

City of Minneapolis and the West Bank/Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood

A diverse community on the edge of downtown Minneapolis

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

Late 19th century, Scandinavian immigrants drawn to work in the milling and lumber industries made their homes here. The immigrant tradition continues today as Cedar-Riverside serves as a home for thousands of new Americans making their start in the Twin Cities. Musicians, artists, students and families have also long called the West Bank home and continue to come together to share their knowledge, talents and inspiration. (Area Directory, West Bank, Minneapolis, West Bank Business Association.

[HTTP://WBBA.THEWESTBANK.ORG](http://WBBA.THEWESTBANK.ORG))

Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program (CRNRP) and the West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC) are two neighborhood organizations vying for Minneapolis neighborhood resources funding to support the activities in the neighborhood. The city of Minneapolis funds one neighborhood association in all the neighborhoods in the city. This neighborhood is the only Minneapolis neighborhood with two organizations.

BACKGROUND

The city of Minneapolis contracted Dave Ellis Consulting, LLC, and its consultants to conduct engagement in the West Bank Neighborhood of the City of Minneapolis with the following goals:

Engage with the two existing neighborhood organizations

Examine and collect first-hand community feedback

Determine their interest in becoming one organization

Understand the relationship between the two organizations that are not seemingly working in partnership.

Provide a report with recommendation based upon neighbors input

APPROACH

The following details content of meetings, conversations, interviews and observations at board meetings of the two organizations, and public input from residents, business owners, staff and members of the Minneapolis Police Department Safety Center, individuals linked to the neighborhood due to employment, past participation in organizations' boards, members of the institutions located in the neighborhood, etc.

Several materials informed the consultants: attendance at board meetings, review of board minutes, agenda, annual report, listening sessions and World Café sessions with specific audiences: public at large, youth, and elders.

Originally, the West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC) was viewed as the organization that represented the neighborhood. It was viewed as an effective organization, though not representative of the diversity of the community. The board was mostly Caucasian. As the neighborhood became more diverse, the community wanted an organization whose board was more reflective of that diversity. As time has passed, the current board is still lacking that diverse representation of the community. Only now the board is made up of young, male Somali representatives. The WBCC currently receives city of Minneapolis funding through the Community Participation Program.

The Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization (CRNRP) Program was a spin off from the WBCC, becoming a nonprofit organization that receives city of Minneapolis funding through the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

In 2017, the city of Minneapolis – Neighborhood & Community Relations (NCR) department determined that only 1 organization would receive city funding. The reason for this was that both groups applied for CPP funding from the city.

The timeline for completion was early January 2018 with a report containing recommendations for moving forward.

AGENCIES' PARTICIPATION

A first meeting was held on July 13, 2017. Attending that meeting was Robert Thompson and Aariah Fine with the NCR, Dave Ellis & Antonia Wilcoxon with DEC (consultants), Hani Mohamed the executive director for the CRNRP and Mubashir Jelani and Mohammed Jama from the WBCC. This meeting was designed to begin to build trust, introduce DEC consultants, determine a timeline for future meetings, agenda, schedule additional meetings with all partners and explain the process for community input. Both organizations agreed to assist with recruitment of community members to participate in the dialogs.

Between late July through November there were 15 meetings scheduled with both organizations, staff and board of directors to give them updates on the process and to assist in a process to move a merger process forward. There were numerous emails and phone conversations to arrange the meetings. Unfortunately, of the 15 scheduled, only 3 occurred where ALL the participants who confirmed, attended. CRNRP attended all the scheduled meetings. WBCC staff attended the 2 meetings that included NCR director David Rubedor or other NCR staff. The regularly schedule monthly board of director meetings for both organizations were cancelled at the last minute or did not have a quorum.

Both agencies were requested to assist in the recruitment of community participants for 2 scheduled engagement opportunities. Each had over 100 participants at their Annual meetings and believed that they could solicit the same for the dialogs. Each was requested to forward contact information for those participants. Only the CRNRP followed through with this request.

