



**Making Minneapolis Neighborhoods  
Better Places to Live, Work, Learn and Play**

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January 16, 2009

Dear Council Member Samuels, Council Member Johnson, and Mr. Browne:

You have asked me to confirm that NRP will recognize the Board of Directors of the Jordan Area Community Council (JACC) elected on January 12th and its officers elected at the January 14th JACC Board of Directors meeting.

I attended the JACC annual meeting on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. As you know, the JACC membership voted to postpone the board elections because significant issues were raised about the nomination and election procedures used prior to the election. The elections were rescheduled for January 12th.

In the weeks between October 23<sup>rd</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup>, a Nominating Committee worked to recruit candidates for the board, verify candidates eligibility, notify JACC members about the rescheduled elections, and to encourage participation from all members of the community. The Nominating Committee was assisted by Bob Cooper from the City and by Jay Clark from the University of Minnesota. The Committee took great care to follow the steps for electing new directors prescribed in the JACC bylaws.

On January 12th, the rescheduled elections were held and six new directors were elected to the JACC Board. Bob Cooper, Jay Clark and I served as tellers. I observed no irregularities in the conduct of this election or in the tabulation of vote totals.

On January 14th, the new JACC Board was convened for the first time. After the new members were seated, a motion was made that a new election for officers be conducted to allow the full complement of board members to participate. The motion was adopted. Michael Browne was elected as Chair, John ("PJ") Hubbard was elected as Vice Chair, Anne McCandless was elected as Secretary and Robert Hodson was elected as Treasurer.

I reviewed this history with the Assistant City Attorney responsible for citizen participation earlier today and requested his advice on the legality of the officer election process. He advised me that the new board (as elected on January 12th) had the responsibility to elect its officers. I also reviewed my observations and the legal advice that I had received with NRP Director Bob Miller.

Based on these events and on the advice that we have received from the Assistant City Attorney on this issue, the NRP will recognize the JACC board with its full complement of members as elected on January 12th and with the officers elected on January 14th.

I look forward to continued work with JACC in the coming months. If I can provide further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stacy L. Sorenson  
Neighborhood Specialist  
Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP)





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January 16, 2009 – via EMAIL

Anne McCandless  
2814 Irving Avenue North  
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Dear Anne:

You asked me to outline my involvement in the January 12th elections for the Jordan Area Community Council (JACC) Board and also to state whether, in my view, this was a legal election conducted in accordance with the JACC bylaws.

Prior to the January 12th elections I reviewed the JACC bylaws and kept abreast of the nominations process and plans for the elections. My role on January 12th was mainly to serve as teller / ballot counter as requested by the JACC Nominating Committee. Because the NRP invests a significant amount of public funds in Jordan, it is in our interest for the neighborhood association to have a board of directors that is both elected fairly and functions effectively.

I also attended for a second purpose: to answer any questions that might come up about the NRP and about JACC's involvement in the NRP.

In my view, the elections were run exceptionally well and in accordance with the JACC bylaws. At one point early in the meeting, a member of the organization suggested that nominations from the floor be accepted. The suggestion was respectfully received, but it was pointed out by an attendee and confirmed by a member of the Nominating Committee that the JACC bylaws call for candidates' eligibility for the board to be verified and for members to mail a list of all candidates prior to the elections. Accepting nominations from the floor would have violated JACC's bylaws. There is no question in my mind that the Nominating Committee did its homework and was taking great care to operate in accordance with the organization's bylaws.

After ballots were cast, I counted the ballots along with Bob Cooper and with Jay Clark. We were observed by two individuals, one being the chair of the Nominating Committee. Results of the vote were not close.

I hope this satisfies your request. If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stacy L. Sorenson  
Neighborhood Specialist  
Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP)