

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, June 23, 2015 – Minneapolis Central Library

Meeting attendees: Kirk Roggensack, Jeffrey Strand, Ishmael Israel, Denis Houle, Debra Behrens, Doron Clark, Maleta Kimmons, Francisco Segovia, Carol Pass and Doron Clark.

NCEC members excused: Matthew Dobratz, Eric Gustafson, Tessa Wetjen, David Zaffrann

1. Public Comment

No one appeared to address the Commission.

2. Introductions

Approve Agenda: Chair Israel convened the NCEC meeting at 5:10 pm. Strand proposed moving Agenda Item 5(a), community Innovation Fund Recommendations to immediately after Agenda Item 3 and Moving Agenda Item 7(a) to immediately after the Community Innovation Fund.

Motion: Strand, seconded by Houle to approve the agenda with the changes noted. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ishmael stated that due to another commitment, he had to leave the meeting early. Since this would be the last meeting for Jeffrey Strand, one of the original members of the NCEC, he would be turning the chair over to Commissioner Strand.

3. Community Innovation Fund Recommendations

Blin noted that David Zaffrann, Chair of the Community Innovation Fund Committee, was not able to attend so in Commissioner Zaffrann's place he would present the recommendations. The process the Committee followed was described and the projects recommended for funding were presented.

Roggensack asked about the organizations that neighborhoods were partnering with on the projects. The partners were described. Roggensack also asked if the Park Board could be involved in the project. Blin responded the Park Board will be contacted to discuss their involvement.

Motion by Roggensack, seconded by Houle to recommend to the City Council funding for the Community Innovation Fund those applications and amounts recommended by the Community Innovation Fund Committee.

Motion carried 5-1 with 2 abstentions.

Voting Yes: Roggensack, Strand, Houle, Clark and Behrens.

Voting No: Kimmons

Abstaining: Pass and Segovia.

4. Presentation Recognition of Outgoing Commission Members

City Council member Cam Gordon was present to present plaques of appreciation for service to the Commission to outgoing members who were present at the meeting Jeffrey Strand, Carol Pass and Kirk Roggensack. Also acknowledged for their service on the Commission were members not present, Matthew Dobratz and Kenya McKnight.

NCR Director David Rubedor expressed the appreciation of the staff for the work of the outgoing commissioners.

5. NCR Report

5a) NRP Fund Balance Guidelines

Thompson presented the draft guidelines on NRP fund balances for neighborhood organizations. He noted that development of these guidelines was a direction from the City Council. The guidelines have been out for review by neighborhoods and others for over one month with extensive comments received from neighborhoods. The most common topic is how the guidelines address program income.

Motion Clark, seconded by Roggensack to receive the report with comments as amended.

Clark commented that he appreciates the extenuating circumstances which have prevented some neighborhoods from contracting fund. These circumstances include waiting for the city or county to get a project ready for which a neighborhood has earmarked funds. Many neighborhoods in Phase II plans also identified using program income to continue programs into the future. He does think requiring contracting funds within seven years of plan approval is appropriate. He recommends a process be developed for neighborhoods to appeal decisions on this policy.

Pass stated she agrees that in many cases, program income was intended as an ongoing revenue source.

Houle asked if state statute limited the time period for use of NRP funds. Thompson responded that there was no statutory limit but there is City Ordinance which has some bearing on the length of time funds may be used.

Segovia asked if the guidelines relate to timing of use of the funds or how they are used. Thompson responded that the guidelines are not about when funds are used, but a process of checking in with neighborhoods to ensure that the funding is used effectively.

Segovia added that with the great needs in many communities it would be good to get the funding into projects. Thompson responded that when NRP was started it was assumed that funds would be expended in grants. Instead much of the housing money was put into loan programs which resulted in revolving funds which in some cases generated program income.

Strand noted that at the listening sessions with neighborhood organizations it was presented that written notice of noncompliance with the guidelines would be provided to neighborhoods if possible. From a due process perspective, it should be more definite with all neighborhoods receiving written notice.

Strand also suggested that any funding to be reallocated under the guidelines could be used for the One Minneapolis Fund or the Community Innovation Fund.

Pass stated that more clarity is needed on what happens to money that is taken back from neighbors.

Motion by Behrens, seconded by Clark to amend the motion to refer the guidelines to the NRP Policy board on June 30th.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

5b) NCEC Orientation

Blin reported that an orientation session for new members would be held on July 13th. All current members are invited to attend.

Blin also reported on the results of the NCEC District Elections held on June 18th

6. Committee Reports

City Department Engagement Task Force

Commissioner Clark, Chair of the Task Force presented an amended charge for the group. It renames the task force to a committee; opens the committee to up to seven non-NCEC members from residents, City Council or Mayor's staff, or NRP Policy Board members; and extends the timeline for the committee until June 30, 2016.

Behrens asked if since the membership is being opened to outside members, does the Chair need to be a NCEC member. Clark and Strand responded that the bylaws required committees be chaired by an NCEC member.

Pass asked if the committee will hear issues raised by neighborhoods? Clark responded yes it would consider such issues.

Motion by Strand, seconded by Houle to approve the amended charge for the committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

Clark also presented an interim report from the Committee which describes the work of the committee.

Motion by Clark, seconded by Behrens to receive and file the interim report of the committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

Neighborhoods 2020

Strand reported that the task force will next meet on June 25th at 5:30 PM at the NCR Office.

Strand also suggested that a policy be adopted to create a more standardized for adding non Commission members to the committee.

7. New Business

Clark noted that the July meeting includes election of officers and this should be pointed out at the orientation.

Roggensack said as this is his last meeting he wanted to say that it has been an honor to work with everyone. Commissioners work very hard.

He had a few suggestions for the Commission moving forward. An exit interview should be conducted for all outgoing members. Commissioners should address each other more formally, using the title Commissioner. This gives a better impression of Commission meetings. He suggested that the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement should have been adopted by the Mayor and City Council first. That would be an indication that the City was getting its own house in order before asking for changes in neighborhoods. The best part of the job was working on the Community Connections Conference. He wished the Commission well in its future activities.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM