

# Meeting Minutes

---

## Committee of the Whole February 17, 2016 at Crown Roller Mill

**Meeting attendees:** Francisco Segovia, Denis Houle, Ishmael Israel, Debra Behrens, Nicholas Chichowicz, David Zaffrann, Nasser Mussa, Antoine Martinneau, David Boyd, Maleta Kimmons

**Others Present:** Howard Blin, NCR Staff

Chair Israel opened the meeting at 5:10 PM.

### Agenda Item 1 - Agenda

The agenda was approved.

### Agenda Item 2/3 – Review Comments from December 10, 2015 Public Forum

The Committee reviewed the comments included in the meeting notes from the December 10<sup>th</sup> forum held at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center (UROC). It was determined that the comments would be placed on a matrix based on the following four factors:

- Items that are relatively easy to accomplish.
- Items that are difficult to accomplish
- Items that are within the scope of the NCEC's purpose.
- Items that are outside the scope of the NCEC's purpose.

Members discussed each comment on the list and categorized them as follows:

#### **Within the Scope/Easy to Accomplish**

- Use City structures to support training young men to become leaders. Bring Police and City Officials into these community groups.
- Zoning – include neighborhood/community right to review community planning-plans (CPED). Administrative review. (It was further determined that this topic should be addressed by the NCEC's City Department Engagement Committee.

*The following topics related to City communications were determined to be interrelated and requiring more discussion as to how the NCEC should address them:*

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 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

- Where are structures or consistent opportunities for open comments from public.
- Use systems in place, already owned by the City, to bring together all the communication. Such as Minneapolis Public Schools, neighborhood organizations block clubs, etc.
- Figure out ways to map out and make it clearer how people can access the decision making.
- Develop clear ways to have an “open” or “community” meeting standards. How are they communicated, when is it held?
- Find ways to put “community members” into all planning from the beginning.
- Figure out a way to make individuals feel more welcome or connected with the City.

### **Within the Scope/More Difficult to Accomplish**

- Bias training or specific research activities to help people understand impact of own bias. (It was discussed that this could become part of the Community Participation Program guidelines).
- Get the children more involved through after-school programs in working with schools regarding civic engagement. (It was discussed that this could be accomplished through the One Minneapolis Fund and other programs).

*The following seven comments related to the manner in which the City engages with residents were determined to need further work by the NCEC City Department Engagement Committee:*

- All departments and commissions should be working together, before they try to bring the community to meetings. Get the right players in the room.
- Go back to basics and figure out what interests people. Translate the communication so that residents can relate. Use plain language.
- Hold scheduled meetings with the community (e.g. quarterly), communicate in advance.
- Reach out to the community before a tragic event happens. Too many emotions at work after something happens.
- NCEC members should be better known to the community.
- NCEC should stand up for the section of the community who do not feel welcome or heard by the rest.
- Have the commission meetings broadcast at better times.

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.

- Council Members need more preparation to understand and work with community.
- Change process to get City contracts – shouldn't have to do with City Council but should be clear and supported with in procurement office. Not reliant on "who you know".
- Assess department/City level budgets to understand breakdown of spending. Evaluate if communities equally benefit/Return on investment.

#### **Out of Scope/Difficult to Accomplish**

- Look at the City's 10 year Comprehensive Plan and see [if there is a role for the NCEC in] how affordable housing can be addressed.
- Staff designated to support business owners of color do not have enough knowledge or experience to be helpful. Especially in business support. (Determined to be a topic for CPED to address)
- Restorative Justice/reconciliation process.
- Find structures or ways to fund neighborhood and community efforts to revitalize itself. Put an emphasis on Plymouth Avenue revitalization.

#### **Items for the Parking Lot – To be Discussed Later**

- Resources, partnerships and translators to support "Know your rights" program.
- Take a look at what worked well and what didn't in the past. (What is going on my street).

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Discussion on How the Commission Does Future Community Outreach**

The Committee began discussion on this item and determined that further discussion should occur at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> NCEC meeting. Questions raised by the Committee included:

- A question was asked whether public forums should be held as part of regular meetings or held as part of special meetings.
- How often should the Commission hold forums such as that held at UROC in December? What format should these take?
- Should they be held throughout the city or only in areas with more pressing issues?
- Forums should address specific questions posed in advance.

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 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

- Perhaps three or four times per year the NCEC meeting could be held as a public forum. Or the Committee of the Whole could be used.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Submitted by Howard Blin

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 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.