

**Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday May 14, 2013
Crown Roller Mill**

Unapproved Minutes

Commissioners Present: Jeffrey Strand, Doron Clark, Matthew Bartelemy, Ishmael Israel, Carol Pass

Staff Present: Lance Knuckles, Howard Blin

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.

1. Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of an item to discuss the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the joint meeting with the City Council HECE Committee and a second item to discuss the general topic of neighborhood organization board diversity.

2. Approve Minutes of April 9, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Blueprint for Equitable Engagement

Knuckles presented a report from the Equity Steering Committee. He noted that the title of the effort was changed from “Blueprint for Equity” to “Blueprint for Equitable Engagement”. The is to avoid overlap with other work taking place on equity in the City. There are three area of focus for the Blueprint: broadening the participation in neighborhood organizations, diversifying boards and commissions and improving the City enterprise outreach and engagement. The plan calls for conducting focus groups with various organizations and also having three focus groups for neighborhood organizations.

Comments from Committee members are summarized below:

- The Steering Committee had a good meeting with robust participation.
- The new approach is supported because it is tangible and has a plan for action.
- Perhaps meeting with online groups such as e-democracy should be considered.
- Greater representation is needed from people with low incomes. Some of the groups listed for meetings don't represent low income people.
- One group which is not represented is renters. Perhaps a group like Homeline could be involved.

- Regarding board and commission membership, the “Commission should again request the City Clerk explore stipends for members. Currently, those receiving stipends are the boards with more professional membership.
- A question was asked about who would facilitate the focus groups? Knuckles responded that all of the Steering Committee members would take part in facilitation.

MOTION by Israel, SECOND by Clark to recommend to the full Commission approval of the Blueprint document with changes suggested and addition of renters as a group to be contacted. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Community Innovation Fund

Blin presented the draft guidelines for the Community Innovation Fund (CIF).

Comments from Committee members are summarized below:

- The guidelines accurately reflect the suggestions made at the April Committee of the Whole meeting. The guidelines should be taken to the May NCEC meeting for approval to release for a 60 day comment period from the neighborhoods.
- The discussion focused on the funding limit for the grants. General consensus was reached that the limit should be in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000. This will allow a greater number of grants and is in keeping with what neighborhoods suggested at the listening sessions.
- The Committee discussed whether the NCEC could have final authority to approve the grants, rather than make recommendations to the City Council. Unlike the One Minneapolis Fund, which uses general fund revenues, the CIF will use TIF funds which may allow NCEC decision making.

MOTION Strand, SECOND Clark to recommend to the NCEC approval of the CIF guidelines for distribution for public comment with a maximum grant amount of \$20,000 and a parenthetical explanation that a limit of \$20,000 to \$30,000 is being considered. No minimum grant amount should be specified. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Ad Hoc Committee

Israel provided an update on efforts to schedule a joint meeting with the HECE Committee of the City Council.

Israel left the meeting at 6:40 PM and Clark assumed the Chair duties.

6. Neighborhood Organization Board Diversity.

The Committee discussed recent efforts by City Council members and others to work toward diversifying neighborhood boards. A summary of the discussion follows:

- Commissioners supported developing a body of policies to rigorously enforce Community Participation Program guidelines regarding board practices and composition.
- Are we focusing on outreach and effort to create diversity or on actual outcomes?
- A question was raised as to whether current bylaws are tilted toward home owners and business owners and sometimes exclude renters and more diversity.
- A letter should be sent to neighborhood organizations which cites the requirements of the Community Participation Program.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Submitted by Howard Blin