

Meeting Notes

Green Zones Workgroup Meeting #5 August 30, 2016 5:00-8:00pm East Side Neighborhood Services

Working Group Members Present: Gayle Bonneville, Emily Stern, Jim Terrell, Karen Moe, Louis Alemayehu, Max Holdhusen, Michael Guest, Michelle Chavez, Patrick Hanlon, Rosa Tock, Guinevere Baptise-Johns, Say Yang, Jennifer Swanson

City Staff: Julianne Leerssen, Gayle Prest, Kelly Muellman

Guests: Laura Babcock, Dan Murphy, Marcus Mills

Working Group Members Unable to Attend: Amber Haukedahl, Kent Peterson, Shalini Gupta (alternate: Say Yang), Yolonda Adams Lee, Roxxanne O'Brien

- **Welcome & Refreshments (5:15-5:20pm)**

Workgroup members, panelists and guests introduced themselves.

Kelly made an announcement about the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) grant the City received to support the Green Zones Workgroup. Starting at the August meeting, as a result of funds from MPCA the City is able to provide \$35 stipends for Workgroup members to attend Workgroup meetings. The stipends are for Workgroup members who are not already being paid to be at the meeting. City and agency staff are not eligible. Community members are welcome to accept the stipends if their time is not covered by their organization, business or other entity. To get a stipend, Workgroup members must sign in on the attendance sheet and also sign on the list of cards next to the appropriate card number. The MPCA contract was just signed last week, so the City can apply costs for the project starting now but unfortunately cannot go back and compensate Workgroup members for past meetings.

- **Panel presentation on cultural connection with the environment (5:20-6:30pm)**

Green Zones Workgroup member Louis Alemayehu, facilitated a panel of presentations by local community artists and activists. The panel highlighted the importance of indigenous wisdom for keeping life (human and environment) in balance and the

common values that cross cultures, including sharing, family, and the need to see vegetation and water as relatives to ensure coexistence. The panelists, listed here, shared their connections with the environment through song, dance, meditation and stories.

- Aiyana Machado
- Nothando Zulu
- Shane Orthmann
- Travis Decory
- Monzong Cha

- **Break (6:30-6:45pm)**

- **Presentation of Green Zones survey results (6:45-6:55pm)**

There were a total of 36 responses to the Green Zones survey; half came from tabling at the West Broadway Farmers' Market on August 19. The top 5 issues from the predetermined list included:

1. Promoting clean energy
2. Promoting healthy, local foods
3. Using less energy
4. Improving air quality
5. Planting more trees

Top responses to the question **"What do you see?"** included trees, flowers and gardens; solar panels and renewable energy; people and children; community involvement and community led initiatives; bikes and bike lanes; small businesses; less police/crime; and murals and public art.

Top responses to **"What do you smell?"** included: flowers, trees, fruit; "freshness"; food, and less smog/bad air.

Top responses to **"What do you hear?"** included: nature and animals; happiness or laughter; silence; fewer cars/traffic; bicycles; conversations; different languages; wind or breeze; and music.

- **Green Zones Priority Setting – Consensus Workshop (6:50-7:50pm)**

Kelly introduced the objectives of the group activity, which were to agree to 3-5 issues that the Workgroup can focus on and ensuring that those 3-5 issues are selected based on everyone fully engaging in the conversation, speak their truth, listen respectfully.

First the Workgroup members were asked to take a few minutes of self-reflection and list up to three issues they felt strongly about and that align with discussions and presentations to-date. Participants were asked to note the broad issue topic, what aspects of the issue need to be looked at, and why it is important to include in the Green Zones (combination of sustainability and equity).

Next, Workgroup members shared their top issues in small table discussions. As a group, they were asked to discuss and decide which three issues want to bring forward from their table discussion. The issues from each table were shared with the full group and posted on the wall. As each table presented their ideas, similar issue areas were grouped. The groups were given names to describe the key theme. The key themes that arose included:

- Green jobs (in the community, for community residents)
- Air quality (related to transportation and industry)
- Greening (for air quality, livability, and increase pollinator habitat)
- Brownfield and soil clean up (ensure that any development on brownfield sites meets community needs – such as green jobs or affordable housing)

Two overarching themes also arose that the group decided to use as a lens for all of the priority issues:

1. Promote equity
2. Prevent displacement (this means both displacement of residents as an area improves, but also displacement of the bad stuff we're trying to get rid of in the Green Zone to other areas of the city or outside of the city; as well as thinking about the ripple effects or consequences of decisions made in Minneapolis on other communities. For example, if we use oil in Minneapolis, how does that affect the tribes fighting the oil pipeline in South Dakota?)

As a large group, participants discussed whether any of the key issues that arose and had been named could be combined, removed, or re-sorted. Everyone was asked if there were any concepts still missing. Two were added:

- Food security (supporting a local system of growing, production, distribution)
- Clean energy (as resilience for community in times of disaster. For example, solar power with battery backup on community gathering spaces to ensure power is available if a disaster, such as 2011 tornado, strikes)

Finally, everyone was asked if they were comfortable moving forward with the priority issues that had been identified this evening. There was a general consensus of approval. Kelly noted that the results of the activity would be shared with those Workgroup members who were not able to attend this meeting, and the Workgroup would review and finalize the priority issues at the September meeting in two weeks.

- **Wrap Up & Adjourn (7:55-8:00pm)**
 - Next Meeting: Sept 13, 5:30-7:30pm - Criteria for selecting Green Zones areas