immigrants to communicate with police for immigrants; it's hard to trust police and many discriminate
- More police – better training – more courteous
- Investigate police corruption
- Make police follow their own rules
- On 36th – 37th and Snelling Avenue, 6 cars were stolen on 18 May 2008 never to be seen again. Went for scrap.
- Traffic on Lake and Minnehaha is really getting congested.
- Unfinished project at 46th attracts crime and graffiti
- Speeding in alley. City should install speed bumps not block club.
- Crazy cop in my driveway that misquoted the law!
- Hypodermic on my stoop. Xmas ???
- Prostitutes/drug dealers in my driveway!
- Alleys are dangerous – cars stolen and broken into.

## Land Use and Physical Resources

### Land Uses

*Many people are interested in mixed uses, similar to the thoughts about mixed housing types, both of which are thought to contribute vibrancy and interest. See details below and add your ideas.*

- Promote mixed use; mixed use, housing, and retail; encourage mixed use with condos on top; more of the same land uses, but better; not condos – mixture of residential and commercial
- Have a balanced approach to development in the area, not gentrification
- Would like to see the use of intelligent high density mixed use development

- New development should be focused on connecting the neighborhood (Hiawatha cuts community)
- Around stations put more dense housing, commercial development and restaurants
- Less industrial, more residential
- Combination of keeping South Minneapolis in same style but more vibrant
- Like small town feel at 34th Street
- More parkways and public areas
- Add to quality of life without requiring people to be in cars all the time
- Land use-“rideable” and “walkable”-should lead to LRT
- Create grocery stores with healthy foods, not a huge chain grocery store, but small stores that have nutritious food available to neighborhoods
- A co-op further south? possible park? can’t have too many
- Scuttle the six-unit building on the former gas station lot
- More dog off-leash areas along river
- Revitalize the Howe Elementary building

### **Industrial and Commercial**

*While some people highlighted the history and appeal of the mills, nearly all are dismayed by their look and the impact on the community’s image. They feel the same about vacant or poorly maintained industrial or commercial buildings along Hiawatha. See details below and add your ideas.*

- Keep grain elevators – they’re industry structures
- Connect with the history of mills through tours, photographs, museum; work with General Mills; mills are part of the city’s history – but would like silos to be more attractive – like more murals or banners; silos all right, historic
- Grain elevators are blighted; tear them out and build something nice, silos and industrial buildings are nasty and need to be replaced; they make road and neighborhood look horrible; grain elevators are an eyesore; tear down the old unused elevators; something needs to be done with silos, maybe residential; old industrial doesn’t seem to fit with what’s happening right now; industrial cleanup between grain towers – convert them to something; move the mills, including Cheerios
- Derelict/unused industrial buildings could be converted to housing, small businesses, large retail spaces – creates a big gulf between the Longfellow neighborhood and the rest of south Minneapolis
- Make places like metal recycling places more attractive and exposed so people value work being done there – don’t want to kick out industry

- Converting industrial uses to single-family residential – not condos
- Develop the Purina plant so it doesn't look so industrial, if the redevelopment would increase jobs don't get rid of it. What is role of the industrial eyesore?
- Beautify areas vs. old industrial buildings
- Change industrial to places people can walk to
- Get rid of industrial building on E 32nd and Hiawatha – empty, just awful; do something with industrial buildings, some are quite decrepit; spruce up individual facades along Hiawatha; resurface industrial buildings; keep industrial buildings if needed
- Old industrial buildings could be reused by artists; do something with old elevators like convert to houses
- Needs “cleaning up” – there are uninhabited and sketchy storefronts
- Keep the historic and industrial character of the neighborhood for sense of identity. (Think mill district downtown)

### **Housing Type, Density, Height**

*While responses varied considerably, in general there has been more support for higher-density housing west of Hiawatha, and for lower-density housing east of Hiawatha. See details below and add your ideas.*

