

**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 30: Minnehaha Methodist

- 1. Neighborhood assoc. are working – doing a great job involving, empowering & engaging community members. W/o these, I fear community engagement will diminish significantly.**
- 2. We need better internet information a good city website that ties all programs to one major website.**
- 3. Great chance to pour out our concerns, now to have city listen. (1) The City can put issues out before decisions are made really listen to the people and respond. (2) Keep neighborhood groups FUNDED – not just thru 2009 – they are essential; people need to be able to talk face to face (not on hold for an unknown city employee) to get info, voice concerns, learn how to make our neighborhoods a part of the city’s foundation and positive growth and life. –What is working now? - our NENA.**
- 4. I heard that there were focus groups & interviews of citizens for this CE report. I am very well connected in Field Regina Northrop & I do not know of one person who ever was interviewed or was part of a focus group. Also the response time – holidays was exactly chosen to make sure no one responded.**
- 5. EARLIER NOTICES. I READ ABOUT THIS TODA Y IN THE MESSENGER.**
- 6. Mayor’s desire to control neighborhoods – needs to change. What are the next step. No funding information in this report. – Small groups do not work in this type of meetings - Is this a city module? - NRP works - Why is CE coming up now?**
- 7. N.E.A. needs to be funded to help citizens deal with community problems, what is our recourse on solving community problems, laws not enforced short of how suots put on citizens. We want to be heard and esp. listened to.**
- 8. NRP worked, git it opportunity and support to evolve, grow, improve – their process was engaging / user-friendly. City can better use community newspapers to engage neighborhoods.**
- 9. (1) The city needs to recognize that citizen engagement is more than being involved in “an impending govt decision.” It is a collaborative process where citizens can be involved @ many levels to improve their neighborhood & the vitality & health of both the neighborhood & the city. (2) Neighborhood organizations serve a vital role in engaging citizen on a wide range of issues including zoning, planning, public safety, etc. The city needs to recognize**

that & support those activities. (3) The city benefits from having an engaged community – that uses its creativity, hard work, & energy to improve their neighborhoods in ways that are unique to their neighborhood. Foster that & recognize it with \$ support. (4) Policies should be allowed to come up from the community – not just commenting on what the city has come up with as an idea. Build that into the process. (5) Refund NRP! This is true Comm. Engagmt. Process.

- 10. What can city do? Find resources (money) to help support neighborhood staff and newsletter. What is working now? Communications and support from NRP staff over many years. What needs to change? Plan in place to support NRP after 2009. The work that has been done to improve our neighborhoods over the past 20 years is so important.**