

Minnehaha United Methodist Church Community Engagement Discussion

(1/30/07)

Comment

What can the City do to help you better participate in decisions?

What about money for neighborhoods?

Tell us about the meeting earlier and use a variety of sources--

Online

TV/Radio

Welcome Wagon

Library/Parks

Do you really want to hear our input?

Recognize that residents have busy lives

Elected reps must be responsive

Use neighborhoods to help get word out

Centralized city info

Customized to neighborhoods?

Better defined rules for engagement

What is working now?

Initiatives from neighbors

Neighborhood solutions for neighborhood problems

NRP does CE process because it is a non-city community empowerment program

NRP & participation works.. What is the future of this process?

NRP is user-friendly.

Keep community decision-making decentralized. Build on NRP model - using the NRP-public input process for other city decision-making.

What needs to change?

Report premis(es) questioned

Top-down view of CE needs to be more Bottom-up

Report assumes CE not working

Separate NRP funding discussion from City-CE process & funding

City encouraged to support NRP extension past 2009 in the MN Leg.

Metrics/yardstick needed to assess Community Engagement

Example metrics:

Satisfaction w/results

Surprised (or not) w/actions/results

Random sampling/scientific measurement is essential in measuring results

Present some data -- clearly...

More CE (i.e. engagement of residents) is needed in formulating the CE process

Do a better job of getting the word out

Want to know that our input is valued & has some effect

Neighborhood Organization's & electeds are listening & responsive

Streamline processes but not lose our power to have a n'hood solution w/city resource

Not enough dialogue on what's broken that needs to be fixed

How do / can n'hoods help the city engage residents

If the city is looking for feedback - allow time for stakeholders to respond; people need time to be made aware, time to process, talk and time to respond. More time on front end.

More citizen participation & input on funding decisions

Need to know funding priorities

Clarify process & next steps and share with neighborhoods

Clarify roles & responsibilities of partners

Define accountability for all partners

Web site of city hard to use - not well designed.

How can Neighborhood help the city participate in the Neighborhood discussion of issues & making decisions?

Engage residents early in discussion - before proposed decision.

Share power

Make it easier to hear what the Neighborhood says

Continue to fund NRP - define for what purpose

Use community papers to disseminate info

What is broken that needs to be fixed?

Lack of dialog?

How can engagement happen without an impending decision - e.g. problem to solve

Call Council representative

Participate in neighborhood organizations

Organize Block Clubs

Use 311

Develop a Handbook on how to address issues

Neighborhood groups working on larger issues

Funnel info up from the Neighborhood level

City departments need to listen & respond to citizen engagement

Empowerment different from engagement

Example = master planning process where citizens empowered

City doesn't enforce laws that are on the books. What can citizens do?

Somali Subgroup

Very important to be involved

Information is a key

Immigrants attend meetings and want elected officials to come to their meetings

Regular meetings are needed with officials and organizations that can assist with meeting community needs.

Direct relationships are needed/cut out the middlemen

City needs to establish a relationship with SWIM to help better solve problems

Direct contacts are needed with decision makers

More information and education is needed to help address community needs