Overall, the staff employed by CRNRP actively engaged from the beginning and were very helpful throughout the process. The WBCC did not engage until the first community dialog. Scheduled meetings were not attended.

During our initial meetings there was much discussion about a possible merger. Both organizations described a process that both said was supported by their respective board of directors. Both organizations spoke of a “merger committee” that had been appointed by each organization to oversee the process. There were meetings scheduled with the joint merger committee which never came to fruition. In my (Dave Ellis) last direct conversation with CRNRP staff, there is no longer talk of a merger.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

DEC hosted 4 direct community dialogs:

2 general community sessions (November 28 & December 13, 2017)

1 session with youth (December 6, 2017)

1 session with Somali elders (December 20, 2017)

Over 60 total participants attended the 2-hour sessions. We utilized a World Café dialog methodology. World Café is a great way of fostering interaction and dialogue with both large and small groups. It is particularly effective in surfacing the collective wisdom of large groups of diverse people. The café format is very flexible and adapts to many different purposes — information sharing, relationship building, deep reflection exploration and action planning. The format typically utilizes 3 specific questions that build on each other. For this project we added a 4th question about their willingness to commit to engaging with a neighborhood representative organization.

During each session participants were very engaging. They enjoyed meeting other community members that they didn't know. They also expressed that they appreciated the opportunity to engage in a way and in a place, that didn't feel threatening.

All of the responses were captured with the participants actual statements. These are available in either their original form and/or transcription.

The youth dialog had a total of 28 participants. There was also 1 adult Somali female that attended. We utilized the same Café process and questions. Again, all the comments were captured in their original wording and are available.

The Somali Elder conversation had 23 participants, all female. There was also 1 Caucasian male that attended. We had 2 interpreters for this meeting. Small group dialog with 5 or fewer participants determined responses to questions and through consensus, ranked their answers with a top 3 from each table. Those responses are listed below. The raw data in Appendices 1 - 3 contains all of the other responses.

Additionally, DEC hosted 11 different conversations with individual community members.

Question 1 - "What does this neighborhood mean to you?"

Responses included:

- Rich, multicultural, ecumenically diverse: Ramadan and Eid, SEA, New Years, politically active, lots of educational resources - University of Minnesota, Augsburg, Saint Kate's, home, pedestrian friendly, safe, mix of density and lots of green spaces, always changing but the same, open minded neighbors, politely conscious, neighbors who care and are passionate. The heart of the neighborhood is family, a place with many assets, lower income > \$14,000/year. "It's the International pulse of the city and we are here to keep it going". "We have to learn how to get along." "The world right here". Home.
- The belief that the City Council runs the neighborhood – References to Warsame, Omar.
- Fear that the city council will not listen, and that NCR will do what the city council wants regardless of what the community says.

Question 2 - "How do you want this neighborhood to be cared for?"

Participants wanted a neighborhood organization that:

- Focuses on community needs. Actively engages youth in programming that they design;
- Is sustainable/ resources/ assets/ structure;
- Works within the community, with residents and law enforcement on public safety;
- Accountable, well- governed, with strong staffing;
- Represents and reflects the entire neighborhood (Diverse);
- Sets clear priorities for neighborhood improvement and works on those;
- Is robust;
- Has good communication inside the organization, throughout the community and with the city; Transparency
- Works closely with each other/ other organizations/ everybody
- Can be trusted, is accountable to the community as well as the city;
- Clean, but not gentrified or sterile;
- Bringing in more resources, beyond city resources;
- Smart people in the community, being recognized and heard;
- Safe Community- welcomes anyone who wants to live here,
- Creates opportunities;

Question 3 – “What are your hopes and dreams for the future of this neighborhood?”

