

**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?**

**January 29: Burroughs School**

- 1. The flow chart should go in the other direction. City should support neighborhood initiated projects and give them jurisdiction over the most local decisions and support that. NRP funding needs to continue – Engagement without empowerment won't happen and empowerment without funding is dead.**
- 2. The city needs to change it's culture to support a model of active citizen partnership. Where everyone in the city (neighborhood's residents, businesses, policy makers, and city staff) are working together to create the city's future.**
- 3. Better 2-way communication. – Keep funds coming to allow n'hoods to continue outreach etc. – How do we know if our input is being used? - Involve N'hood Boards more.**
- 4. Outstanding meeting – Timely responses – Keep it up - Worthwhile**
- 5. The city can strengthen neighborhoods & citizen engagement by further empowering neighborhood organizations to get neighbors involved. Neighbors know the issues & should drive the city's focus. Small neighborhoods (size of today's or smaller) allow the most people to way in & influence solutions.**
- 6. Why were neighborhood organizations as a whole not brought into development of the CE lan? Neigh. Orgs. Were not asked to be involved until NRP not the city decided to have these meetings.**
- 7. #1 – Keep neighborhood organizations strong – they work! Involve neighborhoods earlier in the decision making process. Neighborhoods also need to be enabled to initiate change. The city needs to recognize the importance of engaging residents at the neighborhood level – It empowers residents to get involved and have a direct affect on their immediate neighborhood.**
- 8. As a neighborhood resident who is not real involved in my neighborhood association or political process I feel the neighborhood board, etc. is the key to connecting effectively reach the most residents.**
- 9. 1. Simplify the structure! 2. Keep economic power in neighborhoods through NRP for this really enables engagement!**
- 10. Give neighborhood organizations real power in their neighborhoods. They are the ones who are best at engaging the community, and if they had REAL, clearly defined roles in the decision making that goes on in the city, more**

- people would get involved in these groups. If there's nothing but advisement at stake, why bother? Let them tell the city what they already know is best.
11. **Involve the neigh. Orgs. In decisions prior to final decisions are made. \*A great deal of effort has gone into creating the neigh. Organizations, we need to keep them strong. \*John & Jane Doe are much more likely to express concern or enter into dialog with their "neighbors" on the Board of their Neig. Org. they just aren't going to try to call someone at the City level and navigate their way through the maze of city officials.**
  12. **Less presentation - More interactive**
  13. **I don't like the way the report attempts to limit the definition and "systematize" community engagement. By boxing it in, a lot is left out in terms of C.E. More "engagement" of the general public and interested groups is needed to develop a truly open and trusting environment for community engagement. – In the CE report – a lot of the recommendations are actually only observations. – Get the Park & Recreation Board involved! Report quote – "did not respond to our request for an interview"**