

NRP Policy Board Minutes April 9, 2019

Commissioners present: Jeffrey Strand, Peter Eichten, Marcea Mariani, City Council Member Kevin Reich, and Queen Kimmons

Guests present: Eric (NLN) and Katie (NLN) from North Central University, and Kayle Brown (Whittier Alliance)

NCR Staff: Aria Fine (Neighborhood Support Specialist) and Steven Gallagher (Policy Specialist)

1. Public Comment: No public comment – introductions of members and guests.
2. Approve Agenda: Motion made by Strand /Eichten passed unanimously
3. Election of Officers: Marcia Mariani elected by acclamation and unanimously accepted  
Vice Chair: Jeff Strand elected by acclamation and unanimously accepted  
Secretary: Queen Kimmons elected by acclamation and unanimously accepted
4. Approval of Policy Board Minutes from January 15, 2019. Motion by Strand/Eichten. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Whittier Alliance presented their strategic planning process which started in 2017. In 2018, the organization conducted five engagement processes (renters, homeowners, social service providers, business and non-profit organizations, cultural community groups). This process led to different previously non-engaged residents participated.

Strategic Priorities identified for 2019-2024 are: Community Engagement, Housing, Organizational Sustainability and Businesses, Institutions and other Orgs. These new priorities lead to a NRP Plan modification.

A proposed plan modification in the amount of \$1,642,061.97 was presented to the Policy Board. These program funds have previously been in contracted strategies which were underutilized or non- performing.

Moved for approval by Reich/Strand. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion: Policy members asked the neighborhood organization to ensure that housing programs are for people making 30% of the area medium income. Whittier Alliance's executive director indicated the intended purpose of the funds were for this purpose.

The members of the Policy Board credited Whittier Alliance for its in-depth engagement strategy, strategic planning processes and coordination of their plan modification.

6. Cedar Riverside NRP update: NCR neighborhood specialist, Aria Fine, presented to the policy board an update on the status of Cedar Riverside NRP neighborhood. The NRP Policy Board's

last update took place in February 2018. The neighborhood organization is currently the recognized neighborhood organization for the area.

In December 2018, the neighborhood held an election for their board of directors. The organization is now established as their own 501©3 and have an executive director. The organization received an advance to start their operations (like other organizations) through Community Participation Program funds.

Many staff of NCR helped to get this neighborhood more established. The NCR East African Specialist and Neighborhood Specialist worked many hours to ensure success.

Member Mariani asked if the meetings in Cedar Riverside would be in English, as she thought, having the meeting in Somalia hinders turnout. NSS Fine assured Commissioner Mariani that the meeting will have interpretation available for those who speak a different language then the meeting is being conducted.

7. NCR's Gallagher spoke about a proposed change to the plan modification policy. The current policy allows the NCR director to approve any plan modifications without presenting to the policy board. Initial staff recommendations to the policy change were to request any plan modification in excess of \$250,000 go to the NRP Policy Board for approval.

Through discussion, and a modification by Commissioner Strand, the policy board recommends plan modification(s) changes over \$100,000 be presented to the policy board for approval. Strand/Mariani motioned and passed unanimously.

A change of this magnitude must be given a 45-day public comment period. NCR will start this process after Neighborhoods 2020 is discussed at City Council as to not inundate stakeholders with processes and decisions.

8. Neighborhoods 2020 update: Staff updated the timeline for the process going forward.

Commissioner Strand identified that the NRP Policy Board did not have a chance to comment officially on the Neighborhoods 2020 framework. A short discussion took place on the previous discussions within the policy board.

The NRP Policy Board reiterated their desire to be a separate entity. The policy board adopted to resubmit the previous statement. This was unanimously approved.

9. Reauthorization of TIF district update: City and state legislative leaders have opted to delay requesting an extension of TIF funding during this fiscal year. Council Member Reich discussed how the extension of a TIF district would not reduce the expected tax levy significantly and more research should be conducted.

10. Meeting adjourned 6:14pm

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