

Community Engagement Task Force Draft Report

The *draft* Community Engagement Task Force (CETF) report outlines principles and practices its members believe are important for an improved community engagement system between the City and community organizations. Some of the key points in the report are outlined below. The second phase of drafting recommendations is to gather input from the community. The City and CETF would like to hear **your suggestions** before reconvening the task force and finalizing recommendations to present to the Mayor and City Council in November 2007.

Themes from the Report:

- **Value community engagement**
- **Build on what we have**
- **Inclusive deliberation**
- **Provide resources**
- **Require accountability**
- **Coordinate better**
- **Communicate better**

Examples of Recommendations:

- Broaden the types of organizations eligible for community engagement resources.
- Require increased accountability when resources are allocated.
- Create a citizen commission on community engagement.
- Allocate resources and staff for administration of adopted NRP action plans & contracts beyond 2009.
- Support increased communication that includes reporting results of a decision.

The draft CETF report recommends adopting “Core principles of community engagement”

1. **Right to be involved**
Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. **Contributions should be thoughtfully considered**
Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will be thoughtfully considered.
3. **Recognize the needs of all**
Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.
4. **Seek out involvement**
Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. **Participants design participation**
Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. **Adequate information**
Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. **Known effect of participation**
Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

Characteristics of Organizations That Can Receive Resources to Engage the Community

Incorporate Core Principles of Community Engagement

Have ability to demonstrate how representative

Ensure no barriers to participation

Comply with all applicable laws

Use inclusive deliberations

Be incorporated with a representative board of directors

Periodically inform City of constituency's priorities

Have ability to manage and account for resources

Inform community about how to participate

To view the full report or for more information about the CETF:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp

Community Engagement Task Force Background

In January and February 2007, the public gave input on the [Community Engagement Report](#) (November 2006) that was a review and summary of previously reports, documented input, and recommendations on the City's current community engagement activities. As a result of the report and the public's input, a [three-track work plan](#) was approved by the Mayor and City Council in May 2007. The goal of the work plan is to bring the City's community engagement system into its next generation, including finding clear ways to support what is currently working and explore new ideas to enhance what's being done.

The Community Engagement Task Force (CETF) is part of **Track 2** of the work plan and was asked to define roles and funding of neighborhood, community and cultural organizations as parts of the community engagement system. The group met throughout the summer and early fall of 2007 to draft a report with recommendations. As a second phase to creating these recommendations the City and the CETF are gathering the public's input before reconvening to finalize recommendations to present to the Mayor and City Council in November 2007.

Track 1 of the three-track work plan focuses on improvements to the community engagement system that relate to clarifying and finding new ways the City can support participation from individuals and **Track 3** provides a framework for policy makers in resolving questions about the future focus, funding and governance of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

The Track 2 Community Engagement Task Force is made up of...

- **21 voting** members representing citizens from neighborhood organizations, block clubs, ethnic/cultural organizations, issue-focused organizations, business associations, and community development corporations and the community at-large. (Biographies of each member are at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/CETaskForce_Structure.asp)
- **10 non-voting** members including **3 Council Members** (Council Members Lilligren as co-chair, Gordon, and Hofstede), **1 Mayoral representative**, and **6 city staff**

We want to know what you think...

The City and CETF would like to hear **your suggestions**. Your input on the *draft* CETF report will be used to identify ways to strengthen the report going to the Mayor and City Council in November 2007. **Please submit all input before October 19, 2007.** You can find more ways to submit your input on the next page.

Community forums

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.--Windom Park Recreation Center gymnasium, 2251 Hayes St. NE

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.--North Commons Park gymnasium, 1801 James Ave. N

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (open house format)--Central Library board room, 300 Nicollet Mall

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.--Nokomis Park Rec Center gym, 2401 E. Minnehaha Parkway

Thursday, Oct. 18, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.--MLK Park Rec Center multi-purpose room, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S

Sign up to receive e-mail updates:

http://service.govdelivery.com/service/subscribe.html?code=MPLS_77

For more information:

Community.Engagement@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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The meeting sites are wheelchair accessible. If you need other disability-related accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, or materials in alternative format, please contact Jennifer Lastoka at least one week before the meeting. (*contact information above*)

If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737.

Spanish: Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700.

Somali: Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in la'aa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Hmong: Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800