



Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Wednesday, December 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Crown Roller Mill, 2nd Floor Conference Room
105 5th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN

NCEC member attendees: Matthew Dobratz, Jeffrey Strand, Kirk Roggensack, Ishmael Israel, Denis Houle, Maleta Kimmons, Kenya McKnight, Eric Gustafson, Tessa Wetjen, Doron Clark, Francisco Segovia, Debra Behrens, Carol Pass, and.

NCEC members excused: David Zaffrann and Brittany Lewis

Commission staff: David Rubedor, Howard Blin and Robert Thompson

Guests: Miss Lowry from the Flood Plain Collective attended the meeting as an observer.

1. Public Comment. No one appeared to speak the Commission

2. Introduction (Action):

- A.** Chair Israel called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Commission members gave brief updates of activities in their neighborhoods.
- B. Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of item 4E, Strategic Planning Discussion. Motion Wetjen. Second Dobratz. Motion carried.

3. Executive Committee Reports (Informational and Action):

Chair's Report: Chair Israel discussed the meeting process and the need to keep the agendas on schedule. To accomplish this it sometimes may be necessary to limit discussion by not allowing members to speak multiple times on a single topic.

Israel also congratulated members for the work done on the recently approved 2015 City budget. Commission members did a great job of advocating for funding for neighborhoods and the One Minneapolis Fund.

Secretary Report:

- A. Minutes:** Strand moved approval. Second by Clark. Behrens objected and asked if the draft minutes had been distributed. NCR staff was delayed in getting the draft minutes prepared. Strand moved to table to the next meeting. Second by Clark. Motion carried. It was noted that the November meeting minutes were not distributed with the meeting packet. For that reason, approval of the minutes was continued until the January meeting.
- B. Attendance Report:** Commissioner Strand reported on attendance. He noted that no commissioners are at risk of having 3 or more unexcused absences. Commissioners Lewis and Zaffrann were excused. Quorum was present. Strand noted 13 present with 2 excused absences, but there is still one vacancy on the commission. There were some questions about the vacancy. Wetjen stressed the need for transparency in process

when vacancies are filled. NCR staff Blin estimated that the vacancy will be filled in January 2015.

4. Committee Task Force Reports: (Action)

A. One Minneapolis Fund Committee.

Committee Chair Wetjen provided an update on the Fund noting the attention focused on the One Minneapolis Fund during the recent budget process. Two of the current grant recipients spoke to the Council in support of the program.

The RFP for the 2015 round of applications is going to the HECE Committee on January 5th. A PHD candidate at the Humphrey Institute has begun doing an evaluation of the program. As the RFP will be out and there is no work to be done until applications are received, there will be no Committee meeting in January. Strand commented on the importance of outreach to the Mayor who prepares the initial budget proposal for City Council consideration.

Commission members suggested that staff send a brief report to all neighborhood organizations on the budget with information on neighborhood funding and the fact that all funding for One Minneapolis is from the general fund.

Director Rubedor responded to a question about the NCR budget. The Council has shifted the department's budget as approved to now be 80% Consolidated TIF funded and 20% General Fund funded. The Consolidated TIF ends in 2020. The NCR needs to initiate the conversation about the Legislative strategy in 2015 to replace the Consolidated TIF that ends in 2020.

The Commission also discussed that as part of the strategic planning process a strategy be developed for the 2016 budget process. In addition the Commission needs to develop in speaking to neighborhood and community organizations on the subject of equity.

B. Community Innovation Fund Committee

A written report had been prepared for the NCEC meeting by Commissioner Zaffrann. Committee members reported that Zaffrann was selected Chair by the committee and Houle the Vice-Chair. The Committee has finalized the guidelines for the program. These were intended to have been included in the packet for informal Commission review but staff did not include them. McKnight reported she wants to step down from the committee due to conflicts with two other committees on which she also serves.

C. City Department Engagement Task Force

Clark reported that the Task Force is on hiatus until work on the Blueprint is done.

D. Community Connections Conference Committee

Roggensack reported that the theme for the 2015 conference is the non-conference with fewer structured workshop and more ongoing demonstrations focus on creative place making. The committee is working with the Arts Coordinator.

Strand suggested having some workshops on neighborhood board responsibilities to utilize the opportunity when so many residents and neighborhood organization board members gather to attend the conference.

E. Strategic Planning

Wetjen reported that the strategic planning session will be held on Wednesday, January 21st from 5:30 to 9:00 PM at a location to be determined. The planning group met with the facilitator, Karen DeYoung, on January 11th to provide her background on the Commission. The next meeting will be held on January 7th at 6:00 PM. Wetjen suggested the scope likely will be a 1-year strategic plan.

5. Blueprint for Equitable Engagement

Rubedor provided an overview of the Blueprint document which was included in the Commission packet. He noted that this draft document is considerably longer than the final product. In addition a high level summary piece will be produced.

Pass asked if there has been conversation with neighborhood organizations on the document. She stated that one size does not fit all. An example is the financial compliance process has been a positive experience for EPIC. For other neighborhoods it has be less than positive.

Israel noted that the Blueprint was informed by the two city-wide meetings last summer and three focus group meetings with neighborhoods.

Segovia asked if neighborhoods with paid staff function better. Rubedor responded that it varies some neighborhoods without staff function very well.

Segovia also asked if the poorest neighborhoods received the most funding but also have the least diversity? Rubedor responded that the level of diversity on board is mixed. It is also true that some neighborhoods have involvement from a diverse group of residents even if they don't sit on the board.

Strand stated that further outreach is needed; for example there was limited Neighborhood Organization input. Need to capture input from the Committee of the Whole and the City Department Engagement Task Force. Also should incorporate the recommendations of the 2013 NCEC Boards and Commissions Diversity Report. We need to think creatively on increasing diversity on boards and commissions. Also need people who when appointed will participate or otherwise their communities' voices are not heard.

McKnight said the document is too focused on neighborhood organizations and not other organizations that people of color may relate to. Also relies too much on integrating cultural communities into existing institutional structures.

Director Rubedor said there might need to be a 4th section in the report. Chair Israel responded to the NCR draft document noting that the NCEC needed something to react to and read to create space. A member also suggested the NCR needs to document who attended engagement sessions and what organizations comprised the groups that were surveyed during the engagement process.

The Commission decided that further discussion on the Blueprint document will occur at the January 14th Committee of the Whole.

Director Rubedor had also stated that City departments received training on IAP2 community engagement principles to build core knowledge among city staff. NCR also is supporting a network of city staff trained in community engagement skills and principles.

6. New Business

A. Commissioner Open Forum

Houle referred to an email he had sent following the November meeting regarding a document that was handed out by a Commission member at the meeting. He thinks anything to be distributed to the Commission should be in the packet, or, at least be discussed at the meeting.

Pass stated that she distributed that document at the request of some in the neighborhoods she represents.

Clark stated that this is not the first time the Commission has dealt with the issue of distribution of materials at meetings. He agreed that the Commission should strive to get materials distributed before the meetings.

There was a robust discussion of the concerns raised by Commissioner Houle with several members participating.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.