

Firefighters Hall & Museum Community Engagement Discussion

(1/31/07)

Comment

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

Go to a meeting to be informed

Communicate with the community

Get to the place where the community is asked by the "City" prior to making a decision

Find new ways to include people in the process

Encourage and support greater collaboration between groups

Involve us early in planning vs. okaying a decision

Get young people involved

Put a face on the City at a community level - ombudsman

What is working now?

Geographical-based/neighborhood based groups that are multi-jurisdictional

NRP vulcanized the City - made neighborhoods important

Neighborhoods tend to know what they "don't" want vs what they "do"

Small groups (neighborhoods) making decisions and moving them up

Smaller groups allow us to have a voice at the local level

Neighborhoods can use their resources to improve property values

People engage because they know resources (\$) are available

NRP very effective at bringing people together via the n'hoods, bringing resource together to make things happen

Neighborhoods know the business of neighborhoods better than the City - give us more resource to get things done

Funding stream creates independence

What needs to change?

311 voicemail

311 - depth of info is lacking, not complex (for example no info available on appropriate signage, parking of vehicles - which kind)

City can ignore decisions made by neighborhoods (how can we expect consistency when this can happen) / capriciousness

Hard to make "dirty things" transparent

If NRP as is now goes away what does the city plan to put in it's place? Since NRP has been so effective, what could they propose that would be as effective?

Where is the acknowledgement - from the Council - that NRP has accomplished so much

Empowerment - not just engagement

Suspensions about why we are talking about this again, why there is no talk in the report about budgets, how does the city define "community"

Power is being taken away

Greater transparency -

The report has a model that shows how it could be improved, but where is the description about how it works now?

More "why" when things don't happen or things happen counter to n'hood requests
Why not let the City contract w/NRP to do the CE? (this could eliminate confusion, duplication, inefficiencies - the City currently contracts w/other entities w/in city departments) and this should be pushed out through the n'hoods
Does this suggest disinvestment in neighborhoods that will result in blight?
What about issues like eminent domain, aggressive developers, old houses being torn down to accommodate larger interests including the City
What will you do w/this?
Will we be asked again to discuss this - we are not convinced our engagement on these issues has been sufficient
Jurisdictional repetition
How are overlaps between City, County, State, etc. being addressed?
Continue to fund neighborhood org. (costs up/funding down - why?)
CMs - better communication budgets
Communication + 2 way = engagement
Designated neighborhood coverage for city departments (other boards)
CPED Inspections
MPRB Regulatory Services
Not only impending decision but which decisions
Decisions on completed plan not on plan
Priority setting < not just yes or no
Instead of creating -- fitting into existing boxes
Economic part - incentive to get ideas
Simplify language - lose the acronyms
Will the powers that be look at the information
Will we hold them accountable
Keep small structure (neighborhoods) & Improve
Keep NRP & have a "regional" group so they can cooperate for the area as well.
Larger area projects - Add an intermediate level
Neighborhoods - bring in more voices not limited to the "usual suspects"
Not a buffer to prevent participation.
Want more engagement but keep cutting funding
Joint office/community area for shared resources
Tasks for levels better delegated
Need specific structure to avoid "turf wars".
Structure driven by task
Groups driven by "passion" for the issue
Encourage 311 One Stop - liason avoid acronyms! But get them to WORK
Make the city user friendly
Proactive with city rather than reactive
Keep small neighborhood system
Work up from there
Not a buffer
City business held out in the communities vs downtown
People don't feel their input is going to make a difference
How can people plug into existing groups to influence decision making?
What we don't need is putting \$\$ into neighborhood organizations that become self-serving entities unto themselves.
What do neighborhoods have to show for their effort
Lack of community participation/participants don't represent diversity
Block clubs have weakened from the past where they use to be feeders to neighborhood organizations.

Network with your immediate neighbors

People feel decisions have already been made prior to neighborhood meetings

Lack of connection with the youth

Not having community schools takes away from community cohesiveness