

Agenda

Green Zones Workgroup Meeting #6 September 13, 2016 5:30-7:30pm Division of Indian Works

Goal: Review Green Zones priorities & select data metrics

Working Group Members Present: , Yolonda Adams Lee, Roxxanne O'Brien, Gayle Bonneville, Emily Stern, Karen Moe, Louis Alemayehu, Max Holdhusen, Michael Guest, Rosa Tock, Guinevere Baptise-Johns, Sarah Goodspeed, Jennifer Swanson, Amber Haukedahl,

City Staff: Julianne Leerssen, Gayle Prest, Kelly Muellman

Guests: Adam Arvidson, Karen Solas, Jim Dorsey, Marcus Mills

Working Group Members Unable to Attend: Kent Peterson, Shalini Gupta (alternate: Sarah Goodspeed), Michelle Chavez, Jim Terrell

- **Welcome & Refreshments**

- **Review Green Zones priorities**

Kelly Muellman reviewed the meeting minutes from the August 30 Green Zones meeting, and highlighted the priority areas that came out of the group exercise. Because not everyone was able to attend that meeting, Kelly proposed breaking into small groups to discuss the priority issues that came out of the last meeting, add anything that was missing, change areas that needed modification, and remove issues that the small group decided were not priorities for the Green Zones initiative. Then the small groups would share with the large groups and come to agreement on final priority issues.

Before breaking into small groups, Kelly asked if there were any clarifying questions. There was a request to address the entire group with an issue missing from the priority list. The missing issue was safe, quality, affordable housing that is accessible to all, regardless of a person's history or potential criminal record. And that this is a piece of the overarching issue of preventing displacement.

Another point of clarification was raised regarding the issue area of brownfield and soil clean-up, which was that the focus is just as much about cleaning up historically contaminated land regardless of redevelopment as it is about the purposeful and appropriate redevelopment of the land.

Work Group members offered a number of recommendations and solutions the Green Zones should work on including teaching people how to sustain a green lifestyle, connecting existing resources and programs, making the Green Zone self-sustaining. It was recommended that the Work Group frame what it wants, identify resources, and suggest necessary policy changes. One member suggested that the Work Group should identify who and what they need to bring together, such as skills, expertise and knowledge, to come up with a solid plan and recommendations.

Ideas for policies or solutions included rent control, creating a law that says more housing must be built if the vacancy rate is low, developing scattered site housing, creating a cooperative housing model, developing housing specifically for people coming out of the prison-industrial complex, requiring that all new structures in the Green Zone are built “green”, identifying funders to support ownership (e.g., Phillips Foundation), encourage that portions of rent be set aside for future ownership, and rehabilitate vacant homes with “green zones” standards. It was proposed that all the priorities be connected, for example creating housing projects that include food/gardening, renewable energy, energy efficiency, etc. If everything was based on promoting health it would all fall into place.

A concern was raised around the difficulty and conflict in choosing one area for the pilot Green Zone. A conversation ensued about the potential location, whether an in-between community would be better than focusing on the core of North Minneapolis, for example. The idea of selecting an in-between community was countered by the desire to build upon areas where strong organizing was already going on, and whether that should be used as a criteria for selection. Another suggestion was that North and Northeast share common concerns and the Green Zones could bring together and address the issues the affect both communities.

To wrap up the large group conversation, Kelly offered a summary. The issue of safe, quality, affordable housing that is accessible to all will be added to the list of issue areas. The issue of brownfield and soil clean-up will be clarified to emphasize the importance of clean-up of historically contaminated land. The topics of energy efficiency and renewable energy will be subsumed under the umbrella topic of Greening. The other issues will remain. There were no proposals to remove any of the issue areas.

- **Data metrics to support priorities**

City Council's Resolution asked for criteria for Green Zone designation and to identify recommendations based on specific data sets, including environmental issues (land, air and water) as well as race and income, to create basic overlays to demonstrate the intensity of the intersection of these factors.

Kelly proposed moving into a conversation about what data should be used to describe the priority issue areas. Recommendations and suggestions from the Work Group included:

- add health data to the criteria, including stress, asthma, and lead poisoning. It was recommended that everyone watch the Place Matters segment of [Unnatural Causes](#), which focuses on health disparities in communities of color.
- use a measure of working poor instead of unemployment.
- use community based data rather than relying on government sources. One member of the Work Group said she had experience collecting community based data and mentioned a department of corrections screening tool.
- Karen Moe from Regulatory Services offered to provide any data on housing that Work Group members would want.
- an example of a project that could be informative was the [New York City Million Dollar Block Project](#), which mapped the spending of money on incarcerating people – often adding up to more than \$1M per block. ([Chicago has another example.](#))
- a representative from the Park Board offered to share data related to access to green spaces and urban forest by tree species (potentially show where communities will be impact most by the loss of ash trees to Emerald Ash Borer)

As next steps, Kelly will send an email to Work Group members with data ideas for the next meeting, asking for comments back by email. At the next meeting the Work Group will review maps created with that data and discuss potential Green Zones geographic areas.

- **Wrap Up & Adjourn**

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 4:00-6:00pm
Location: EMERGE Career and Technology Center (ECTC), Phillips Room (1834 Emerson Avenue North)