

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, February 23, 2016 – Minneapolis Central Library

Meeting attendees: Braulio Carrasco, Denis Houle, David Boyd, Raya Esmaili, Nick Cichowicz, Ishmael Israel, Eric Gustafson, Queen Kimmons, Antione Martinneau, Nasser Mussa, Tessa Wetjen and David Zaffrann.

NCEC members excused: Jeanne Montrese and Francisco Segovia.

NCEC members absent: Debra Behrens and Doron Clark.

1. Public Comment

No one appeared to address the Commission.

2. Introductions

Call to order: Chair Ishmael Israel called the January meeting of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission to order at 5:15p.m.

Approve Agenda:

Motion: Carrasco moves, seconded by Zaffrann, to approve the agenda with the addition of Item 3c, Orientation Task Force Report. Motion carried unanimously.

3. One Minneapolis Fund Presentation – Twin Cities Media Alliance

Bruce Johansen of Twin Cities Media Alliance described the Newsroom Café project funded by the One Minneapolis Fund. The project provided tools to North Minneapolis residents to provide a broader and more balanced view of their community than is typically presented in the media.

Commission members asked about the challenges faced. Johansen responded that a major challenge was that the Media Alliance was in a state of flux during the project and getting contributions from participants.

3. Executive Committee Reports

3b. Secretary's Report

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

Minutes

Motion: Zaffrann presented the January minutes. Motion by Wetjen, seconded by Esmaeili to approve the minutes with corrections to the spelling of Commissioners Houle's name and correction to Commissioner Esmaeili's statement on page three. Approved unanimously.

Attendance Report

Zaffrann reported that 12 members are present. Commissioners Montrese and Segovia are excused.

3c. Orientation Task Force Report

Cichowicz reported that the group consisting of Commissioners Esmaeili, Boyd and himself met on February 11th. He passed out notes of that meeting that summarize the groups brainstorming session on possible improvements to the orientation process. The group believes the orientation process is the critical element of onboarding new commissioners. Orientation may be expanded to become a longer retreat like format.

Esmaeili emphasized that the suggestions are a starting point and will need to be thought through and expanded upon. They also found that the Orientation manual is useful and the Task Force suggestions would be in addition to the manual.

Boyd noted that the three commissioners on the Task Force are new to the NCEC and their experience in joining the Commission are reflected in the suggestions.

Cichowicz stated that they also discussed that some of the tools may be delivered differently to appointed and elected members. He also suggested that members would have to coordinate with staff on the orientation.

Wetjen asked if there could be a single, overall orientation for all new groups of commissioners. Blin responded that a general orientation has been offered since last year.

Carrasco asked if training could be offered to the Commission from the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). Blin responded that we would look into opportunities for training.

Zaffrann suggested that the next step would be for a few commissioners to work with staff to detail this. He agreed to continue to work on this with the three current members.

5. Neighborhoods

5a. Update on Neighborhoods 2020 Committee.

Chair Israel acknowledged the presence of former commissioner Jeffrey Stand who sits on the Neighborhoods 2020 Committee. He was invited to join the Commission at the table.

Gustafson first updated the Commission on the roster of Committee members. He thanked Jenifer Arnold and Mohamed Mohamed for their work on the Commission. Both have had to recently step down. He also wished to add Scott Engel of CARAG and Commissioner Cichowicz the Committee.

Motion by Gustafson, Seconded Wetjen to approve the current roster of members of the Neighborhood Current members include Eric Gustafson and Shauen Pearce as co-chairs, Commissioners Israel, Esmaeili, Houle, Martinneau, Boyd, Cichowicz, and Jeffrey Strand and Scott Engel. Motion carried unanimously.

Gustafson then provided some background on the purpose of the committee. These include a mixed legacy of inclusion in the current neighborhood system, an established neighborhood structure which provides an

opportunity for leadership development, especially for people of color, and the fact that the current City funding for neighborhoods will end in 2020. This last fact will require a more inclusive neighborhood system to make the strongest case for funding beyond 2020.

He summarized the engagement performed by the Committee which included a survey and focus groups.

[Recommendations](#) were presented from the Committee.