Participants responded that they wanted their neighborhood to be:

- More unified and work together;
- Well organized- community is informed and engaged;
- Green and attractive parks, glorious- places for play and gardening;
- A neighborhood with strong leadership and institutions;
- A neighborhood that preserves history and its diverse people;
- That is seen as a growing neighborhood that is at peace with itself/ free of conflict;
- Keep the diversity and assets we have in the neighborhood. Make the diversity more attractive to others;
- Change others perception of the neighborhood. Elements that involve business, immigrant owned;
- Develop strong neighborhood organizations that has strong leadership/ organizational capacity
- Collaborative engagement between organizations and community;
- Develop an organization that can advocate for wages, worker protections, and housing rights, tenant issues, safety for all;
- Cedar Riverside NRP will engage youth more, especially the girls;
- Recognize the thriving community that is already here- supporting businesses and ideas here already;
- Art coming from within the community;
- Connectedness and Closeness- make space for people to socialize
- Model for how to live with diversity well- National news for positive reasons

OVERALL THEMES:

1. Even though there is support for both organizations, there was a stated need for change.
2. The community wants to be more deeply engaged.
3. Need an organization board that is reflective of the community and can work together for the betterment of the neighborhood.
4. Organization needs to be accountable and transparent to the neighborhood and the city.
5. Neighborhood organization meets the community's needs rather than the personal goals of its board.
6. Need for the creation of space that allows all to actively participate in their community.
7. Need more youth programming designed in partnership with youth.

DIRECTION:

The following comments give direction from the community and the consultant. They provide direction based on observations, engagement and community input to assist in the decision-making process.

MERGER

In conversations with the community and CRNRP staff, it appears that any discussion of a merger is no longer in motion. DEC has been asked to attend numerous meetings of the "merger committees". To date, none has transpired. Input from the community has been that a merger would NOT solve any of the community concerns or create a stronger organization. Most believed that this would only serve to keep the current processes and individuals in place and nothing would change.

CEDAR RIVERSIDE NRP

- A. The Cedar Riverside NRP is known by residents for their programs that support the community. Staff are engaged with the neighborhood. Additionally, they were very supportive of the community engagement process that solicited the responses above. While the CRNRP is recognized, the most often comment was that they "needed to develop more internal capacity". They have garnered support from foundations such as the Bush and the Otto Bremer Foundations.

The community expresses satisfaction comes from a familiarity with programming and staff engagement. They have a mission, vision, and a strategic plan for moving forward.

There was voiced concern that the executive director needs additional skills including development training to assist with developing sustainability. The question of the agency's follow through on commitments was also raised.

- B. Of the 2 agencies that DEC worked with, the CRNRP was the most engaged. They were responsive to requests for updates, meetings, assisting with community dialogs and more. They had a visible structure that appeared to work well in the community. They have the basic structure that would enable them to fulfill the needs of the community as the recognized neighborhood organization.

Our biggest concern is the way the community expressed concerns for this organization's ability to be its own entity without influence from the WBCC, given the number of WBCC board members on the CRNRP board.

WEST BANK COMMUNITY COALITION

- A. Based on community input, the WBCC is lesser known. They have a website, but most people admit that they have no idea what the organization does as far as programming, hours of operation, etc. A common comment was that the organization had no programming, staff or infrastructure. Community members also questioned their accountability when expending city funds. Offices to the organization are often closed.

The WBCC did not participate in any of the design team meetings for the community dialogs. They were initially supportive of assisting in the recruitment of participants in the dialogs, but failed to respond to multiple emails for assistance. Additionally, their staff scheduled multiple meetings with DEC consultants that they failed to attend.

- B. Due to lack of follow through by the WBCC, DEC consultants had very limited contact with the organization's staff and or board of directors. Staff requested numerous meetings, but never attended those that got scheduled. The last such meeting was scheduled on the evening of the first community dialog with staff. The majority of contact happened at meetings scheduled by NCR staff

Additionally, the organization did not follow through on attending community dialog planning meetings and did not hold regularly scheduled board meetings.

MOVING FORWARD/POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS

Based on direct interaction and community input, DEC suggests the following.

