

**Resolution of the Neighborhood and Community  
Engagement Commission (NCEC): Policy Recommendations  
on Minneapolis Neighborhood Programming and  
Community Engagement 2012-2020**

*By Commissioner Strand*

**Whereas**, the City Council and Mayor established the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) by Resolution No. 2008R-402 and stated the among the ten Purposes to "Provide overall direction to the next phase of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and be primarily responsible for the review of neighborhood plans and recommended approval to the City Council" and to "Actively assist in short and long-term planning, development and implementation of the City's community engagement system, including possible implementation of the 2007 Community Engagement Task Force recommendations;" and,

**Whereas**, the Community Engagement Task Force included in its November 2007 Recommendations Item "R27 - CREATE A RESIDENT-BASED COMMISSION" that called for the City to "Create a resident-based commission of community engagement" and that "The responsibilities of a community engagement commission should include but not be limited to: Actively assisting in short and long-term planning, development and implementation of the City's community engagement system;"<sup>i</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the Framework for the Future envisioned Resident-controlled Advisory Board, staffed by the new department, to "provide overall direction to the next phase of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and be primarily responsible for the review and approval of neighborhood plans; oversee distribution and use of administrative funds...and advise the Mayor, City Council and City departments on community issues and needs related to...the City's community participation system;"<sup>iii</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the NRP Work Group determined that "A major focus of the program will be an enhanced integration of neighborhood-level work with the work of the City. A resident-controlled advisory board, staffed by a new department dedicated

to the full breadth of this work, will provide overall direction to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and advise the Mayor, City Council and City departments on community issues and needs related...the City's community participation system;"<sup>iiii</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the City of Minneapolis has informed existing Jurisdictions participating in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Joint Powers Agreement that terminated January 1, 2012, that the City will not be continuing participation in the Joint Powers Agreement; and,

**Whereas**, ~~the City took~~ certain ~~budget exigencies necessitated~~ actions in December 2010 ~~by the City Council and Mayor to provide property tax relief through the involving use of~~ uncontracted Phase II NRP Funding for the purpose of funding neighborhood programs and Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) neighborhoods support services for 2012-2013, which actions have had unforeseen consequences in terms of the program management and oversight;

**Now therefore be it Resolved** by the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission:

1. That the NCEC supports the City Council and Mayor conducting a transparent and deliberative process that adheres to the adopted Principles of Community Engagement and providing for thorough public engagement for proposed 2011 revisions to the City's NRP Ordinance effective in 2012.
2. That the NCEC supports the retention by the City of the empowered and expansive role of the NCEC, and opposes a retreat from the empowered and expansive role of the NCEC that arose from the concept of a Residents-based advisory commission envisioned under the Community Engagement Task Force, the Framework for the Future, and was actualized and enabled in Resolution 2008R-402.
3. That the NCEC recommends against having the ~~exigencies of~~ City ~~budget~~ actions taken in December 2010 forming the basis of policy formulation for longer-term neighborhood programming and community engagement activities for the years 2014-2020, following the 18-month period from July

2012-December 2013 in which NRP Phase II Funding shall be used to fund the City programs.

4. That the NCEC recommends that the City Council narrowly define limited roles for the Policy Board to be established in 2012 to deal exclusively with NRP funding, NRP programs and NRP policies governed exclusively by the NRP Law, and further recommends that to the extent possible, the City Council and/or the Policy Board shall delegate or devolve, to the extent permitted by law, by agreement its limited roles to the City, or to the NCEC to fulfill ~~the Policy Board's NCEC's purposes that are defined by the NRP Law or City Ordinance.~~ [Intention of Commission specific to Phase I and Phase II]
5. That the NCEC recommends that the Policy Board's role with respect to the Community Participation Program (CPP) and the Neighborhood Priority Plans (NPP), shall be limited only to the period July 2012-December 2013 when the Phase II NRP funds will fund the CPP, Neighborhood Priority Plans, and NCR Department neighborhood support services.
6. That the NCEC recommends that the City ~~confirm with the~~ involve established Neighborhood Organizations the number of and the desired method ~~under by~~ which neighborhood representatives are selected to serve on the Policy Board to be established in 2012, ~~consistent with the practices for the 2011 NRP Policy Board and prior years.~~ [should be specifically called out in requests for feedback from neighborhoods]
7. That the NCEC requests that the City Council and Mayor continue the NCEC's responsibility for ~~oversight of 2011 and first half 2012 CPP funding, as well as Neighborhood Priority Plans and other~~ programs funded by Consolidated consolidated non-NRP TIF, and for all non-NRP Consolidated TIF funding that the City may approve to fund neighborhood programs and NCR neighborhood support services for the period 2014-2020.
8. That the NCEC recommends that the City Council continue work to preserve and strengthen the relationships with the City's Neighborhood Organizations through continuity in NCEC review and approval of CPP-neighborhood

programming plans and funding, and Neighborhood Priority Plans and funding that are non-NRP derived.

That the NCEC recommends that the City Council reaffirms the primary role of the NCEC as a liaisons between the City of Minneapolis and Neighborhood Organizations, Community Organizations and Cultural Organizations, to build upon the diverse cultures, viewpoints and interests of Minneapolis' residents and to promote full and active participation by all.

~~10.9. That the NCEC recommends that the City and newly established 2012 Policy Board shall carefully scrutinize and evaluate all NRP Policies and Procedures for efficacy and soundness, as the City moves forward with the transition of neighborhood programs from NRP Central Administration to the NCR Department in January 2012, and that it consider a possible role for the NCEC to play in the evaluation process for existing NRP Policies and Procedures. For the updated CPP Guidelines, the NRP Policy Board and the City Council should align NRP Policies with intent of the CPP Guidelines approved by the NCEC. [Intent is that NCEC plays a role in evaluating]~~

---

<sup>i</sup> Recommendations Item "R27 - CREATE A RESIDENT-BASED COMMISSION" that called upon the City to "Create a resident-based commission of community engagement" and that "The responsibilities of a community engagement commission should include but not be limited to: Actively assisting in short and long-term planning, development and implementation of the City's community engagement system.; Working with and advising the City on the development of policies related to community engagement.; Advising the Mayor, City Council and City Departments on community issues and needs related to community engagement and the City's community engagement system.; Reviewing the organizations seeking official support from the city for the purpose of community engagement," and recommended that "The composition of a community engagement commission should: Reflect the diverse interests and perspectives of the Minneapolis community. The recruitment process should be designed to ensure diversity of representation and ideas and take into consideration the City's commitment to civil rights, affirmative action and geographic distribution wherever possible.; Include resident appointees from the County, Park Board, and School Board.; Be provided the necessary City staff to meet these responsibilities.; Continuously evaluate its work and responsibilities to evolve with the needs of the City's community engagement system."

<sup>ii</sup> Framework for the Future envisioned Resident-controlled Advisory Board, staffed by the new department, to "provide overall direction to the next phase of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program and be primarily responsible for the review and approval of neighborhood plans; oversee distribution and use of administrative funds and implementation of a community participation program; oversee distribution and use of the Neighborhood Investment Fund; recommend awards of grants through the Community Innovation Fund; advise the City Council and the Mayor on development or improvement of community participation policies, delivery of services and decision-making processes to systematize community input into City processes; provide feedback to City departments as they relate to community participation and the City's adopted Community Engagement Principles and make recommendations for improvements to City departments, the City Council and the Mayor as appropriate; and advise the Mayor, City Council and City departments on community issues and needs related to community participation and the City's community participation system;"<sup>iii</sup>