

CE Report - Community Meeting # 7
North Regional Library – 1315 Lowry Ave N.
January 29, 2007 - 7 – 8:30pm

Number of participants: 70 approx.

Council Members: Barb Johnson, Diane Hofstede, Don Samuels

Presenters: Steven Bosacker, Bob Miller

Host Neighborhood: Polly Peterson, Jordan neighborhood

Communications Staff: Clara Perrin

- 7:05 pm - The meeting started and participants were on time. Bob Miller welcomed participants and introduced presenters. He briefly reviewed the agenda.
- 7:10pm – Welcome from host neighborhood.
- 7:15 pm – City's presentation of the community engagement report.
- 7:40 pm - Representative from North Minneapolis read resolution from a coalition of neighborhoods in response to CE Report.
- 7:45 pm - Clarifying questions
- 8:00 pm - Small group discussion
- 8:30 pm - Small group reports
- 8:45 pm - adjournment

Clarifying questions from the CE Report:

- 1) The City has decided already for us; has the City already decided the future of the neighborhoods?
- 2) The City should communicate with residents about what decisions we can influence. Find better ways to contact people, not all residents know or are aware of these or other meetings where important decisions are being made. If I am not at the meeting I have no voice in that decision.
- 3) There are some important things that have not been captured in the report, like the effectiveness of organizing at the community level. At McKinley we would love to have the capacity to spend time and money to engage residents; NRP allows it.
- 4) 25 years ago there was nothing, there was no way for residents to provide input to the City or to be heard. Thanks to citizen participation you are here tonight. It is important to build a common vision between the city and the communities. Citizen participation is as important as the trees in the city. Harrison neighborhood has many communities and important issues, but we don't get these many people at a meeting.

Small Group Discussion question: ***What can the City do to help you (and your community) better participate in decisions? What is working now? What needs to change?***

Comments from this meeting:

Group 1:

- Block clubs don't know each other. What is the chain of command to get input to the City?
- The City should communicate better about pending decisions, meetings, using the website, blogs, emails and all other formats to reach people.
- City departments are not communicating with each other.
- Bridge the gap between youth, ethnicity, online users. We need more information about the City budget.
- Working well: the City's interest in economic development for North Minneapolis, the CCP/SAFE person.
- Need to change: decrease foreclosures, 911 needs to respond to calls.

Group 2:

- Boards and committee meetings should be schedule after 4pm
- Increase neighborhood organization's authority
- Recognition and empowerment.
- The city's website should be organized by neighborhoods with issues, CE opportunities, news, etc.
- The city should do good CE to plan the future of community engagement
- Use emails, website, blogs, and other online postings for people who cannot come to meetings. Please we need an acknowledgment that our comment has been received (even an automated notice)
- NRP gives residents a voice, need to review citizen and advisory boards, they are not user friendly.
- Neighborhood organizations need to be part of the planning. Involve us early.
- What is working: the Mayor's email/website;

Group 3:

- A discussion needs to happen before CE happens.
- Generate policy that requires City staff participate in person at community meetings early in the process.
- Create motivation and values – City should engage with our events, meetings, come to us, to our neighborhood at our times; introducing city staff into the community.
- Inspire us to continue this issue. Look at tonight's meeting; we have so many people, what makes it so important? It affects us and people knew elected officials and city staff was going to be here to listen to us and bring this information back.

Group 4:

- Funding needs to continue, there is no change without money.
- Neighborhood organizations need to be added to the chart (decision-making authority)
- Equity for North Minneapolis.