If considering a merger. If a merger were to occur, the community expressed a concern that it would continue the status quo. The CRNRP Board of Directors as currently constituted, is made up of several members of the West Bank Community Coalition. The community believes that a merger would simply mean that the new board would be the old WBCC board. Several community members and former CRNRP board members were vocal in not supporting a merger.

Selection of one agency over another:

If the city of Minneapolis selects the West Bank Community Coalition. The community expressed the belief that things will not improve. There is no confidence that the neighborhood will be represented beyond the current level. There is an expressed fear of being able to fully participate if one's views do not align with the current board and its supporters. Many of the individual interviews were conducted based on anonymity.

DEC consultants are in agreement with the feelings of the community.

If the city of Minneapolis selects the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program. While it is an option, the community feels it would still not change the status quo. There is the belief that this selection will result in a board made up of the current WBCC board with little or no diversity, lack of accountability and a continuation of fear and intimidation.

DEC believes that this organization could become viable. They would need significant staff and board training on roles and responsibilities and by-laws. If not already in place, there would be a need for term limits for board and executive committee membership. Additionally, there would need to be a process developed in partnership with the community and NCR to help with making sure that board representation is reflective of the community.

If neither current organization is acceptable. Many in the community expressed a desire that the city of Minneapolis open the process and consider a 3rd neighborhood organization to represent the neighborhood.

Most in the neighborhood do NOT know what a neighborhood organization does. There would need to be some education of community about role and responsibility. When an organization is created, board member orientation, using widely known tools (such as the Attorney General's book on nonprofits board training), and a strategic plan process should fill salient gaps we observed.

DEC believes that if CRNRP is not selected to represent the neighborhood, this would be the next best option. There were organizations and groups that expressed interest.

Regardless of the decision, we would strongly recommend:

- 1. The adoption of term limits of no more than 2 years for directors and all executive positions;*
- 2. Defined roles and responsibilities for staff and board;*
- 3. Clearly outlined and agreed upon board election process;*
- 4. Significantly strengthen engagement with residents and businesses.*

One of the unexpected outcomes came from the Somali women elder conversation. The women who participated stated that this was the first time they had "felt heard". They have expressed an interest in regular meetings and possibly creating their own nonprofit that could be considered as an option for city funding.

Whatever is decided, the community is appreciative of the city asking for their input prior to their decision.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – All responses to each question.

THE VOICES OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD MEMBERS: COMPILATION OF RESPONSES:

Photos of the neighborhood were displayed on a continuous slide presentation (thanks to the Business Association brochure)

QUESTION 1 - "WHAT DOES THIS NEIGHBORHOOD MEAN TO YOU?"

Responses included:

Rich, multicultural, ecumenically diverse: Ramadan and Eid, SEA, New Years, politically active, lots of educational resources - University of Minnesota, Augsburg, Saint Kate's, home, pedestrian friendly, safe, mix of density and lots of green spaces, always changing but the same, open minded neighbors, politely conscious, neighbors who care and are passionate.

The heart of the neighborhood is family, a place with many assets, lower income > \$14,000/year.

"It's the International pulse of the city and we are here to keep it going".

"We have to learn how to get along."

"The world right here".

Home.

The belief that the City Council runs the neighborhood – References to Warsame, Omar.

Fear that the city council will not listen, and that

NCR will do what the city council wants regardless of what the community says.

It is like our hometown, we are not homesick when we are here

It is like our home

We are familiar with each other, we have transportation, food shelf, resources

It used to be very bad, since the past two years it got better

Some things like shooting, kids dying, the streets are now better, there is safety in this area, the street lights work

A lot of resources are available to us: legal services, interpreters, women's programs

The addition of a computer lab, where my son can learn how to program beats for music, my husband is a musician

It is close to home, which helps a lot

As a parent, I have a concern about the people around the Mixed Blood Theater: they come from outside the neighborhood and they use alcohol, drugs, you see drunken people around and I worry because our children see that

We know that anyone can be here, but we don't want it to be free to anybody

We would like to see more women empowerment activities, exercise, learn new skills

QUESTION 2- "HOW DO YOU WANT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD TO BE CARED FOR?"

