

CE Report - Community Meeting # 1

Van Dusen Conference Center – 1900 La Salle Ave.

January 29, 2007 - 7 – 8:30pm

Number of participants: 65 approx.

Council Members: Robert Lilligren

Presenters: Steven Bosacker, Bob Miller

Host Neighborhood: Nadine Knibb, Steven Square Community Organization

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 - Clarifying questions
- 8:00 pm - Representative from host neighborhood read resolution from a coalition of neighborhoods in response to CE Report.
- 8:10 pm - Small group discussion
- 8:15 pm - Small group reports
- 8:30 pm - adjournment

Clarifying questions from the CE Report:

- 1) Could you identify what is working/has worked well in community engagement for the City of Minneapolis?
- 2) Some people perceive the CE report as it will end up being the status quo. Seems like these meetings were called because there was a problem.
- 3) How are you taking this information back to city officials? Are the meetings being transcribed, taped or recorded?
- 4) Are the residents going to be able to work with the Council or the City to design this new CE system? What is next?

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?***

Top priorities from this meeting:

Group 1:

- The city should have consistent channels to communicate decisions and opportunities to participate. (multilingual and different formats including online forums)
- The city should respect, empower, and recognize grassroots expertise and knowledge.
- The City should communicate the process; it is frustrating when after providing input and being rejected the neighborhood group does not hear back from anyone.

Group 2:

- The city could help spread information through schools or in coordination with other jurisdictional partners.
- Continue NRP and funding
- What is working: NRP
- What needs to change:
 - Recognize the value of neighborhoods
 - Encourage two-way communication between the City and neighborhoods

Group 3:

- The City should recognize that community groups are an important resource.
- Frustration about communication/input to the City. Process is not clear.
- Feels like decisions have been already made when people attend meetings. No real influence.
- City departments are involved but not engaged with communities
- There are many inconsistencies with City departments.