

**Community Engagement Meeting  
Comments  
From Comment Cards**

**Question: What can the City do to help you (and your community) better participate in decisions? What is working now? What needs to change?**

**February 5: Mill City**

- 1. The City can keep open doors and open resources to respond to and support citizen and neighborhood group initiatives. Input on decisions is a reactive activity. Citizens need empowerment to initiate ideas and action. Programs like NRP provide tools and possibilities for empowerment.**
- 2. What can the City do to help you and your community better participate in decisions? Empower, don't "engage" me – too patronizing. What is working now? NRP has led to countless MAJOR n'hd successes: Whittier School, eat street; Bottineau library; tot lots; home improvements – the City is so much better off for it.**
- 3. City needs to tell neighborhoods about goals NRP town meetings work in my neighborhood elected officials need to state their goals & projects to neighborhoods.**
- 4. Quit wasting our time on these "Community engagement" mtg – this is what - Round V. Build on what we have & applaud the good work of neighborhoods.**
- 5. Summit of past elected's on burning issues – Civic model on larger basis? – Reduce # of standing advisory bodies - ?Has more CE coincided w/rapid decline in Q/L. Why? ?What became of NRP report of 2000? ?Where is LEADERSHIP in this? ?City on-line report card? ?Citywide mtgs (by ward) on budget etc.**
- 6. Engage vs. inform – Use NRP philosophy to support & uphold & implement grass room efforts in creating a "sense of place" to name a few > In Loring Park - three Neighborhood Organization we have: "Eat Street", Nicollet Streetscape, Loring Park, Housing Corridor – Nicollet Loring Hill Dev. Guidelines Prosecution of misdemeanor Restorative Justice Crime**
- 7. 1) What can the City do to help you and your community better participate in decisions? Staff, Fund, Support Neighborhood Groups. 2) What is working now? Council member interacts w/NG. 3) What needs to change? Funding should reflect responsibility. Criteria for funding neighborhood groups based primarily on housing stock unfair to neighborhoods with needs caused by multicultural concerns & poverty.**
- 8. It appears that the city is just going thru the motions of neighborhood organization input, and I question the city's ongoing method of including and valuing a collaborative effort with neighborhood orgs. In creating a CE Plan.**

- 9. Without undermining value & authority of Neighborhood Associations, make efforts to engage individuals. Facilitate inter-neighborhood dialogue. So many are facing similar issues & city – encouragement of collaboration could be efficient. MORE, BETTER INFORMATION. Not overload, not redundant – but concise, clear, accurate info on pending issues & the potential consequences that various solutions could cause.**
- 10. What needs to Change? More education & outreach around elections – fast & effective implementation of IRN.**