- Density is source of conflict; because of LRT it may be expected
- Enough housing now; no more housing
- Create housing, condos, and apartments for people (already) living in area
- More dense housing; more condos and apartments; develop high-density residential in corridor; multiple-family/cluster/medium-density housing near LRT to maximize number of people within walking distance of station; more 4-plexes
- No more high rises; not a bunch of high rises; not more condos or apartment buildings; no tall housing; not condos or apartments – already enough; not high rise apartments; need more stable residents; not more condos; too many condos rather than kid-friendly stuff
- More single family housing (homes/townhouses); create bigger family houses; single family homes highly marketable with the LRT right there; accommodate more Mexican people coming in with big families who take care of their homes
- More single-story houses so elders don't have to move out
- More senior housing; build assisted living residences in area; affordable senior housing

- Don't push people out of the neighborhood; don't displace existing housing and residents; no gentrification; combine income property into larger units (no displacement)
- Serious redefinition of what it is – some crappy housing stock mixed in – no pattern to it – needs better definition of what it is – can't sustain
- Zoning should allow larger homes to have shops in homes
- Keep residential off Hiawatha
- Blend housing into streets
- Help people keep their houses; don't destroy more homes; invest in housing – too many foreclosed houses in neighborhood; “buy for a dollar” (foreclosed homes) to increase owner occupancy; help young and older families keep their homes; educate home buyers
- When houses are empty it creates blight; buy up vacant homes and integrate community; acquire substandard property; get people into the closed up houses
- If someone loses their house to development make sure they get affordable equitable housing in exchange
- Increase property values
- More condos and apartment complexes with smaller number of units
- More gentrification
- More apartments and affordable housing mixed with condos
- Need more density along the corridor
- Condos add to the mix of housing options let developers do what works.
- We need real density in some areas (10+ stories) – why create underutilized development at LRT station areas?
- I am offended by the suggestion that “Mexicans” don't take care of their homes.
- The point is being made that they “do” take care of their homes.

### **Housing Affordability**

*Many people who offered ideas on housing wanted to preserve and expand housing for all income levels, and mix housing types. See details below and add your ideas.*

- Mixed single family, townhomes, low income; mixed income housing – economic diversity; mixed-income housing with 20-30% affordable
- Put in affordable housing; decent low income housing; more affordable housing vs. condos; put in affordable housing by the light rail

- Do not create condos that would add a new population to the area, create affordable housing for local residents
- Phase affordable housing into business areas; affordable housing where grain elevators are NOT; affordable housing in proximity to LRT; need affordable housing – retired and middle class are being phased out – please stop this!; more affordable housing needed in the area, not necessarily apartments
- Access for renters to have ownership programs
- Too-expensive condos and apartments in or near Hiawatha Ave
- Help people with housing options; home buyer funding for low income folks
- Public housing investments
- Renters – a lot on Minnehaha – you need to listen to their concerns (“reconnect”); look at impact of development on renters/rent price
- Deal with shady landlords
- Yes! Affordable housing! Our neighborhood should welcome everybody.
- More affordable apartments near LRT near southern end
- More affordable housing, more condos, more apartments create diverse options.
- Yes affordable housing and higher density mixed-income housing. Diverse housing options-yeah!
- No more tax audits on Section 8.
- Build value of existing housing.

#### **Housing Quality and Maintenance**

*Attractive, well-maintained housing is seen as an important indicator of community health and positive image, and people want higher standards along with more support and incentives to do so. See details below and add your own ideas.*

- Housing stock is not interesting or well maintained – does not give welcoming feeling
- Keep housing stock at good maintenance levels; rehab current housing stock; private housing maintenance, updates; revitalize older houses and make more attractive; homes need upgrades – some never looked good
- Require higher standards for property maintenance (home next to mine has had several broken windows for over eight years, gutters down etc.; they got tickets from the city, but nothing has ever come of it)
- Don’t let poor quality developers build homes in this community; pick a good developer who provides better quality homes

