

TO: Members of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

FROM: Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager

DATE: May 21, 2013

SUBJECT: **May 28th NCEC Meeting**

Meeting Location

The meeting will be held at the Minneapolis Central (Downtown) Library. Parking is available in the Library garage with the entrance off 4th Street. Please bring your parking ticket to the meeting where it will be validated.

Agenda

Item 3 – City Department Engagement Task Force Update. In June 2012 the NCEC's City Department Engagement Task Force presented recommendations on improvements to the community engagement practices of City Departments. A copy of the report of the Task Force is attached. These recommendations were developed after an 18 month process in which the Task Force met with representatives of City Departments to determine current engagement practices used by the departments.

The recommendations focused on resident notification methods for City activities, training of City staff in engagement techniques, and ongoing evaluation of engagement practices. Implementation of the recommendations to date has focused on the recommendations on notification. NCR staff have had discussions with the CPED and Public Works Departments on improvements to notification procedures. It is anticipated that a report on the results of these discussions will be provided to the NCEC in the near future. There have also been early discussions with departments about additional training for City staff in engagement techniques. Various approaches to training in engagement will be the subject of further discussions in the coming months.

Item 4 – Community Innovation Fund. In 2008 the City issued the *Framework for the Future* report of the NRP Work Group. This report included recommendations for neighborhood programs after the Neighborhood Revitalization Program ended. Among the recommendations of the report was the creation of a Community Innovation Fund, which is described in the report as follows:

The Community Innovation Fund:
Grant Funding to Encourage Innovations for City-Identified Priorities

A Community Innovation Fund will be established as a companion fund to the Neighborhood Investment Fund. The innovation fund will provide grants to officially designated neighborhood organizations to seek out innovative and locally-relevant approaches to City-identified goals or problems.

- ♦ *The City Council and Mayor will set priorities for this fund on a biannual basis. The Neighborhood and Community Advisory Board will then work with the Council and Mayor to ensure that the design of grants is accessible and relevant to localized programming.*
- ♦ *Guidelines for these grants should place a high priority on proposals that reflect collaboration between two or more neighborhood organizations or between neighborhood organizations and other community-based organizations.*
- ♦ *The Advisory Board will review proposals and recommend grant awards to the City Council and Mayor.*

NCR staff is recommending that the fund be initiated in 2014. The NCEC is asked to develop the objectives and funding guidelines for the program. The NCEC Executive Committee has suggested the Committee of the Whole work on developing the program in the coming months.

The requested action for the Commission at the May 28th meeting is to refer the Community Innovation Fund to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 5A. – Extension of NCEC Terms to the NRP Policy Board. The NCEC appoints four members to the NCEC Policy Board. The terms of those appointments ends on June 30th. Since the NCEC organizational meeting is not scheduled until July 23rd, the NRP Policy Board would be left with no NCEC representatives in July.

The requested action is to extend the terms of the existing NCEC representatives to the Policy Board until July 31st.