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Is robust;

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Works closely with each other/ other organizations/ everybody

Can be trusted, is accountable to the community as well as the city;

Clean, but not gentrified or sterile;

Bringing in more resources, beyond city resources;

Smart people in the community, being recognized and heard;

Safe Community- welcomes anyone who wants to live here,

Creates opportunities;

I have been living here for many years. I do not know WBCC, I only know about the work of NRP.

We need the same things others need to be cared for.

We are elders. We are retired, we stay at home

We would like places where people can specialize in things such as an exercise space

Since there are so many youth-centered organizations, and male-centered organizations, it would be good to have an organization that would look at elder women

We are very grateful for the women's program that Miski leads.

We would like to have cultural dances like Somali dance, so we can get out of the house, socialize, have a bilingual staff

Thank you for coming and bringing this listening session to the Somali community

We need a lot of help from the City.

This place is very important for the community

Things needed around here are: childcare, elder activities, weaving, handiwork for women, opportunities to socialize together

We need activities for young people who are older than 18 after graduation from High School

Some have criminal background and need help

If we had something today like activities for young moms, youth, adults

Everybody is different, the need is great, we can use the help, such as cooking classes, a food shelf

There are families who do not qualify for Head Start and need child care

We need space for recreation, exercise, we are isolated sitting at home

There are some women whose children died

We need early childhood education for children under the age of five

We would like to have elder circles, places where people can have their voices heard

We want to be listened to

When the courts contact Miski, she cannot solve all of our problems, if someone is found on the streets, we need to have a way that Somali elder women can be of assistance, providing advice, our opinions, about the issues impacting those we know best

We like the high rise and the young people

Sometimes the young people fight with each other, they get in trouble, I worry about them, why can't someone help?

It is important to have someone who cares and is paying attention on our young people

QUESTION 3 – “WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD?”

Participants responded that they wanted their neighborhood to be:

More unified and work together;

Well organized- community is informed and engaged;

Green and attractive parks, glorious- places for play and gardening;

A neighborhood with strong leadership and institutions;

A neighborhood that preserves history and its diverse people;

That is seen as a growing neighborhood that is at peace with itself/ free of conflict;

Keep the diversity and assets we have in the neighborhood. Make the diversity more attractive to others;

Change others perception of the neighborhood. Elements that involve business, immigrant owned;

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Model for how to live with diversity well- National news for positive reasons

- We would like to see our neighborhood advance like other neighborhoods
- We wish to have the same things other neighborhoods have
- We would like to see improvement of the park near Brian Coyle, cleaning, staffing, some people have diabetes and they need green grass, like in other parks to work, exercise
- We want to see the Park Police return if possible, to expand and improve swimming space, youth employment
- Young people need jobs, and to not drop out of school
- We need to increase services in this building, we would like to have swimming in the building
- We want elder employment opportunities, part time, 5 to 4 hours/day
- We could earn money, pay taxes, and not just sitting at home without anything to do

QUESTION 4. "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?"

We are ready to participate

We would like to have leadership

We want to work together, and to be part of this

We wish to be in leadership and be part of this, so it comes to happen

This is a very effective group of women

I was in the WBCC board and I know that it did not serve the community well

How can we be involved?

People come to us with promises but no follow through

We need to know the outcome

There is much talk but no action

Consultants thanked everyone for their participation and promised that the report would include their comments.

Appendix II. The data below is the transcription of the input from community participants.

QUESTION 1 WHAT DOES THIS NEIGHBORHOOD MEAN TO YOU?

Environmental hazards. Highway pollution, construction pollution, noise pollution

Dense Housing. Pros and cons, Need quiet spaces

George Sherman. "very rich man." Many low-income families

Very important, love it, diverse, proximity to everyone, highly diverse, every lifestyle, U of M: biggest employer in city, many hospitals, and highway nearby

Mosque and liquor in same building: respecting each other. Tolerance/coexistence, acceptance

Health care: Better access?

Melting Pot

High School graduates raise money for road trip to HBCU's in Atlanta funded by businesses and Neighborhood Orgs

Nice Community feel: Café's, near university, community feels like 1

Diversity: cultures, skin color, foods, parades (Somali Independence Day, Cinco De Mayo)

Vast majority rent- opportunity: landlords connecting more to neighborhood

Great diversity

Great place to bike

Close to downtown

Great lite rail!

Near the river (Boats)

Music Venues

Walkable, lots of

Places to eat and socialize

Free spirited

Vitality from students and U of M/ Augsburg

Political consciousness

This neighborhood means a lot to me, because it is unique, most neighbors know each other. You can find everything such as: restaurants, churches, banks, universities, hospital, and cultural theatres and bars. You name it and it's here. You don't have to travel anywhere.

Home- place to contribute

Have lived and worked here most of the time since 1962- to me the neighborhood means too many things to summarize.

Conflict

Community- Diversity and growth

Long history in the neighborhood- blessing and curse at the same time

Home- family, work, live

Home away from home

My identity is reflected here

Me, neighborhood, family, children live here

A place with many friends, colleagues, partners with shared interests in the community

All types of people here- city within a city

A place with rich cultural heritage

A place where arts and culture are very important and a big part of the uniqueness of our neighborhood

A crossroads of people, culture, institutions, businesses

Home to institutions, residents, businesses

A welcoming neighborhood

Dense population and diverse

Vibrant

Coyle center is a pillar of the community

A growing neighborhood

Culturally competent/ unique

Immigrant neighborhood

An historical place where life begins for new Americans and entrepreneurs

Family

Growth

Change

West bank Diner

West bank

Hope

Sports

Brian Coyle

Cedar Riverside to me= family

Possibility

Alive- always things open/ happening

Diversity/ multicultural

Unity and honesty

Home- family/ residential

Welcoming

Acceptance

Everything you need, you can find here

Home away from home

Welcoming

Mixture of people

It's not about who has been here the longest, it's about what we can do together

Seeing people like me

It means a lot because I grew up here

It is a safe place for me

This is where I grew up. My roots are deep here

Place of gathering for people of all races, whether it be Somali, American, Asian, Ethiopian

Family, unity, fun

Brian Coyle, B-C-D-E-F-M- (Name of buildings)

Community Echoes Determination Across Riverside

Home- unity

Crippled

Family*

My community basically another family living and seeing each other every day is a blessing because Cedar couldn't bring us any closer

I was raised here and if anything, bad happens the whole community knows. I think that our neighborhood is just a big family and Brian Coyle is the meeting center

Unity, diversity, sharing (knowledge and resources), concern for each other, political (social/economic) power

Memories

QUESTION 2_HOW DO YOU WANT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD TO BE CARED FOR?

Engage the community

Implement programs for the community

Represent the whole community

Identifies community needs

Accessible and accountable to the community

Community events: host/ plan/ organize large community events

Listens to everyone's opinion, feedback in the neighborhood

Train, mentor, engage and support helping the next generation of leaders

Host community events that welcome new immigrants/ community

Taking care of the youth

An organization that advocates bigger community space/ community content/ new community center

Create programs for youth/ young adults

Engage more female to participate more in the community

Outreach

Influence/ shape. Decision based on community interests

Communications/ conduit for information

Review and influence land use plans

Resource building

Safety/ earth day

Act as an interface with community stakeholders and large organizations (E.G. Augsburg, U of M, Hospitals)

Neighborhood interests and not personal prevail

Identify and work on issues important to the neighborhood

Strengthen social connections: multi- cultural dinner, promotion of Goodwill, promote positive stories of neighborhood

Ideally should be one organization, representative of the interests and residents, a means of social communication between the city government and the neighborhood. At present the recognized org. is ineffectual, rather invisible, and wasteful of money. Other organizations have filled the breach- whether appropriately- including the business association and the Cedar- Riverside partnership.