- Offer low interest loans for home improvements – helps improve property rates; more grants for home improvements; incentives for neighbors to keep yards pretty

### **Development, Planning**

*Contributors support an urban vs. suburban community per current plans, and want future development to be inclusive and appropriate for the community. See details below and add your own ideas.*

- Implement neighborhoods plans
- Don't turn it into a suburb; don't want it to turn into suburban mall
- Lived here all my life – move more quickly – don't take so long acquiring property like happened with the light rail
- Foster system to take possession of abandoned properties; new development spruces up area
- Acquire unused rail lines and destitute properties
- Be very wary of building new upscale housing; it can draw people out of neighborhoods and destabilize areas
- Involve property owners in revitalization process
- Development must be sensitive to diverse communities
- Provide assistance with redevelopment of vacant areas
- Create new jobs
- Make nodes, distinct points in the area; north of Lake Street is mish-mash of development; hate urban sprawl all the way to Vets home
- Gentrify!

## **Environmental and Natural Resources**

### **Parks and Green Space**

*People strongly support more green space, active and passive parks, and opportunities for people of all ages. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- More green space could help define corridor better – need bold redefinition of what is happening there
- Winter green space for the community with full spectrum lights; more Town Square-esque areas; green spaces vs. concrete jungles
- Create more green spaces in corridor; passive, restful spaces; quiet oases, not all huge parks

- Green up the corridor vs. creating an invitation to a tent city; it's also a large, unattended area for people to walk through to or from work or LRT
- More green space like by Minnehaha Falls; use green space as a barrier between industrial and residential
- Greenway should be opened up for the handicapped; increase access to the greenway
- Require setbacks with landscaping for all new construction; require green space with new developments; increase and preserve green space and protect them with conservation easements.
- Parks and other community gathering spaces; more parks for our families
- Park uses for adults such as basketball courts in the parks; parks open earlier and later; parks for kids and adults; playground for kids; running paths
- Help children between Minnehaha and Hiawatha; where are the parks and playgrounds in central Longfellow near Minnehaha?
- More places and activities for young kids to play
- Repair broken equipment and paths in the parks
- More park programming for kids and adults
- Pocket parks
- Maintain and create open space and safe parks far enough away from the train
- A waterfall; park on Lake Street by Target/Cub; green space on 46<sup>th</sup> St.; green space on the "triangle" at Minnehaha and 35<sup>th</sup>; replace parkway with lots of parks

### **Trees, Landscaping, Community Gardens**

*Many contributors are fans of community gardening and nearly everyone sees a serious need for more and better trees and landscaping in and around the corridor. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Community gardens; seminars on gardening; more community gardens, dedicated areas, native plants
- Minnehaha Avenue Community Garden preserved as integral part of the neighborhood where people can walk and bike with ease; involve Gardenworks; protect Darling Community Garden for sure and protect other community gardens as well
- Increase green spaces, specifically community gardens (Minnehaha community garden) for growing vegetables/fruit/herbs, etc. Community gardens teach young generation about food, and acts as a multigenerational meeting place that enhances community character.
- Create a community greenhouse (similar to a community garden, but in a greenhouse)

