



# **Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission**

## **October 25, 2011 DRAFT Meeting Notes**

Minneapolis Central Library

**NCEC member attendees:** Doron Clark, John Finlayson, Ed Newman, Matt Perry, Jeff Strand, Mark Hinds, Tessa Trepp-Wetjen, Maria Sarabia, Ali Warsame, Latrell Beamon, Christopher Hoffer, Tony Anastasia, Kenneth Brown, Crystal Johnson, Carol Pass.

Meeting Facilitators: Doron Clark (primary), Jeff Strand (associate)

**NCEC members absent:** Marcea Mariani

**Commission staff:** David Rubedor, Ahmed Muhumud, Robert Thompson, Howard Blin

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Content</b>
<b>1. Introduction, Meeting notes &amp; agenda</b> (Action)	<b>Action(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by facilitator Clark.</li><li>• Consensus to approve the amended August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting notes</li><li>• Consensus to approve the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended to include the recording the individual votes of commissioners on options for use of CPP funds.</li><li>• Consensus to approve the agenda with the changes to delete Item 3C, reverse items 3A and 3B and move Item 5 to the top of the agenda..</li></ul>
<b>2. CPP Submission from Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association</b> (Discussion and Action)	<b>Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff reviewed the submission.</li><li>• A Commissioner asked about the bylaws for the organization and whether non-residents are allowed to vote. The eligibility requirements in the bylaws were noted. A commissioner noted that the bylaws were overly restrictive. It was stated that the NCEC should not go back to change existing bylaws, but establish guidelines for future submissions. A commissioner noted that this was a good comment, but since this was the last submission of the current funding cycle, the issues should be addressed in the new guidelines.</li></ul> <b>Action(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No consensus on the submission was reached. On a vote, approval of the submission was granted.</li></ul>
<b>3. NCR Report</b>	<b>Summary:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NCR Director Rubedor described the ongoing budget process and the programs included in the budget. A commissioner asked if the 2012 NCR budget continued to include two additional neighborhood specialist positions. Rubedor responded that those positions remained in the budget. Discussion took place on the north side tornado relief fund. Whether the fund would be available to help those homeowners without access to credit was discussed. The upcoming Community Connections Conference on February 11, 2012 was discussed as well as the national Neighborhoods USA conference to be held in Minneapolis in May of 2013. A commissioner asked if any City action was contemplated on the NRP Policy Board recommendation that available NRP funds be allocated to north side neighborhoods for tornado relief. Rubedor responded that it was unlikely the proposal would be considered.</li></ul>

**4. NCR/NRP  
Integration**  
(Discussion)

**Summary:**

- Staff described the upcoming changes to the NRP which include the expiration at the end of 2011 of the existing joint powers agreement for the NRP Policy Board and the statutory need to create a new Policy Board in 2012. This new board will continue to review NRP plans. In addition, since NRP funds will be used to fund the Community Participation Program (CPP) in 2012 and 2013, state statutes also require neighborhood requests for CPP funding to be reviewed by the Policy Board. This shift in responsibilities will allow the NCEC to focus on issues other than the CPP.
- Staff also addressed questions raised at the October 12<sup>th</sup> NCEC Committee of the Whole meeting. One involved the ability of the Policy Board to delegate CPP review authority to the NCEC. The City Attorneys office determined this would not be possible. Another question was whether the NCEC could have authority to hear appeals on CPP funding decisions. It was determined that this would be possible.
- Staff described that since the NCEC was formed, a majority of its time has been spent creating and reviewing the CPP program. The shift of the CPP to the Policy Board will provide the opportunity for the Commission to focus on broader issues of expanding engagement.
- Commission members discussed the potential for oversight of the CPP program to revert back to the NCEC in 2014 when the funding source will no longer be NRP funds.
- Commissioners expressed concern that not overseeing the CPP will diminish the ability of the NCEC to promote inclusion among neighborhood organizations and thus the Commission will not meet its role in enhancing community engagement. Without carrots and sticks, it will be difficult to promote broader engagement.
- A member stated that while the statutes are clear that the Policy Board must approve policy plans, it is less clear who may approve funding. The role of the Policy Board should be narrowly defined as what they are statutorily required to do. In addition the proposed revisions to the NRP Ordinance should be subject to public review, including a 30 review period and adhere to community engagement principles.
- A concern was expressed that having similar bodies with similar charges could create confusion and animosity resulting in work not getting done. Is it possible for the Policy Board to be sunset in two years? Staff responded that since NRP plans would continue to be implemented beyond 2013, a Policy Board will continue to be necessary for several years to come.
- A member stated that the Commission should focus on the role of the NCEC rather than the Policy Board and presented a resolution which defines the new role of the NCEC. It was noted that the shift in responsibility for the CPP creates an opportunity for the Commission to engage underrepresented groups. The resolution gives the NCEC sole responsibility for community engagement activities which is a powerful responsibility.
- Commissioners asked for clarification on how the neighborhood

representative would be selected? Staff responded that the current draft of the ordinance has the NCEC selecting the representatives.

- Consensus was reached that more time would be necessary for the Commission to formulate recommendations on the respective roles of the NCEC and Policy Board. It was agreed that a special meeting of the Commission would be held the week of November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**5. Task Force Reports** (Discussion and Informational)

**Summary:**

- The Bylaws Task Force reported that one meeting had been held. Work on developing formal recommendation would be postponed until the future role of the NCEC is determined. Until then discussions on possible bylaws revisions will continue.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM