

# Meeting Minutes

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## Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – Minneapolis Central Library

**Meeting attendees:** Ishmael Israel, Francisco Segovia, David Zaffrann, David Boyd, Raya Esmaeili, Nick Cichowicz, Queen Kimmons, Doron Clark, Denis Houle, Antoine Martinneau, Eric Gustafson, Nasser Mussa and Tessa Wetjen.

**NCEC members excused:** Jeanne Montrese, Brauillo Carrasco, and Debra Behrens

**Staff Present:** Robert Thompson and Howard Blin, Neighborhood and Community Relations; Beth Elliot, Jack Byers and Mei-Ling Smith of Community Planning and Economic Development

### 1. Introductions

**Call to order:** Israel called the March meeting of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission to order at 5:09p.m. Commissioners introduced themselves and made the following announcements:

- Houle announced that the Armatage Neighborhood would be holding an open House at Café Maude on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.
- Cichowicz announced that the Downtown neighborhood has an opening for a board member and are currently taking applications. He also wished to note the passing of Dominick Brama a long-time Bryn Mawr resident who died the previous Sunday at 92 years old. Mr. Brama was a phenomenal neighborhood member who also umpired baseball in Minneapolis for over 50 years. He was a man who was very committed to helping others.
- Wetjen announced the annual May Day Parade would be held in the Powderhorn Neighborhood on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Israel noted the passing of Prince and announced that a block party to honor Prince would be held at the Sabathani Center on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Gustafson announced that the Midtown Farmers Market will open on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

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.

- Segovia announced the Cinco de Mayo Festival will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Lake Street and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. During that event there will be an opportunity to donate for earthquake relief in Ecuador.

### 1b Agenda Approval:

**Motion:** The agenda was approved unanimously.

## 2. Presentation by Midtown Phillips

Blin explained that members of the Midtown Phillips community were present to discuss two activities in the area, the New Americans Youth Soccer Club and the KALY Somali language radio station.

Abdul Hohamedon presented a video showing the activities of the soccer club which is designed to provide sports and mentorship to children whose families are recent immigrants to America. The club allows all kids to participate by supplying equipment to those unable to afford it.

Mohamed Kali described the KALY station which is at FM 101.7. It is a low power station that started in late 2015 with a signal that reaches the Phillips and Cedar Riverside neighborhoods in addition to some areas beyond those neighborhoods. Part of the startup costs were funded by a Community Innovation Fund grant from the City which was recommended for approval by the NCEC. The radio station provides a link to news and entertainment for many residents who speak Somali. He is the former vice-chair of the Midtown Phillips neighborhood and the neighborhood organization was instrumental to getting the station on the air. The station is a vehicle for neighborhood announcements and building relations between the police and the community.

Commission members asked:

- Are there were other Somali radio stations in the county? This is the first and the station is exploring streaming options.
- What are the topics covered? Education on American culture, particularly aimed at parents and youth to ease the integration of Somali families.
- How many people work at the station? There are 10 staffers, eight volunteers and two part-time employees. They hope to expand that with funding from additional neighborhoods.

## 3. Public Comments

Jeffrey Strand, Chair of the Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee and former member of the NCEC, described the public participation process to be followed by the Committee this year in developing the Capital Improvements Plan. To broaden outreach the Committee will be holding two comment sessions in addition to the formal public hearing to be held with the Planning Commission.

## 4. Executive Committee Reports

### 4a. Chair's Report

Israel reported that Commissioners Zaffrann, Kimmons, Gustafson and himself met with Councilmember Gordon, who Chairs the HECE Committee, and discussed the CPP Guidelines, boundaries of NCEC Districts, possible changes to NCEC terms, the election process and potentially changing the composition of NCEC elected and appointed members.

Israel stated that the NCR Department will be distributing an RFP for the video recording of NCEC meetings which will include live streaming of meetings and links to social media sites.

Israel encouraged the members who are part of the City Department Engagement Committee to respond to meeting invitations to schedule the next meeting of the Committee.

Israel asked Wetjen to report on the upcoming community forums planned by the NCEC. Wetjen reported that the next forum will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the date of the next scheduled meeting of the NCEC Committee of the whole. Commissioner Kimmons will be leading discussions on the topic, format and how to respond to comments received.

Chihowicz asked about commissioner participation in the June 16<sup>th</sup> NCEC election process. Blin responded that it would be helpful to have any many commissioners as possible participate.

### 4b. Secretary's Report - February minutes

Motion by Esmaili to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Boyd. Motion carries unanimously.

Esmaili reported on the work of the Orientation Task Force. The group prioritized the recommendations for the orientation. The first item includes the materials to be provided in the orientation packet. It also recommends that some items be included in the Policies and Procedures manual. The NCEC group norms were also drafted with an opportunity for other Commission members to provide comments. An exit interview process was also developed.

### 4c. Strategic Plan Update

Wetjen briefly reviewed the written progress report provided on the Strategic Plan, noting that the plan is a one to two year document which should be updated in the next year.

## 5. Neighborhoods

### 5a. Community Participation Program (CPP) Guidelines Revisions

Gustafson and Martinneau reported on the work of the Neighborhoods 2020 Committee on the guidelines. These include the comments on the CPP Guidelines and a document titled *NCEC Recommendations to the City of Minneapolis* was adopted by the Commission on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. That document and the comments on the CPP Guidelines are what the Committee is presenting to the Commission for approval by the NCEC as its recommendations on the CPP Guidelines.

Motion by Wetjen, seconded by Cichowicz to adopt the comments on the CPP Guidelines submitted by the Neighborhoods 2020 Guidelines.

Motion by Wetjen, seconded by Houle to amend the motion to add “communities of color” and “Native Americans” in Section 1(A)(3). The Motion to amend carried unanimously

The amended motion carried unanimously.

## 6. Community Engagement

### 6b. One Minneapolis Fund Update

Blin noted that 46 applications were received and the One Minneapolis Fund Committee will begin their review this week.

### 6a. Comprehensive Plan

Beth Elliot, Jack Byers and Mei-Ling Smith of Community Planning and Economic Development Department presented the Civic Engagement Plan for the upcoming update of the City’s Comprehensive Plan. The plan is updated every 10 years and is eventually submitted to the Metropolitan Council. Byers explained that the aim is to make the plan update interesting and accessible to residents. As part of that effort there is a goal to use plain English in the plan. Elliot stated that both the plan and the engagement will be conducted by City staff. She described the engagement plan which will be more robust than used ten years ago, the first step of which was begun at the Community Connections Conference in March. Civic engagement on the plan is a challenge given the breath of the plan.

Elliot and Smith noted that the engagement goals include performing outreach to groups who are traditionally under engaged and engaging future city leaders. A key approach is to show people how their voices were heard and how it affected the plan. One of the tools to be used is a “meeting in a box” concept which allows residents to conduct their own meetings on the plan.

Commission comments and questions on the engagement plan included:

- Wetjen suggested using the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement and encouraged the use of plain language. Also it was suggested to use non-City partners to help with the outreach.
- Segovia appreciates the effort put into the plan. He suggested using the term “people who speak other languages” rather than “limited English proficiency”
- Gustafson asked how neighborhoods will be involved. Elliot described the variety of outreach techniques that will be employed with neighborhoods. He also encouraged distributing the neighborhoods in a box concept to the neighborhoods.
- Zaffran asked what are the measures to determine if the appropriate level of feedback is being obtained, particularly from underrepresented groups. Elliot responded that in addition to trying to reach key audiences, an emphasis will be on the quality of feedback.
- Esmaili stated that the plan shows a high quality outreach effort. She asked how audiences outside of Minneapolis will be reached. Elliot responded that businesses, tourists and visitors will be contacted.

- Houle asked if all six topic areas will be the subject of meetings. Elliot stated that they would. Houle also suggested that it be clearly shown to residents that the answers to these questions are not known ahead of time.
- Cichowicz stated that document could be a model for future engagement on major City policy matters beyond the Comprehensive Plan. He also suggested leveraging the efforts of the NCEC in this process.
- Boyd suggested that the engagement plan should eventually be distributed to the neighborhood organizations. Byers responded that once the City Council asked on the plan, it would be distributed.

## 7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.