- Have awards or contests for beautification and flowers – look like Paris
- Rooftop gardening with all accessible roofs; cool buildings, localized food production, cost of importing food, preserve relationship with the earth, rooftop gardens
- Encourage building rain gardens on residential and commercial property
- More trees and landscaping would create a welcoming environment; plant native plants and rain gardens throughout corridor
- Continued landscaping and maintenance around Hiawatha; save big trees; have a green strip that is inviting and calms traffic; landscape the median down Hiawatha – currently it looks ugly; add bigger trees on Hiawatha to create a boulevard; water the existing trees; protect urban forest; more trees along corridor; 38<sup>th</sup> and Hiawatha is not the prettiest – needs grass, trees, shrubs
- Plant trees and flowers by LRT station, it would be nice to see flowers in the area; trip on LRT is bleak; not enough green; *not* a good first impression!; flowers, trees around the highway, LRT, and LRT stations; flowers; flowers, plants, and staff to maintain them
- Continued improvement at Lake Street, i.e., better parks and beautification, trees, streetscaping; the sprucing up and decorative fencing at Lake Street is really nice; attractive
- Landscaping by filling stations
- Try to do something interesting with the mills; some mills implement interesting landscaping
- Upkeep on newly landscaped areas. Can community residents help?
- What if a home wants to collect solar energy? (Thermal or Photovoltaic)
- Careful about the new trees and types planted. The crabapple trees on 32<sup>nd</sup> street look nice when they flower but leave thousands of rotting fruits on the ground.
- More trees please!
- Please fill in the voids with trees.
- No Ginkgos on 46<sup>th</sup> Street please. They are too small for such a big road.

### **Sustainability, “Green” Development, Water/Air Quality**

*There appears to be significant awareness of and commitment to sustainability and “green” development, along with recycling, energy efficiency, and clean water and air. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Commit to the idea of sustainability
- More green development; green roofs, update existing housing for green concerns; visibly ecologically friendly

- Commit % of redevelopment to green space
- Green buildings; LEED-certified new development and businesses
- Serious commitment to energy conservation by residents and businesses; energy production in the right places; retrofit homes to have a geothermal heat source or solar panels; neighborhood renewable energy initiatives (solar/wind)
- Promote local food production and distribution
- More recycling awareness and more recycling
- Improved air quality and water quality
- Continuation/ preservation of H<sub>2</sub>O (no further impairment of H<sub>2</sub>O for all users, support H<sub>2</sub>O)
- Improve quality of rivers, lakes; deal with runoff from large impervious surfaces
- Permaculture, based on photosynthetic income vs. fossil fuel capital; distributed generation using photovoltaic
- No fire pits that pollute the air
- Take advantage of redevelopment as it occurs and implement storm water volume control – there are so many opportunities in the corridor!
- What will be the cost per unit of pollutant removed for the suggested BMPs?
- Hiawatha and Minnehaha could infiltrate +-1 inch of rain under the road bed when reconstructed. Please do this!
- Commercial Property Taxes are way to high already. Storm water fees are also a great burden.
- 81% pervious seems very high...why is it so high?
- 1" infiltration regional infiltration along rail corridor. Green alley's. TMDL's are going to force it anyway.
- How will infiltration help higher intensity storms? Seems more like a storage issue...not enough area to infiltrate this volume most likely.
- City should be better about incentives for rain gardens. After submitting applications for storm water credit two times over six months, still no credit. Installed 2 rain gardens on personal property. Make this process more efficient so more will do it.
- Love the green roof idea. Will incentives be offered to promote this?

## **Economic development**

### **Small/Local Businesses**

*People overwhelmingly preferred small, locally or family-owned businesses catering to community members. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- More smaller, local businesses – put money back into community; family-owned businesses; more variety; independently owned businesses, no chain businesses
- More small stores available in the area; it's highly marketable with the LRT right there; current retail does not meet my needs
- More retail on west side of Hiawatha – but hard with LRT
- More shops that will draw more people, bookstores, specialty shops; wish Everett's were open longer
- Encourage more small, local businesses to create energy and excitement – specialty shops
- Small stores, gift shops, plant store; boutiques and shops; craft store; bike repair
- Along Minnehaha there are lots of flower shops, not sure if we need more boutiques
- Shopping needed along the highway (bike shop); otherwise, people have to go up to Lake Street
- Shops, not convenience stores
- More second-hand stores
- Things we can walk to; small businesses to attract locals, such as coffee shop, restaurants, dry cleaning, grocery stores, bookstore, video rental
- Add shops at major intersections that both neighborhoods would use
- Local shopping so I don't have to go all the way to Midtown Global Marketplace
- St. Paul seems to have more small businesses; this area doesn't seem as friendly to family businesses
- Shops with longer hours especially on weekends
- Did we mention a book store?

