

**Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Committee of the Whole
Wednesday February 11, 2015
Crown Roller Mill**

UNAPPROVED Minutes

Commissioners Present: Denis Houle, Jeffrey Strand, Eric Gustafson, Debra Behrens
David Zaffrann (by telephone), **Staff Present:** David Rubedor, Howard Blin **Guests:**
Karen DeYoung, Gary Arntson

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Strand 5:15 PM.

1. Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved, with the addition of Item 2C, Events Policy.

2. Approve Minutes of January 14, 2014 Committee of the Whole Meeting

The Minutes were approved.

2C. Events Policy

Strand noted that the NCR Department had recently issued a communication on use of s funding from the Community Participation Program (CPP) for events or food. He stated that some neighborhood organizations have expressed concern about their inability to use CPP funding for events and food.

Rubedor responded that this is not a new policy. The recent communication merely restates a policy which dates back to NRP funding and is based on previous legal opinions on the use of tax increment funds.

3. Blueprint for Equitable Engagement

Rubedor presented the latest draft of the Blueprint, noting that it is an evolving document. He reviewed the schedule for the project. The Blueprint is also incorporating the Creative Citymaking project which uses art as a means of broadening engagement.

Rubedor also noted that the City recent received a \$900,000 grant from the Bloomberg Foundation which will be used on a three year study of whether the City delivers services in an equitable manner.

Behrens complemented the staff and commissioners who have worked on the Blueprint. It has become a very clear and comprehensive document.

Strand said he appreciates the emphasis on training for neighborhood organizations. He also noted the Blueprint also discusses combining the functions of NRP Policy Board and NCEC, something both bodies have discussed.

Gustafson noted that two goals identified in the NCEC's strategic planning effort are included in the Blueprint. He recommended that adequate time is needed for discussion on by the NCEC before the Blueprint is rolled out. This is a key function of the NCEC.

4. City Council Charge

It was reported that the group working on the directions given by the City Council to the NCR and NCEC on spending down NRP balances and use of TIF funds met briefly the previous week. . It was noted that given the direction to return with recommendations by May 31st, there is not a great deal of time left to develop those recommendations.

5. NCEC Strategic Planning.

Due to the low attendance at the Committee of the Whole meeting, and the limited time left in the meeting, members discussed whether to continue the strategic planning discussion from the January 21st session. It was agreed that the Committee would review the notes from the previous meeting and attempt to recommend the key goals for the entire Commission to consider at the February 24th NCEC meeting.

Karen DeYoung, strategic planning facilitator, presented the notes from the previous session.

The discussion focused on the goals/issues to address identified at the January 21st session. Those goals are listed below. The number of stars is the number of votes each goal received. The names are Commission members who indicated an interest in working on that goal.

Goals/Issues to Address

- **Start neighborhood 2.0 discussion (6 stars)** [Eric, Dennis, Jeff]
- **Develop policy recommendations (6 stars)** [Tessa, Matt, Jeff, Ishmael]
 - Equity
 - TIF
 - Specific Departments

--This goal combined with the Equity in city department goal--

- Strengthen NCEC logistics (2 stars) [Executive Committee]
 - Staff community roles: who's job is what
 - (More transparency)
- Write and use work plan (7 stars)
 - Leads to meetings that are priority based [Ishmael]
- Structural opportunities -> resolved; for example, longer terms (2 stars)
- Design and follow PR plan (2 stars)
- Equity in city department engagement/city wide community engagement (6 stars) [Eric, Doron, Debra]
- Challenging neighborhoods to do more/engage more, especially unrepresented (4 stars) [Kenya]
- Being clearinghouse to unite neighborhoods (2 stars)
- Be a convener for interest groups (e.g. bringing together people who care about certain issues, such as seniors) (2 stars)

Motion by Strand, Seconded by Gustafson to recommend that the four goals highlighted above be those the Commission works on in 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

It was also noted there are existing committees and task forces that are working on some of the goals. These include:

The Neighborhood 2.0 goal should be renamed. This goal may be informed by work on other strategic priorities. Work group may want to hold until progress made on other priorities.

Policy recommendations on equity -----Blueprint workgroup

Policy recommendations on TIF-----Council Charge/Consolidated TIF workgroup

Equity in city departments -----City Department Engagement Task Force

Strengthen NCEC logistics/work plan----Executive committee

It was agreed that these goals would be further developed at the March 11th Committee of the Whole meeting. The groups which are working on each goal are encouraged to meet prior to that meeting. In addition, membership in all of the groups should be opened to new members at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.
Submitted by Howard Blin