

Meeting Minutes

NRP Policy Board

June 30, 2015 – 2220 East Lake Street, Community Room

Members Present: Park Commissioner Annie Young, Vice-Chair; City Councilmember Kevin Reich; NCEC representatives David Boyd, Debra Behrens, Nasser Mussa and Francisco Segovia; School Board Member Josh Reinnitz; County Commissioner Marion Greene.

Also Present: Linda Koelman, Roberta Englund, Jeffrey Strand, Marcia Mariani, Gary Arntsen. Robert Thompson, Howard Blin

Young called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

1. Agenda

The agenda was approved with a change to move consideration of the Webber-Camden plan modification before discussion of the NRP Fund Balance Policy.

2. Minutes of June 30, 2015

The minutes were approved as written.

3. Weber-Camden Neighborhood Plan

Thompson described the modifications which will reallocate \$316,593.15 of remaining Phase I program income and \$200,971.32 of unused fund from 13 Phase I NRP strategies to one Phase I strategy and five Phase II strategies in the Webber-Camden Phase II NRP Plan.

Roberta Englund, Executive Director of the neighborhood organization, described the major initiatives of the neighborhood.

Linda Koelman, Chair of the Webber-Camden board, described the plan modification.

Reich observed that the plan modification is well crafted.

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Boyd stated that the plan is outstanding and suggested it could be a model for his Lind-Bohanon neighborhood.

MOTION by Reich, SECONDED by Boyd, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the NRP Policy Board hereby accepts and adopts Plan Modification #29 to the Webber-Camden Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan and Modification #1 to the Webber-Camden Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan.

4. NRP Fund Balance Policy

Thompson described the policy and the process followed in developing the policy, including the opportunities for the public and neighborhood organizations to provide comment. He also provided background on the history of NRP funding and expenditures for neighborhoods.

Vice-Chair Young opened the meeting to comments from the audience.

Jeffrey Strand suggested looking carefully at the policy and the staff report. The delay in developing the policy resulted in turnover in the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission and the NRP Policy Board. He suggested that the policy is a solution in search of a problem. About 88 percent of total NRP funding has been expended. Neighborhoods have complied with City Council policy on use of program income. He presented some proposed amendments to the policy which call for a process for any funding reallocated from neighborhoods under the policy be used for the Community Innovation Fund, the One Minneapolis Fund or reallocated to other neighborhoods.

Marcia Mariani said she appreciates the work put into the policy. Some of the requirements are, however, unrealistic. Survey requirement of 20 percent is unrealistic. The 45 day notice in the policy only gives boards one meeting to consider action. It is not accurate to state that neighborhoods are sitting on money.

Gary Arntsen stated that the process used to develop the policy was good and the policy is on the right track. Action on policy is needed as the City's budget process is now underway.

Young opened the meeting to questions and comments from Board members.

Mussa asked about the plan requirement for requiring specially targeted outreach to under represented groups when those groups exceed 15 percent of the neighborhood population. Thompson responded that it is a low threshold for requiring targeted outreach to under represented residents.

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Reinmitz asked why the appeals process changed from having the NRP Policy Board consider appeals to now having the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission in that role. Thompson responded that it was to expedite the process since the NCEC meets more frequently.

Reich stated that the tradition and practice in the NRP Program has been to take all NRP issues to the Policy Board. Perhaps the Policy Board could set up an appeals committee to work on appeals in a more expedited fashion.

Reich also stated that the best part of this review of neighborhood NRP fund balances is to dispel ideas of money not being spent.

Reich asked why program income is part of the total funding for a neighborhood considered under the policy. Thompson responded that it is difficult to differentiate between program income and NRP funding.

Behrens noted that there is nothing in the policy that determines how money recaptured from neighborhoods which become non-compliant with the policy is reallocated. She is uncomfortable supporting the policy without this being determined. Thompson responded that any recapture of funds is a few years down the road and in five years most neighborhoods would comply with policy.

Behrens also questioned some of the costs associated with the robust engagement required in the policy, particularly if there is a need for translation. Thompson replied that staff is working with neighborhoods to make translation more effective and less costly.

Behrens also stated that neighborhood organizations and the City have been partners in engagement with residents. If neighborhood organizations are seen as service providers for the City, that would be damaging to that partnership.

Boyd said his neighborhood board is an example of how boards can turnover and asked how the policy addresses how neighborhoods can change plans. Young responded that NCR staff can provide training to new boards.

Young made several comments on the policy. Seven years is the correct time period. The engagement process outlined in the policy should include social media platforms to reach people. She would suggest that a draft appeals process be developed in 90 days. She agrees that the notification process should be increased from 45 to 90 days. She also agrees that characterizing neighborhoods as sitting on funds is inaccurate.

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Segovia asked for clarification on what action is being sought. Young responded that the Board would recommend a policy to the City Council Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee.

Reich suggested that review by the Board be continued to allow the suggested changes and clarifications in the policy to be finalized. These include: revising the appeals process; clarifying the minimum response rate in surveys conducted by neighborhoods to comply with the engagement process; and increasing the time period for neighborhoods to appeal from 60 to 90 days.

MOTION Reich, SECOND Reinnitz to give preliminary support to the draft policy and continue final action to allow time for revisions and clarifications noted above to be made to the policy. The final recommendation to the City Council should also include discussion of the need for the policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM

Submitted by Howard Blin

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