### **Development Support**

*Contributors are seeking supports for thoughtful development, small businesses, and creative marketing. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Take a more holistic and sustainable approach; this is an opportunity to be really creative on a large scale; look at macro-level improvements based on sustainability; more businesses will attract other stuff
- Focus more on revitalizing neighborhoods and caring for what we already have
- Make it a draw for people outside the immediate neighborhood; development that would attract commuters and not only locals – draw in with neighborhoods

- Promote more neighborhood and locally-owned businesses; two local businesses have closed recently – cause for worry
- Help local businesses succeed; more seed money for small businesses; tax breaks for businesses along corridor; promote new local small businesses in the corridor; assist local businesses; place new businesses in the area that specifically cater to small businesses (ex. FedEx/ Kinko's); business incubation spaces
- Improve lighting along entire corridor to make it less industrial-looking and safer; create sense of it being an *upscale* corridor as a gateway to downtown; higher-level retail; create “curb appeal” vs. current blight
- Use NRP and neighborhood input for a good mix of businesses; NRP is an extremely important program for my community – thanks for all the hard work; neighborhood association, NRP not framework in the process; save NRP; use NRP funds through community organizations!; NRP should continue to fund our independent neighborhood association
- Major intersections have multiple destination activities; node-based development; expand on area around Hiawatha – more concentrated mixed retail; be like 48<sup>th</sup> and Chicago; more diverse shops
- Small businesses that would draw foot traffic; area is less threatening with lots of people around
- Get businesses into open spaces on Minnehaha; fill empty commercial properties; 38<sup>th</sup> Street corridor has lots of potential but there are too many vacant commercial spaces; buy up vacant, rundown local properties; more taxable space
- Buildings should give incentives to manufacturers – more jobs; bring green jobs/union jobs; more jobs; more union jobs including restaurants
- Encourage businesses in the corridor; create incentives for business owners, i.e., Hiawatha Joe
- Have a retail association, give awards for improvements businesses make in corridor
- No more retail, we have enough; not too many businesses
- Walkable areas for shopping, for recreation; better signage that indicates beyond Hiawatha corridor to pull people into the community; better signage for farmers' market
- Sensory and high tech – when you're entering a business sector, turn on the radio and have it tell you what's available
- Façade improvement grants/funding
- Improve look of retail stores on Minnehaha and offer more varied shopping options.
- Big retail, major transit and homes don't mix—decide which and do it.

### **Commercial, Industrial**

*Some people support continued industrial uses but many more focused on getting a good grocery store in the community as well as a permanent farmers' market and other convenient commercial services (see separate section on restaurants and gathering places). See details below and please provide your own ideas.*

- Silos should stay, industry is good, jobs there; maintain industrial character; OK to keep warehouses; keep some industry
- Replace industry with big box stores
- Try to convert the old industrial building space to community-friendly and aesthetic businesses; convert grain elevators to condos
- More grocery stores; grocery store – more/better not expensive; small grocery store, more in neighborhoods; food co-op; grocery store that is price competitive – lack of decent-sized grocery stores; more corner markets in better places; community markets; grocery store to link Longfellow and Standish-Ericsson; grocery store at the south end of the corridor; Trader Joe's or other good grocers; larger grocery store so we don't have to go so far; good bakery we can walk to
- The Hi-Lake Shopping Center should be a highlight of the area; it is extremely unfortunate that the color scheme, businesses, etc., are not as attractive as they should be to promote the neighborhood; I wish it was as well designed as the Franklin Avenue development
- Would like to see supermarket or pharmacy at Nokomis Lakes shopping Center
- Ground-floor stores with high quality commercial
- Outdoor equipment store, clothing or department store; hair salons; fabric shop; dry cleaner; hardware stores; like having a lumberyard close; I like Hiawatha Lumber
- Motel to provide an affordable place for guests to stay
- Another place to exercise such as a fitness center; the Y is the only option and it's always packed; new one should be smaller
- Permanent farmers market; more farmers' markets; indoor farmers' market with local stuff including entertainment; more frequent street markets; complementary market location; support local agriculture; ad hoc markets
- Local biz/Turtle Bread
- Breadsmith or Great Harvest Bakery
- Trader Joe's grocery at 46th and Hiawatha (2nd that!)

