

Green Zones Workgroup

Wednesday April 27th, 2016 11:00am-1:00pm

Greater Council of Churches (Division of Indian Work, 1001 E Lake St. Minneapolis MN 55407), Dakota Lodge

Meeting Minutes

Workgroup Members Present: Guinevere Baptise-Johns, Gayle Bonneville, Ginger Cannon, Michelle Chavez, Shalini Gupta, Pat Hanlon, Amber Haukedahl, Max Holdhusen, Roxxanne O'Brien, Kent Peterson, Jim Terrell, Rosa Tock, Emily Stern, Jennifer Swanson

Absent: Yolonda Adams-Lee, Louis Alemayehu, Michael Guest, Kellie Jones

Staff: Julianne Leerssen, Kelly Muellman, Gayle Prest, Siri Simons, Stephanie Zawistowski

Guests: Anna Arkin (MnTAP), Laura Babcock (MnTAP), Jim Dorsey, Janice Downing (CommonSense Consulting), Abby Finnis, Catherine Fleming, Sarah Goodspeed, Tony Orange (CommonSense Solutions), Katie Pratt, Felicia Perry, Nancy Pryzmus, Tracy Roloff (City of Minneapolis Innovation Team)

11:10am Welcome & Introductions

Kelly Muellman welcomed members and guests to the meeting and shared the agenda with the group. All attendees went around and quickly provided introductions. The group participated in an icebreaker activity.

11:30am In-Depth Introductions

Roxxanne O'Brien proposed amending the agenda to include more in-depth introductions from each attendee describing their area of expertise. Community members shared their personal stories about living in communities not only overburdened by pollution but also the impacts of crime, poor quality housing, homelessness, and struggles with financial and governmental systems. They also spoke to the community resources they can access, such as highly engaged residents with localized solutions. City staff, other agency representatives and technical experts talked about the skills, resources and connections they brought, as well as their personal interest in environmental issues and equity.

12:20pm Overview of Green Zones Workgroup

Kelly Muellman reviewed the background, City Council Resolution, timeline, and expectations for the Green Zones Workgroup. The Green Zone concept is a strategy listed in the Climate Action Plan to address environmental issues with an equity lens by identifying the areas with the greatest need, which was brought forward by the Environmental Justice Working Group. On February 12, 2016, the City of Minneapolis passed a [Resolution](#) to create a Green Zones Workgroup. City Council requested the Green Zones Workgroup identify the following: 1) goals, expectations, metrics 2) criteria to understand what data is needed to determine the geographic area for a Green Zone and c) strategies for implementation. The City Coordinator's Office will facilitate the Workgroup process, specifically the Sustainability Office and the Office of Equity and Inclusion. The Workgroup will develop and present recommendations to the City of Minneapolis Health, Environment & Community Engagement Committee, Community Development & Regulatory Services Committee, as well as full City Council for approval by December 2016. City Council will consider the Work Group's recommendations and determine what moves forward.

The group discussed the importance of striking an appropriate balance between paid City and agency staff and community members.

12:30pm Ground Rules/Group Norms

The group brainstormed the following Group Norms/Ground Rules. These will be refined at the next Green Zones Work Group meeting:

- Listen without interrupting and to understand
- Speak respectfully
- Begin/end meetings on time
- Reduce acronyms
- Agendas in advance for review
- If there's an established agenda, stick to it
- Share group roster
- Commit to being present
- Don't personalize or attack other members of the group
- Be open to partially formed ideas
- Don't make assumptions
- Keep intention of improving community health at center
- Come prepared
- Listen to understand
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Hold people accountable to goals consistently and not selectively
- Don't put limits or constraints on our possible solutions
- Continue to do the work of getting to know everyone in the room rather than forming into silos
- Assume the best intent
- Don't be afraid by directness, be direct/say what you mean
- Commit to community decision making process
- Be honest about conflict between self and role
- Process for sharing input in the group (i.e. calling on a person to speak)

The group discussed the community engagement process for the Green Zones Policy. Kelly clarified that the Workgroup is part of the community engagement process. In the future, the group will determine strategies to bring in additional stakeholders.

The group also discussed the process for selecting representatives to the workgroup. This process is outlined in the [Green Zones Policy Workgroup Resolution](#).

The presentation from the Center for Earth Energy and Democracy and the Phillips Green Zones Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee on the history and accomplishments of their work on Green Zones in Minneapolis was moved to a later meeting. Kelly discussed May meeting timing with the group. Group members completed calendars and handed them in for staff to review.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06pm.