

Mill City Museum Community Engagement Discussion

(3/5/07)

Please give us your assessment of the importance of each of these comments from your small groups by entering an "x" in the appropriate column. Thank you

Comment

WHY HERE?

Concern about future of neighborhood groups and their role in decision making

CE Report ignores neighborhood role

Safety & future of W. Bank School of Music

Put a process in place that actually engages the community (20 minutes of input is insufficient) and use of neighborhood structure that exists.

Respect and honor neighborhood work on and decisions about issues like zoning and neighborhood planning.

Examine the need for all of the commissions and eliminate redundancies - get down to essentials.

Help organize inter-neighborhood meetings (info sharing mtgs to benefit neighborhoods)

What's working

People know who to call (out to neighborhoods and in to city) 311

Neighborhoods are geographically based >strong, clear

Some city councilmembers do come out to neigh. And invite engagement

NRP funding is working.

What needs to change

Slow down process on notification - need longer lead time

City should come out to find out how to help orgs. Be more inclusive.

Info from city - needs to focus more on quality rather than quantity.

Criteria for funding doesn't meet the needs in the neighborhoods. (CDBG)

Need more education & outreach around elections.

What can city do to help you and your community better part. In decisions?

Support neighborhood orgs. Including financial support

Reject broad district model because doesn't engage as many volunteers.

2nd layer of bureaucracy is a negative

Strengthen investment in NRP process - and continue it for 20 years.

Strengthen ____ ____ ??????

Don't continue NRP past 20 yrs.

Should be self supporting.

What's Working -

NRP validates residents concerns for their neighborhood.

Avoids top down

Voice is heard through current system.

Report places citizens in reactive mode. NRP allows neighborhood initiative to move up the ladder.

Council member shd. Inform about priorities and upcoming decisions so the neighborhood can discuss and weigh in -.

The neighborhood initiative is working -

Organize and lobby

Neighbor is quicker to notice and respond to changes in population and other local issues and respond to.

Geographic-based-small is a virtue multijurisdictional is -

Implementation fundings has leveraged millions of dollars and volunteer hours and has addressed successfully local problems.

Change?

City's website needs overhaul -

- 1) Search function is ridiculous
- 2) Connection to NO's needs to be stronger
- 3) Better explanation of how Nos relate to City Council

Problem of Representation

Need a better process to inform citizens of neighbor

The CE Report is an example of the problem

Don't see empowerment and ownership by neighborhoods in the city's analysis -

Neighborhood accountability

N's and citizens need power to make decisions that matter.

An example: an imbalance of power decision of the N can be summarily dismissed.

Nos need to be validated that they matter

One funding source of non target Ns.