Organization that represents the need of the neighborhood

An organization that represents the elders/ accountable

This is a new neighborhood that's growing

To be a voice for new Americans

Safety, bullying

Housing- rental issues

Community space/ Coyle Center (expansion)

Increase outreach and education about neighborhood organizations

Have city official step back and let neighborhood make its own decisions

I don't like district representation

Bringing resources to the neighborhood. Lots of organization, job resources, less effort to bring resources

Communication for: city level, jobs, and fun

Trust and accountability: who can trust organizations or do organizations

Community members do their roles. Everybody should contribute, culturally diverse, valuable community, safety is important

Home: Contributing, teacher

For it to have its necessary goods

Getting more people to interact

More opportunity: job, housing, education

Change

Representing

New building

Gently, thoughtfully from within

Arts- artists in the community

Positive publicity
Truthfully
Treating others with respect
Visitors treating it like their own neighborhood
Involvement
Expressing opinions
Not judgmental
Connections, networks
How can they be engaged? Working together and helping each other. Differences are okay
More security
Curfew isn't enforced
More jobs should be available- to younger people too. 13+?
Nearby colleges/ universities should target students here
Unity: Everyone seems to be divided
Clean parks, waxed courts, more jobs
Program for low-income family to get scholarships
No lights in the basketball courts*
Fashion design choices
Working elevators
Recreation choices
Sport courts: tennis, volleyball, track
College minority
Race awareness
Outside basketball court*
Scholarship opportunities
Arcade room
Library
Pool
Better traffic signs: stop and yield

Open space we can use

Weight rooms

Nice park- system upgrade

Bigger facility

News group for our community. We need this because some stuff happens, and the community doesn't know about it

The people I basically loved and gave everything to that I lost not knowing them anymore messes with my mind just praying they're in a better place

Language classes

More plants in Coyle

Language dictionaries, more supplies: pencils, erasers, paper, calculators

Keep the food trucks

Free and more parking

More programs: activities- swimming class, meditation/ yoga class, sewing class, basketball practices (more)

Dania Hall grass spot: swimming pool, furnished visitor apartments

QUESTION 3 WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD?

Welcoming place for everyone

Community engagement place

More unified

Safe neighborhood

Affordable households to stay and thrive

Economically strong

Opportunities for youth (and all) to succeed

Culturally diversity celebrated

Access to healthy and affordable food and housing

Brian Coyle Center to renovate

Continue to be a place where small businesses thrive

Economically successful- community based development
Affordable neighborhood
Neighborhood that retains its home-grown talent
Recognize and honor the past and build a new future together
Neighborhood that represents the needs of our neighbors
Better relationship with the youth, that includes safety
Clean, safe, and family friendly, that has public space
Building community that centers to the community- library, space
All community organizations work together to promote understanding, appreciation, and not duplicate efforts of other orgs
Everybody loves each other and not judge people by how they look
Rebuild a new community center on lot A. Demolish Brian Coyle and expand Currie Park
To have an organization that is reliable, transparent, and everyone can trust
An organization that is welcoming to everyone, especially new neighbors
An organization that can bring people together and organize around idea of new community center and make it happen
Psychology depends on your environment. Will affect the people who come (E.g.: Teen tech center at Brian Coyle)
Bigger community center- no brick walls, low ceilings
More up to date institutions with updated infrastructure
Central hub for news
More interfaith programs
National night out
Better and more programs
Nicer people
Love towards everyone
Bigger
Communications
Trust
A place for acceptance

Diversity

Home

Acceptance

Equality

A good percentage of youth going to college

Better opportunity

Safe community

City investments in our "Cedar Riverside Community"

A popular neighborhood

Expand Coyle and the neighborhood

To not have any gangsters here- have a greater police presence

More diversity in Cedar- Riverside

More scholarships

Continue and increase the environmental standards and be a USA model

Equal opportunities between genders

More opportunities for the youth

More community centers

Bigger community center

Kids should have the dreams of going to college

Educational programs for kids at a young age

Redesigned apartment complexes

More opportunities for seniors

I want to become a general internist

I hope my siblings don't have to see fights, police lights and sirens, ambulances, and that they can have a better time growing

To have opportunities

QUESTION 4 HOW DO YOU PLAN TO BECOME INVOLVED?