### **Restaurants, Bars, Gathering Places**

*Contributors overwhelmingly supported places to gather, eat, drink, and be part of a community. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Places to meet friends to eat or just hang out
- Figure out how to make the area more like “eat street” on Nicollet
- More coffee shops; restaurants, ice cream shops and places to hang out with friends and family, pastry shops; little things like coffee shops keep neighborhood nice (Hiawatha Joe is nice)
- Good family restaurants so I don’t have to go to Highland Park; restaurants – not fast food – that cater to people who live here
- Restaurants with tables outside – beer/wine – no liquor licenses
- Real restaurants – not fast food; diverse restaurant options in area; more Asian foods; nice restaurants; restaurants serving local food
- More restaurants along Hiawatha and Minnehaha – above fast food levels
- Variety of restaurants: family-type, glass of wine/dinner type preferred, but not real upscale; casual dining options
- Taco drive-through, Dairy Queen
- Pedestrian-friendly restaurants within walking distance
- Trendy restaurants, clubs, mixed with small retail
- More nightlife such as clubs, restaurants, pubs
- More local restaurants, bars, social places
- Cafes with live music park space
- Hip hop café for teens
- Please keep Dairy Queen on Minnehaha Avenue facing the Minnehaha Park.
- Move boutique style single owner type business
- We need a grocery store (not an Aldi)
- No drive-thrus!
- More businesses on Minnehaha—there are lots of empty commercial spaces. No fast food chains.
- Developing 27th and Lake into Cinema and entertainment district. Pedestrian friendly.
- Longfellow needs a Gay Bar.

### **Development Control**

*Along with development support, people wanted controls to protect the community priorities. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Finish new construction that started but didn't finish – such a waste!
- Not big box stores
- No fast food restaurants
- Too many convenience stores
- Strip mall development not so nice
- People are afraid of the increase of liquor licenses and bars; Minnehaha could increase in crime, noise, and drunk drivers
- Purina Mills project is a good development
- Provide ash trays on the streets so people don't litter
- No more businesses/ malls
- \$50,000 fountains are irresponsible; it should not be passed and yet it did; there could be many other needed projects for the \$300,000 plus; the city council and mayor should be ashamed for passing it; why don't you pay for them individually if you want them?
- No obnoxious pollution
- Sherman and Associates has a terrible reputation

### **Education, Support Services, Public Uses**

*Some community members identified these types of developments to better serve the community. See details below and please provide your own ideas.*

- Community building in corridor to host community/neighborhood gatherings
- Include health services for all ages with service or community center
- Health clinic
- Senior center
- Put government center mini-station along LRT
- Another library
- Bring back Bookmobile!
- Area by exit to Lake Street is basically a dump and should be used for something constructive like a park-and-ride facility
- Minnehaha Academy needs a better facility

- County-funded free store for stuff exchange
- Ask Minneapolis local business like Bryant Lake Bowl, Red Stag Supper Club, Jardin Magico 38<sup>th</sup> and Minnehaha is excellent.

