

# Meeting Minutes

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## Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, November 24, 2015 – Minneapolis Central Library

**Meeting attendees:** Raya Esmaeili, Braulio Carrasco, David Zaffrann, Jeanne Montrese, Nick Cichowicz, David Boyd, Dennis Houle, Queen Kimmons, Tessa Wetjen, Antione Martinneau, Debra Behrens, Eric Gustafson, Francisco Segovia, Doron Clark, Ishmael Israel and Nasser Mussa.

### 1. Public Comment

No members of the public were present to speak during this allotted time period.

### 2. Introductions

**Call to order:** Chair Israel called the regularly scheduled November 24, 2015 meeting to order at 5:12p.m.

#### **Approve Agenda:**

**Motion:** Wetjen moves, seconded by Carrasco, to move agenda item 5a to 3 and move the Chair's report to agenda item 4 and suspend the majority of the agenda to have a discussion regarding the recent events involving the relations between the community and Police Department. Motion carried unanimously.

### 3. One Minneapolis Fund

Commissioner Wetjen reviewed the changes to the 2016 One Minneapolis Fund Request for Proposals. Next year the committee will look to favor smaller organizations, if possible and keep the emphasis on leadership development and community engagement.

**Motion:** Wetjen moves, seconded by Boyd to approve the 2016 One Minneapolis Fund Request for Proposals. Motion carried unanimously.

### 4. Chair's Report

**Motion:** Wetjen moves, seconded by Esmaeili to table items 3b, 4, 6 and 7 to the January 2016 NCEC meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Israel shared that currently the City is in a state of unrest due to the events on November 15<sup>th</sup> that lead to the death of Jamar Clark. A moment of silence was held.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department at 612-673-3737. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadio aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

Chair Israel shared a Resolution that was written by members of the Commission that they would like to approve:

RESOLUTION (Draft) by the Minneapolis NCEC – 11/24/15

Whereas the Minneapolis community and its allies around the country and around the world remain in anguish and in solidarity around the tragic death of Jamar Clark;

Whereas Mr. Clark’s family, community, allies, and elected leaders continue to press Minneapolis Police and City government for greater information, transparency, dialogue, and cooperation;

Whereas the ongoing dialogue between Mr. Clark’s family, community, allies, and the City has been characterized by a significant degree of tension and mistrust;

Whereas the recent tensions in dialogue reflect in part the historic and significant exclusion and mistreatment of African American people by society and by government policy and practices;

Whereas the City of Minneapolis has adopted goals to empower residents as valued partners with City government, along with goals to embrace diversity and to reduce or eliminate gaps in outcomes for Minneapolis residents that fall along lines of race and income;

Whereas the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission’s adopted Mission is to **engage and advocate for the community in its deliberations with the City departments, City Council, and Mayor;**

Whereas the adopted Vision for the Commission is a City and **community engagement process that increases inclusiveness, empowerment and greater opportunities for participation by all Minneapolis community members;**

Whereas the Commission, in adopting its 2015-2016 Strategic Plan, explicitly noted that this vision does not represent the needs of all the city’s residents, particularly African Americans;

Whereas the Commission’s stated role includes striving to **better integrate the voice** of all Minneapolis residents into City government processes;

Whereas the Commission’s stated role includes the **cultivation of relationships** and to serve as liaisons between the City government and the community;

Whereas the Commission’s stated role includes **building civic capacity** of historically excluded, marginalized, and underrepresented groups, and to increase their participation in the civic governance of the city;

Whereas the Commission’s stated role includes **giving voice** to promote broader engagement, to increase inclusion, and to remove barriers to participation by fostering a sense of community and helping all residents address specific concerns via the Commission;

**Now, therefore, let it be resolved, that the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission shall use its televised December meeting to facilitate a community dialogue, consistent with the**

**Commission roles, Mission, and Vision stated above. The NCEC to host the dialogue in north Minneapolis.**

Furthermore, the NCEC urges the City of Minneapolis and its elected leadership to partner on this important meeting.

**Motion:** Gustafson moves, seconded by Boyd approval of the resolution. Houle and Behrens abstain. Motion carried.

**Comments:**

- Cichowicz commented that this is a broader discussion than the death of Mr. Clark.
- Houle stated that he had some frustrations over the process in which this resolution was created and how it was presented to the commission. He thought that commissioners were going to have a discussion and be able to give input on language.

**Motion:** Israel moves, seconded by Montrese to send the Mayor and City Council a letter with a unified position from the commission on this issue. Motion carried.

**Comments:**

- Segovia suggested postponing the conversation to January. The content of the letter is important. A draft of the letter should be brought to the January meeting for discussion and approval by the commission.
- Carrasco expressed frustration with the City and questioned what the point was of sitting at this meeting and what the role of the commission was. How can the NCEC make an impact on these serious community issues?
- Cichowicz expressed support for taking the time to get the language in the letter right.
- Zaffrann feels that it's important that the commission work to address issues in which the commission can make a difference on.
- Mussa said that the community is dealing with historical pain and that's not something that can be addressed with a letter or one community dialogue. However, he would not be opposed to sending a letter to the Mayor and City Council.
- Montrese stated that the commission should look for ways to get ahead of the ball, rather than just reacting.

**Adjournment:** Cichowicz moves, Kimmons seconds, to adjourn at 6:00p.m. Motion carried.