Gustafson expanded on the first recommendation. The City would be asked conduct a customer satisfaction survey of neighborhoods and to publish the findings of such a survey and respond by putting in place training provided by the best providers. It would not require more money, but to spend existing resources differently. This would include utilizing third party resources. It would result in a more customer focused system with the resources offered defined by the neighborhoods.

Zaffrann thanked the committee for the work and agrees with the analysis presented by the Committee. He did suggest not calling neighborhood organizations customers as they are not customers. Rather, the Community Participation Program establishes a two way relationship between the City and neighborhood organizations.

Wetjen asked if a response was necessary from the NCR Department on the level of service provided to neighborhoods. Boyd responded that the Committee discussed the need for neighborhood organizations to have a better understanding of services the City offers. It's also important to inform the neighborhood board members of the services offered.

Ishmael stated that the neighborhood programs are a partnership between the City and the neighborhood organizations. A statement should be included about the value added by neighborhood organizations and the need to communicate the services the City offers.

Gustafson noted that these recommendations are the first part of the Committees work. The second part is to review the proposed revisions to the CPP guidelines which will be reviewed at a later date. These recommendations on the CPP will supplement the action today.

Gary Arntesen of the Waite Park Neighborhood Board addressed the Commission expressed concern about the lack of notification the meetings, limited review by the neighborhoods and confusion about the meeting dates and times.

Gustafson responded that the recommendations had been thoroughly reviewed by neighborhoods.

Motion by Gustafson, Seconded by Wetjen for the NCEC to adopt the recommendations of the Neighborhoods 2020 Committee for submittal to the City Council Health Environment and Community Engagement Organizations and to eliminate the work "customer" from the recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Community Engagement

6a. City Department Engagement Committee Update

The Commission discussed the status of the Committee and the need to reconvene the group.

Motion Israel, Seconded by Carrasco to reconvene the City Department Engagement Committee with Cichowicz as the convener. Motion carried unanimously.

Kimmons also expressed interest in working on the Committee.

6b. Community Connections Conference

Cichowicz provided an update on the conference. He noted that the planning committee is looking for more involvement from the NCEC. There will be more details on how to be involved during the next month. There will be opportunities for commissioners to present on how to become active in neighborhood organizations. Please contact him if you are interested.

6c. Follow-up From February 17 Committee of the Whole

Israel described the process used to categorize comments heard at the December forum held at UROC. Items were aligned on the basis of ease or difficulty in implementing and whether it was part of the scope of the NCEC's work or not part of that scope. Items that were deemed important, but not in the scope of the NCEC would be referred elsewhere.

Wetjen explained that in the past policy discussions, it was determined that commissioners would volunteer to take on certain items. She volunteered to take on the item shown on page 2 of the Committee minutes: "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." If anyone wished to join her, please let her know.

Motion by Wetjen, second by Cichowicz to assign the work on the item: "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." to a Task Force convened by Wetjen. Motion approved unanimously.

Martinneau and Kimmons agreed to serve on the Task Force.

Zaffrann stated that as he stated at the Committee meeting he thought the best way to proceed was to look at what NCEC committee these items fell under and let those committee to work on them.

Israel stated the discussion on the agenda item from the Committee meeting titled "Discussion on How the Commission does Future Community Outreach" was continued until this meeting.

Zaffrann noted that the last items on the list: "Perhaps three or four times per year the NCEC meeting could be held as a public forum". He agreed with this approach and recommended each of these forums should have a theme.

Carrasco stated that the December forum was successful. One factor in that success was the use of Facebook to notify people of the meeting. We should look at communications strategies, particularly the use of social media.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee would work with staff to look at communication strategies.

Cichowicz stated the main question coming out of the Committee meeting was how to do outreach.

Wetjen stated three or four such forums per year are the right number. She thinks that each forum should be followed by a second meeting should be held in the same location to inform people of what the Commission heard and what steps will be taken to address their comments.

Israel suggested that to accommodate the forums, the regular agenda would have to be retooled. In addition, forums would have to be on topical items to gain interest from the public.

Esmaeili stated that to return to the same place would take too long to get to various areas of the city.

Discussion on this item was continued to the March 9th Committee of the Whole.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.