### **Transit-Oriented Development**

*This special category of development generated a lot of attention. See details below and please add your own ideas.*

- Transit oriented development and redevelopment
- Transit-oriented development is wonderful – co-op near train; destination retail at light rail stops
- Focus development on area south of Midtown Greenway to 38th on west side to attract LRT riders with shops, wifi, etc.
- Encourage newsstands, smaller vendors at LRT stations
- Promote businesses along LRT for airport travelers and others
- Install fixed maps of LRT lines/routes and what's accessible from various stops; this will attract travelers to visit shops in neighborhoods
- Promote people taking LRT out of downtown over lunch to come to restaurants in these neighborhoods; promote community highlights at different stations
- Retail around light rail station within walking distance especially on the west side so we don't have to cross Hiawatha
- More office and institutional space at LRT (particularly Lake Street) would bring more people and create lunch market for businesses.

## **Cultural, Heritage, Arts and Entertainment**

### **Arts and Entertainment**

*Community members are interested in more and better things to do in the neighborhood and that meet the needs of adults, youth, and children. See details below and please add your ideas.*

- Someplace to go on the weekends; we go to Highland
- Music/cultural center; revamp Minnehaha park band shell and make bigger; places for music like an amphitheater); outdoor concerts and activities especially for kids; outdoor cabaret-style events
- Attractive space for nonprofits and arts organizations
- Community center for kids with structured after -school programs; community center on Minnehaha

- Movie theaters; outdoor movies and fun activities for the children!
- Stuff that appeals to teenagers – learning center, computer access
- Climbing walls, mini-parks – stuff for adults
- Outdoor movie theatre; ice skating rinks; water park; free wading pools; mini-golf course
- Create family-friendly places and activities for area residents
- A real swimming pool in the neighborhood
- Space for kids to run and play; wading pools; water park
- Indoor amusement park with ramp; replace Target with an everyday circus with people, theme park with rides, fun for all
- Coliseum and Oddfellows buildings for arts, music and dance.
- Drive in movie theater
- I second the climbing wall idea for youth

#### **Public and Community Art**

*There is clear interest in using public art to beautify and community, as well as creating more arts spaces. See details below and please add your ideas.*

- Public art is important to keeping the community vibrant; add public art involving collaboration between neighborhood groups and artists – get people involved; use community art to improve visual aspects of neighborhood
- More public art such as murals and sculptures that are visually stimulating
- Integrate public art into the infrastructure; continue the idea of art stations
- Intercultural art sculptures
- Art spaces, sculpture gardens
- Art center; spoken word center
- More functional art like Sabo bridge
- Use banners to create sense of neighborhood
- Community murals on industrial buildings; spruce them up a bit; more art murals (like Corcoran); more murals on buildings; murals are nice on the sides of grain silos; do more attractive murals like decorations on wall by 25th/26th Streets
- More things like the Heart of the Beast puppet theater; Heart of the Beast-like projects – should be grants to bring in community performances
- Convert unused buildings into artist performance space

- Encourage business investment in the arts
- Sculpture garden behind target near Hiawatha
- We need to support arts in Longfellow and Minnehaha Corridor
- More public art, especially sculpture
- This should reflect the growing cultural diversity of the neighborhood

### **History, Historic Resources**

*Some contributors highlighted the history of the mills, railroad, and special parts of the community. See details below and please add your ideas.*

- Connect with the history of mills through tours, photographs, museum; work with General Mills
- Preserve historic features in the area
- Mills are part of the city's history – but would like silos to be more attractive – like more murals or banners; like the view of grain elevators and railroads – nostalgic
- Preserve some of the history of the area – like the railroads' past – like the photos on Kiosk Colony
- Create walking/audio tours of entire LRT line; there were specifics around each station at the beginning, but don't know that anymore
- Preserve and celebrate community history, particularly Snelling Avenue and Dight Avenue
- 50th Street station should be embellished as gateway to park and Veteran's Home; encourage and facilitate access to both; make more special and highlight historic visiting opportunities
- Keep old buildings
- A museum with this kind of neat historical information
- Art galleries and cafes
- Public art trees