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 1: North Regional Library

- 1. Finding ways to communicate with <u>all</u> people cultural and language barriers often preclude <u>many</u> from participation.
- 2. Can we give more authority to neighborhood associations? (empower + Input + \$)
- 3. Try listening to the community. Let the neighborhoods make decisions themselves for projects in their neighborhoods. Embrace neighborhood empowerment.
- 4. This meeting (specifically the presentation of the report) was very nebulous/abstract. I felt it was difficult to understand what was really being discussed.
- 5. (1) Notifications (2) Listen to neighborhoods and acknowledge (3) Include us in decision-making. City does not have our best interest I feel because they have no bond to our communities because they don't live in our communities.
- 6. (1) Decisions should never happen before direct community engagement. (2) Generate policy that requires city staff to participate, in person, at neighborhood meetings early & often! (3) Create inetivation & values within community by integrating city staff & issues in regular neighborhood activities.
- 7. Engage communities long before impending decisions. E.g. an ongoing conversation is needed. What is happening to funding of neighborhood programs? If neighborhood input is discounted or ignored why would neighborhoods trust and support the city government process?
- 8. I Georgina? The meeting "leaders" needed to meet the people where the were trying to dictated to conversation was a waste of time!
- 9. Provide the infrastructure (childcare, interpreters, good and varied communication) to support CE. Create in the citizens and officials a culture/value of participation good & effective use all means possible to create it. Including the water bill.
- 10. CLIC is an important opportunity for "community engagement". Why are the meeting held from 10am noon? This does not allow anyone to apply for the opportunity to serve for free. The Mayor should not have 7 representatives!
- 11. Method of absentee voting, input, etc for those unable to attend events, mtg. Etc
- 12. We need NRP going after 2 yrs. Fix up more homes.

- 13. The city <u>must</u> hear its citizens we pay taxes and work. Why does the city not care for this city as much as its residents do? Keep funding for NRP. Improve & expand police force. Create new ways to reduce crime & improve the quality of life. Can be done by empowering neighborhoods & residents to make their own change.
- 14. (1) Recognize that neighborhood orgs have brought value far in excess of city funding in terms of funding (supplementing NRP funds w/grants), creativity (unique ideas), & priorities (w/o NRP some neighborhoods would still be waiting for funds to begin revitalization. (2) Create citywide web site that lists issues being considered by city committees & council organized by neighborhood one place where I can find out what issues affect me. Need to be posted 7-14 days before city discusses them. As city dept. documentation is avail, add links to on the issues site. (3) See CE as an investment that returns many times the value of the \$ invested. Engagement provides hundreds/thousands of good minds to work on issues; added \$ neighborhoods bring in extends what can be done; neighborhoods have grown program income, making \$ go further. City can't do this.
- 15. We need more ways to communicate with the city other than neighborhood associations. Some of our neighborhood associations are run by folks who don't listen to the people but are on their own little power trip and who bully people/other neighborhood groups. (Folwell Neighborhood)
- 16. Fully fund NRP & NRP neighborhoods * Add NRP neighborhoods to city engagement decision making policies & procedures.
- 17. I've been @ commission mtg/public hearing where the councilmember (also chair) was not paying attention to the public testimony and the Mayor's staff person appeared to be surfing the web. Obviously, this did little to gain the trust of the residents who showed up on an important issue. The Mpls Observer used to do a good job of pointing this out but perhaps the city should hold itself accountable.
- 18. Already (in scheduled monthly meeting) Have city officials continually engage in neighborhood organizations to inform citizens about programs (i.e. the inspections that occurred in North Mpls. May have been more successful if the discussion had occurred early. Bring back the city calendar tell citizens they have to be the democracy they want to do.
- 19. Don't understand advisory boards & comm. that city has couldn't name 2 comm. Let alone 5! My resident voice is heard through NRP neighborhood assoc. & I think I can do what's best fro my neighborhood through Assoc.
- 20. Narrow this question, please. Which decisions? Funding? Opening/closing a neighborhood library? Train city employees who take phone calls from the public on a regular basis to at least say their 1st name when you call (xmpl: Solid waste mgmt, park & rec.) It would be so nice to have a simple (not anonymous) connection. Acknowledge communicate examples of CE to "newbies" successful community engagement activities that were initiated by citizens, their committees, their communities.