Hold each other accountable

Make connections with institutions

Participation in meetings and leadership

Share information with others

Community networking

Make cross cultural connections

Volunteer at community events/ service projects

Attend meetings and events

Participate and volunteer within the neighborhood

Show up at meetings or shop at local shops

Contacting/ outreach

Get to know neighbors and involve friends

Get involved around tenant rights and organizations will involve with historical West Bank

Volunteer to help

Participate in planning for the future. Willing to support this new initiative, if there is one

Keep coming to meetings, participating in programs, and helping to identify and address community challenges

Participate and be supportive for anything that will help the community

Working with young people/ building the next generation of leaders

Teaching Somali's mathematics

Push early childhood education

Work hard to provide employment

Closing the barriers for young people in the neighborhood

Mentoring older/ adult for leadership positions

Being the voice, my community can use and they youth to be the foundation of that voice

Being open minded

Help make a new Coyle center

Effort creates ability

Create a new possibility for a Coyle center and help design it and build a community center the world will know about!

Showing love, not giving up

Joining community meetings showing I am here and am actually looking for change

Serve my community as I get older. Become part of internships

Show up more

Understand and learn

Volunteering

Walk (the neighborhood), listen (to people), learn (from them), show up (for them)

Support art from within

Work on outreach and funding

Find funding to start up a youth coalition to promote change

Come back during college years and act as a mentor

Promote well-being and health with flyers

By coming back to help my community by giving money to places

Speak up*

Participating in community events

Protest

Demand change

Vocalize in detail your goals

Do action

Have a petition to start a program that can seemingly make public blueprints for needed projects

To email you guys and get updates

Ride bikes (less pollution), no cars

Help service the food shelf

Charity, tutoring, programming

Recommend (supply) needs to staff and political leaders

Involving yourself and speaking up. When people hear your voice, they take your ideas into consideration

We just need to know that our voice can make a change

Giving my input on my struggles living in this neighborhood

INDIVIDUAL INPUT – INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO ATTEND EVENTS, OR UNWILLING TO VOICE THEIR OPINION IN PUBLIC MET WITH CONSULTANTS SEPARATELY.

Sometimes toxic in the neighborhood. Money came in and things began to change. Usual money problems. Previous group was very involved. New immigrants came into organization and things got bad. Effective people

left. Came in not knowing what was expected. Not as committed. Hired David at WBCC. Partners got in the way. Neighborhood is not getting help. M.J. came in as Chair. Jeilane was hired. Young kids can't handle basic things- commitment not there. Fighting. Personal reasons get in the way. Help youth/elders/ community. NRP is at least functioning. Needs help with capacity. Consistently there.

TOP THINGS THAT YOU WANT FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION?

Listen to community

Services

Represent the community

Be the voice

True representative

Fair and equal

No agenda

CONTACTS:

West bank business association members

Ben Marcy- U of M: can add context and part of business association

Abdi Warsame- part of the problem

Concern with neighborhood election- need term limits, needs new board members not from community

Educate the community on what a community organization is and what the organizations' responsibilities are

Neither organization should be funded by the City. Should be funding either African Development Corporation (ADC) or Trinity Church: they are neutral places

APPENDIX III

WORD CLOUDS

<https://worditout.com/user/1295023/settings/1de9b1b2c54ea8d0dc2433f2aa0a44d4>

For each question the cluster of voices creates a cloud.

Question 1: What does this neighborhood mean to you?





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