



**Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission  
Tuesday, June 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes  
Minneapolis Central Library – Doty Board Room**

**NCEC member attendees:** , Ishmael Israel, Jeffrey Martin, Doron Clark, Jeffrey Strand, Kenya McKnight, Carol Pass, Denis Houle, Saciido Shaie, and  
**NCEC members excused:** Marcea Mariani, Tessa Wetjen  
**NCEC members absent:** Latrell Beamon, Henry Jimenez, Ali Warsame  
**Commission staff:** David Rubedor, Howard Blin.

**Agenda Item**

**Content**

**1. Introduction**

(Action)

**A. Agenda.** Chair Israel suggested that for purposes of continuity, Agenda Items 3, Review of 2013 NUSA Conference, and Item 5, NCR Report, be combined.

Motion by Strand, Seconded by Clark to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Minutes.** Motion by Clark, Seconded by Strand to approve the May 28, 2013 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Executive Committee Reports**

(Informational and Action)

**Chair Report:**

- Chair Israel noted that Commissioners Gregg Massey, Ali Warsame and Latrell Beamon would be leaving the Commission when their terms are up at the end of the month. Maria Sarabia had resigned her seat at the beginning of the year.
- Chair Israel reported that the Commission has received a letter from the Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota indicating that they had begun work on their project which is funded through the One Minneapolis Fund.
- Chair Israel provided a brief report on the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NCEC Committee of the Whole. The meeting included a brief discussion on the schedule for conducting discussions with neighborhood organizations on the Blueprint for Equity. Commissioner Strand described a presentation about the proposed Community Innovation Program. This included a review of the 2008 Framework for the

Future report from the NRP Work Group and an exercise where the Committee divided into three groups to discuss potential priorities, resources and engagement strategies for the program.

**Secretary Report:**

**Attendance Report:** Strand noted that Commissioner Mariani was an excused absence and that an attendance report was not available.

**3. & 5. Review of Summary:**

**20123 NUSA  
Conference and  
NCR Report  
(Informational)**

NCR Director Rubedor gave a summary of the NUSA Conference held in Minneapolis on May 22 to 25, 2013, noting that a full report will be made in July. There were over 600 participants, 12 neighborhood tours and 60 workshops held over the course of the conference. The initial feedback has been very positive. The complaints received concerned the location of the exhibit hall, the food and the fact that the conference may have been over programmed, with little time for informal conversations.

About 25 high school students attended as a result of a joint venture with the Minneapolis Public Schools, the Youth Coordinating Board and the Minneapolis City-Wide Student Government. The students took part in a special curriculum supporting youth leadership and development. He thanked Derek Emery, Pam McBride, Ann DeGroot and Councilmember Quincy for arranging for the students to attend.

He thanked Chair Israel and former Commissioner Brianne Rothstein for the excellent presentation they provided at the Friday luncheon on the Community Participation Program. Also thanks to Kenya McKnight for hosting the delegation from South Africa.

A complete list of acknowledgements will be included in the final report but several people deserve thanks now including VJ Smith for being the master of ceremonies for the entire event; The local planning team of Candice Washington, Amanda Vallone and Kable Reid; Citizens

for a Loring Park Community for serving as the host neighborhood and Jana Metge for working as the original conference coordinator; our partner the Minneapolis Park Board; Nexus Community Partners; the NCR staff; the many volunteers; and Carrie Day Aspinwall who became the coordinator of the conference earlier this year.

Commissioner comments included:

- Thanks to the diligent work of reaching out to neighborhood organizations and the NCEC.
- A concern over the Christian prayer at lunch and an overt Christian message which is not appropriate in a broad group such as those attending the conference.
- The conference could have done more to highlight projects in North Minneapolis.
- There was not enough focus on Minneapolis neighborhoods. For example, the tour of Phillips included primarily institutional players and not enough grassroots organizations.
- Broader representation of all cultures in the city could have been included.
- It was suggested that as part of planning future conferences neighborhoods should have been prepped to highlight their activities.

As part of the NCR Report, Rubedor noted:

- The City Council's selection committee has recommended appointments for the City Council and Mayoral appointments to the NCEC. They include Tessa Wetjen for reappointment and Andres Hortillosa, Brittany Lewis and Abdirahman Muse as new appointees.
- NCR has submitted a 2014 budget proposal. It includes two additions for the current year: a new African American access and outreach position; and the increase in funding for the One Minneapolis Fund from \$62,000 to \$500,000.

- The NCR Department moved to the Crown Roller Mill in mid-June.
- Access and Outreach Manager Ahmed Mohamed left the position at the end of May. The position will be filled as soon as possible.
- A letter on the Blueprint for Equity project was sent out today.
- A Bridge Fund Program was established in 2010 to fund neighborhood organizations that were low on NRP funding. At the July meeting staff will make proposals for closing out the fund.

**4. NRP Policy Board Report**  
(Action)

Strand noted that no meeting of the Policy Board was held in June.

**7. Task Force Reports**  
(Informational and Discussion)

**Policies and Procedures Task Force:** The Task Force is concluding work on a draft document.

**Committee of the Whole:**

The following comments were made about the discussion on the proposed Community Innovation Fund:

- A concern was raised about whether the evaluation process for programs such as the One Minneapolis Fund is rigorous enough.
- It was noted that the One Minneapolis Fund Task Force agreed that for the first year of the program eligibility for funding was restricted to those organizations not receiving Community Participation Funds. Consideration should be given to expanding the pool of eligible groups.
- The program needs to carry forward work performed by neighborhood organizations, community based organizations, and youth agencies.

Commissioner Strand had to leave the meeting at 6:45 PM in order to travel to a business conference being

held on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

The following comments were made on the Blueprint for Equity discussion:

- A timeline for the project is needed.
- Neighbourhood organizations are already working on equity issues.
- A clear definition for equity should be provided to those we will be speaking with.
- There is hesitancy for City leadership to define equity when there is inequity within the City.
- Equity should be included in the mission statement for the NCEC.
- We need to ensure that NCEC members are equipped for the conversations with neighborhoods.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m.