



Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

Agenda Item: 5

Advisory Information

Title: **Blueprint for Equity Update**

Action Discussion Informational

Date: October 22, 2013

Prepared By: Lance Knuckles, Access and Outreach Manager

Attachments:

Requested Action

No action is requested. This item is for informational purposes only.

Background

The most recent neighborhood listening session on the Blueprint was held on September 26th at the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association board meeting. The comments on the standard list of questions used at these meetings are provided below.

Question #1 – What do you see as the three to five key opportunities existing in your neighborhood that could lead to greater inclusion?

- NENA has Latino Organizer existing (e.g. special outreach, recent Monarch Festival)
- Est. 80% white, 10% Latino and 10% African American and AS -Represented on local business association as charter member
- Bossen Initiative (churches, property owners, tenants, 400 units of section 8 housing, St. Stephens, renters, and CM Quincy)
- Affordable housing projects (200 units) NENA has supported over the past 5 years
- Event night before New Years Eve (NENA provided transportation to residents via church partnership - event 100% free to community)
- NENA board demo largely represents the neighborhood composition
- An opportunity for more teaches of color at Keewaydin School (none at the present moment)
- Wenohnah similar to Keewaydin School
- NO black or Latino leaders within the neighborhood Park staff in the neighborhood is diverse

Question #2 – What do you think people are concerned about, but do not ten to talk about out loud?

- People talk about properties for sale or being foreclosed upon; perception by others that this is a rough area -mini blog conversations about crime (burglaries) west side by Washburn (recited hanging doll incident and media attention, we are not racist vie of some involved)
- Food fight was not racist (south HS) idea of separatism
- NENA staff met with community education; all the kids were very embarrassed by public coverage
- South HS incident
- Now students get along -Neighbors talk about "hunter gatherers" in alley system; small houses in Morris Park (high turnover); have never heard concerns about who is moving in/out -bus stops have unsupervised children; horseplay and rough housing
- Not just one race but all; bashed out glass at bus shelters
- Bossen renters group little information from City/globally
- Situation not improved
- Need to hear from the city on issues (e.g. chapter 249, condemnations, eminent domain concerns)
- Residents have fear about reporting problems; don't want to attract unwanted attention; people have been displaced in the past inclusion is more than race and ethnic

Question #3 – Who are the key organizational players that are making or can make a difference?

- Churches, schools (public and charter) business community and NENA
- Block clubs
- Almost no cooperation between block clubs and NENA
- Been this way for years; systematic with MPD
- Parks
- MPS lack diversity in local area schools
- Minneapolis/Hennepin Public Libraries -property owners (well-maintained ones)
- City Council members moved away from direct involvement

Question #4 – What is the role of neighborhood organizations in achieving inclusion and equity? What matters when it comes to making our neighborhoods operate more inclusively?

- Monarch festival, night before new year's - 2 events that NENA founded
- Outreach to Latino community
- Still has problem spot in Bossen; transient population; hard to engage renters, socioeconomic barriers (20 year volunteer)
- Intentional and thoughtful describes NENA approach
- Aztec dancers used for event
- Make repeated efforts; develop real relationship

Other thoughts:

- Seems to be an attitude that there is exclusion -NCR funded program - boundary driven by geographic neighborhood boundaries -perception that funding is moving away from neighborhood organization (e.g. Nexus -NCR - perception that city is shifting away from neighborhood orgs to social service organizations -legislative mandate on NRP - neighborhood revitalization -former NRP program 52.5% housing required (due to early funding not meeting requirements)

- NRP was bottom up grass roots
- Prior experience was top down NCR
- Decisions under NRP were bottom up
- See areas of NCR funding on areas that are political hot buttons (e.g. diversity)
- Get NCR documents and don't know they are saying (90% jargon)
- Contrast with One Minneapolis Fund grant recipient language
- NCR needs to hire a good writer
- 2014 request for \$500K insane; should be based upon effectiveness not demand
- Concern about lack of honest process and prior process
- NENA feedback goes into a black hole - ideas not used and no NCR explanation given