

North Regional Library Community Engagement Discussion

(2/1/07)

Comment

I. What can the City do to help you & the community participate in decisions?

Not sure how individuals participate now.

Block club leaders / don't know each other, crisis brings together

Newspaper articles

City emails

Support for citizen patrols

Who at the city is the decision maker?

Where is the chain of command for getting info to neighborhood

As resident feels meetings are chaotic no structure over long period of time.

I. City needs to communicate meetings/decisions better to neighborhoods

City needs to state purpose for mtg.

More people in neighborhood need to be communicated with.

Community websites/blogs.

Not everyone on-line.

Need city at block club crisis meetings and on the citizen's schedules

Other depts. not communicating with each other.

Block clubs need assistance.

Strengthen blocks, give funding for funding micro businesses

Organize around other things besides only crime.

I. Block Club leaders, who give permission would like their names listed online.

Community newsletters need info from city.

Bridge gaps between, youth, ethnicities, online use, poverty issues

Need more info about City's Budget and where the dollars are going, and the resources are!

Joint meetings with other block clubs

City is selective about what they hear from residents - they create the agenda.

City mtgs too formal - take too long!

One-way communication at podium -

Process - Communicate - results

II. What is working Now?

Crime rate is going up

311 is working / (is a waste of \$ & time)

NRP coming to McKinley mtgs.

CCPSAFE - Harrison - Tim Hammett

Police advisory Cmte.

NRP funding for neighborhood associations and is empowering.

City is interested in Econ. Dev. In North MPLS.

III. What needs to change -

639 Foreclosures Near North/ hsg

City must respond to 911 calls
Standing cmtes of city hall -
Some mtgs in communities
More pkg

Top 3

- 1) Block Clubs to cultivate community engagers
- 2) Money for home loans at reasonable rates
- 3) Crime - respond to 911 calls

[Why are we repeating history with this process. (4)

Do we remember lessons learned

Find the green dream book and have City Council members read it.] (special emphasis)

Communications that don't just go through the neighborhood Associations / low tech (4)

Funding for communications and to have a "seat at the table" (5)

[Find out why Park Board did not participate in C.E. Report](special emphasis)

Use the Mayor's website as e-mail system

Neighborhoods should be part of planning not just a rubber stamp.

Hearings & Boards, Commissions Mtgs - different times after 4 p.m. (5)

More "authority" to N.A. (1)

City website of issues organized by neighborhood (over lay with NRP website) (7)

Good Community Engagement involved in determining the C.E. Plan (3)

[Diversity By Language] (special emphasis)

E-mail/Blog method of posting (4)

input/views, on issues ___ ___ acknowledgement, from people who can't make meetings

Empowerment + C.E. + \$ (9)

Recognize the added value of N.A. Actions/Initiatives

NRP gives the residents voice (5)

City advisory/boards are not user friendly

Create motivation & value to participate by integrating city info into current neighborhood activities.

Plus, have city staff & officials attend.

Condense info into topic abstract & timeline.

Inform Early! & Often!

Create in the resident a value of participation as officials being good & effective

Early engagement / on-going participation

Infrastructure to support engagement

- Childcare
- Interpreters
- Evening meetings
- Communication variety

More direct engagement w/community from city departments /employees -

Early! & Often!! Notification (i.e. - City Inspection)

Create policy that requires cit staff to directly (in person) engage with neighborhood groups.

(Look to St. Paul)

Engagement should be automatic Not only when we scream!

All city topics/reports should have summaries
When budget is the deciding factor --- Tell us!
DON'T make decisions before engagement!

1st Four Rows

What can the city do to help you (and your community) better participate in decisions?

LISTEN - currently don't listen - will our input make any difference
Belief majority people don't know which neighborhood they live in - City do better job of letting people know which neighborhood they are in.
Council meeting should have NRP decision makers present. (1)

Leader perspective: Most N'hood staff and boards work well. These are a lot of alliances and joint efforts between n'hood other organizations **NNA**
Front desk city staff great but those with title not so good (2)
Garbage collection

911 usually
311 usually, for something and many
*{NRP**
Stacy Rocks } (4)
People know how to org. block clubs
Cultural organizations are working
Market NRP
Community Dev. Corp. More informative than CPED (2)

What is Working Now?

3rd Ward Care Task Force (3)
More Council Members working with neighbors in their own neighborhood. (5)
Neighborhood Associations* (9)
Council Member Barb Johnson who comes to meetings
My block club - CCP-Safe Crime rate working ^

Provide \$ and technical support for communication system thru n'hood org. (6)
N'hood organization needs to be in decision-making schematic (10)
City should be open to receiving input and ideas versus us waiting for them (2)
More engagement of people of color >> NRP good @ Homeowner but more for rental and how (3)

Do we actually have say? We (N'hoods) are not even on the chart
Funding > continued for NRP
N'hood need the means to make change\$ (12)
Want say how funding is use
Have some council meet in n'hoods and stagger so people who work can attend. (5)

Get council meetings, library board & park board meetings (all boards) on dish TV & radio (more than just cable) in 4 major languages (4)
All public documents in libraries and parks (at city expense, not library or park expense)

Not Working

What needs to change
General communication

Because city understaffed (I.e. inspections example: I don't have time to talk to you.)

(A lot of trouble with inspections over the summer.)

Being unable to get a hold of an Inspector

CCP/SAFE b/c don't have the necessary staff (1)

Police Dept. > response 0 good (8)

Not well organized

Moral low

Poor Coverage

We have some council member that d/n talk to NRP staff and NRP staff d/n talk to council member with n'hood caught in middle and lose. (3)

Need to have a good plan for communication

don't throw out all the neighborhood work (4)

Investigations on lesser crimes are not happening I.e. burglaries, etc. are ignored. (3)

City staff living outside city don't have a clue what it is like to live here. (5)

Libraries closed (8)

Safety Center on West Broadway needs to happen.

Perception - needs to change that cops are the solution (6)

- Need jobs econ dev. Etc.

- More than just cops.

Code of silence by elected officials and upper city leadership needs to end > Oh you don't need to know (1)

City has gone into a spin/marketing campaign needs to end > City is focusing on looks not substance. (2)

Less emphasis on cops and safety

More on kid safety (over crowded schools and closed libraries)

Closing of n'hood libraries frustrating

Next NRP > More for youth (1)

Equity for North MPLS (9)

What can the City do?

Get rid of the word City > I want to know who to contact

> Get rid of 311 b/c the don't put a face on for city and no accountability (2)