



**Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission**  
**Tuesday, March 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes**  
Minneapolis Central Library – Doty Board Room  
300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN

**NCEC member attendees:** Jeffrey Strand, Ishmael Israel, Maleta Kimmons, Denis Houle, Eric Gustafson, Doron Clark, Debra Behrens, Matthew Dobratz and Tessa Wetjen.

**NCEC members Excused:** Kenya McKnight, Francisco Segovia, Kirk Roggensack and David Zaffrann.

**NCEC members Absent:** Carol Pass

**Commission staff:** Howard Blin and Cheyenne Brodeen

**Guests:** Peter Rickmyer, Charlene Zimmer, Alison Sharkey and Maria Lala.

**1. Public Comment.** Peter Rickmyer appeared to speak during public comment. He shared that he would like for the NCEC to form a grievance committee to hear his grievance. He would also like for NCR staff to respond in writing to his grievance by the next NCEC meeting.

**2. Introduction (Action):**

**A.** Chair Israel called the meeting to order at 5:25 PM with a quorum of 9 commissioners present. Commission members gave brief updates of activities in their neighborhoods.

**B. Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of item 6Ab. Neighborhoods 2020. Clark moved to approve the agenda, Strand Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

**3. One Minneapolis Fund – Lake Street Council Project (Informational)**

Alison Sharkey, Executive Director of the Lake Street Council shared that out of the work related to the One Minneapolis Fund grant program they have successfully seated 6 people on City Boards and Commissions. Alison shared further that the Lake Street Council partnered with the Latino Economic Development Council and through this partnership they were able to:

- Create connections between the Lake Street Council and City officials;
- Develop workshops to explain the Boards and Commission process;
- Help people lobby, and;
- Ensure people were prepared to participate meaningfully on Boards and Commissions.

Alison shared that some of the barriers that people in the program found were that the way that City boards operated didn't encourage new participation. Also, because the new applicants weren't familiar with the process there is lots of orientation that is needed. Alison shared that City board staff have been really helpful in helping the new board members be successful.

Additionally, Maria Lala who serves on a Special Service District shared her experience as a new City board member.

Commissioner Comments:

- Wetjen asked what happened to the applicants that weren't successful.
  - Alison shared that some of those seats may have been more competitive with incumbents.
- Clark asked if they've reached out the neighborhood boards through the program.
  - Alison responded that some of the applicant's in the program weren't City residents. They plan to reach out and involve neighborhood organizations next year.
- Strand commented that the City Clerk's Office is planning a city wide board and commission orientation.

**4. Nicollet/Central Street Car Project (Informational)**

Charlene Zimmer with Zan Associates gave a brief overview of the status of the Nicollet/Central Street Car Project. Charlene stated that they have completed an environmental assessment and plan to have documents ready to go out for public comment sometime this summer or fall. Charlene also shared that they plan to do outreach to:

- Small businesses;
- Non-English speaking and low-income residents;
- Neighborhood organizations; and
- And people with disabilities.

Commissioner Comments:

- Houle asked if there is any lobbying at the legislature being done in regards to the rural vs. urban transportation funding discussions.
  - Charlene said that the City is actively working to support a transportation bill that includes funding for the City. Also the City is planning to move forward on the technical work that needs to be done in order to be competitive for federal funding opportunities.
- Clark stated that he is happy to see all the work being done to reach out to underrepresented communities.
- Gustafson asked if we are working with metro transit on advertisements.
  - Charlene said that we were not.
- Kimmons asked if they had planned on doing any outreach to renters.
  - Charlene said that they are currently only working with Neighborhood Organizations at this stage, but do plan to flier apartment buildings.

**5. Executive Committee Reports (Informational and Action):**

**Chair's Report:** Chair Israel reported that the 2015 Community Connections nonConference was held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and had a great turnout. He thanked commissioners for attending and said that many connections were made.

He also reported that the spring appointment process is open; he requested clarification from NCR staff that the current vacancy will be filled through this process. Staff said that the vacant seat would be filled in June with the other appointments.

He also noted that Commissioner Brittany Lewis had resigned so her seat is now vacant.

The committee held a discussion regarding their concerns with the length of time that has passed with a vacancy on the board.

**Motion:** Clark moves that the Executive Committee creates a set of recommendations for vacant appointed seats to be filled in an expedient timeline. Wetjen Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

**Secretary Report:**

**A. Minutes:** Strand moved approval of the February 2015 NCEC Commission Meeting Minutes, Wetjen Seconds the motion. Dobratz, Houle and Zaffrann abstain. Motion Carried.

**B. Attendance Report:** Commissioner Strand shared that commissioners Roggensack, Zaffrann, McKnight and Segovia have excused absences.

**6. Committee Task Force Reports: (Action)**

**A. Committee of the Whole.**

Wetjen will be leading commissioners through a work plan process. The commission discussed the current makeup of their committees and should share any changes they have with Wetjen.

Gustafson would like to commend Wetjen of her leadership through this process.

**B. Neighborhoods 2020.**

Gustafson review the draft framework for Neighborhoods 2020, which is a plan for what happens to neighborhood funding after the year 2020. Commissioners had a discussion regarding some of the language in the draft document. Commissioners wanted to be sure that the document that was shared by Gustafson was only a draft and they had a chance to have their comments and suggestions incorporated into the document.

**Motion:** Clark moves to create a Neighborhoods 2020 task force with the draft charge and outline as presented by Gustafson. The Task Force convener will be Gustafson. Strand Seconds the Motion. Motion Carried.

The Task Force should report back to the April meeting with a charge for the full commission to approve.

**C. One Minneapolis Fund Committee.**

Wetjen reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be open through April 6, 2015. She also reported that they are looking at the evaluation process and at the last Committee meeting had a conflict of interest discussion and recusal discussion. The commission wants to be sure to act above board when reviewing the applications to avoid any conflicts of interests.

**D. City Department Engagement Task Force.**

Clark reported that the Task Force met on March 18<sup>th</sup> and familiarized themselves with the prior Task Force report of June 2012 and had a discussion about how their work will fit into the Blueprint for Equity. He also reported that NCR staff will work to map out how to do good engagement.

**E. Community Innovation Fund Committee.**

Commissioners are needed to join the Committee because of possible conflicts of interest during the review period.

**7. NRP Policy Board Report**

NRP Policy Board Chair Strand reported that the March 17<sup>th</sup> NRP Policy Board meeting was held at the Lake Street Station Apartments. The board elected new officers, Jeffrey Strand as the Chair, Commissioner Annie Young as the Vice Chair and Doron Clark as the Secretary.

The board also approved the Phillips Pool Neighborhood Priority Plan.

**8. NCR Report**

NCR staff followed up on Chair Israel's comments regarding the Community Connections nonConference. Commissioner Roggensack devoted a lot of time to the planning committee. It was an overall successful event, the conference attendees and exhibitors were the most diverse they've ever been. We are looking forward to gathering feedback from the conference evaluations and to begin planning for next year.

**9. New Business**

**A. Commissioner Open Forum**

No comments.

**Adjourn:** Clark moves to adjourn at 6:58pm, Dobratz Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.