

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

Recommendations for Recalculating the 2020 “Roadmap” and Funding Recommendation

“Neighborhood Organizations are vital to the success of Minneapolis.”

- *Public comment made at NCEC Listening Session 2/27/18*

The above comment was made by a young woman who hadn't been born when the Neighborhood Revitalization Program started. As an intern with Elliot Park Neighborhood, she learned the history and legacy of Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. Many success stories were shared during this Listening Session.

But - since the current source of funding for neighborhood organizations and the programs that support them is coming to an end in 2020, the following questions need to be asked:

1. How do we keep or improve the relevancy and usefulness of Minneapolis' neighborhood organizations?
2. How do we maintain and increase the funding and administrative support?
3. How do we maintain the current systems or create new systems that improve collaboration and communication with the City?

In early 2017, NCEC Commissioners, residents and NCR staff members participated in training sessions on the Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations that Matter. A partnership of the NCEC, NCR, neighborhood organizations and residents organized and held five Community Conversations plus two cultural community specific conversations.

Based on these conversations, we learned that residents continue to rely on neighborhood organizations to:

1. **Provide communication to and from the city**
2. **Provide a venue for civic engagement on issues that concern them**
3. **Build and develop authentic community**
4. **Provide opportunities to become further involved in City government.**

Residents also expect transparency, good leadership and representation.-The evidence proves that many residents are willing to expend 73,285 of their precious volunteer hours to make all of the above continue to happen, valued at \$1.9 million per the 2016 Neighborhoods Program Annual Report.

The participation and input from the Community Conversations, the Community Connections Conferences and the recent NCEC Listening Sessions show that neighborhood organizations are remaining relevant and possibly more useful and needed than in the past.

To meet the new challenges and opportunities of density and increased diversity, neighborhood organizations, the NCEC and NCR will need to work together to create the tools and resources necessary to assist in expanding outreach efforts, board and volunteer retention and developing capacity.

To address question #3, we need to have further discussion and increased understanding of the role of the 5 NCR Cultural Community Specialists and how they could better work to bring neighborhood organizations and cultural communities together. The NCEC will continue working on this matter.

NCEC Commissioners have been hearing directly from neighborhood representatives and residents regarding the options and action items listed in the “Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap” developed by the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. The NCEC has held two Listening Sessions for residents to give public input on the Roadmap (2/27/18 and 3/27/18). The following feedback is derived from those conversations.

FEEDBACK

Option 1 (The Impact Assessment Model¹)

This would create a system that encourages (with disincentives) the smaller (Level I) organizations to merge with Level II & III organizations. The ultimate goal of fewer, larger, more staff-driven neighborhood organizations would make the system more manageable for the city. It would lose the “granular” level of current neighborhood activity and access. There is a concern that larger entities would be barriers for diverse board and volunteer representation. There are more opportunities to work together to build community with 70 organizations vs. 13 – 20 organizations.

Option 2 (The Pooled Services Model)

One aspect of this option suggests a District Council model which would also mean fewer, larger organizations and therefore we have the same concern outlined above. The sharing resources aspect of this option is viewed favorably by neighborhood organizations who would like the to ability to collaborate, but not necessarily merge. This concept needs to be better understood and defined. Neighborhoods have often expressed a wish for better centralized communication, but not necessarily through the city. The NCEC could more appropriately fulfil that role.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Develop more detailed description and process of 'pooling services'
- Consider creation of Pooled Services/Community Coordinator to develop procedures and adaptations to assist neighborhood organizations in developing partnerships

Option 3 (Community Participation Program – the current system)

The current system preserves and supports the 70 independent neighborhood organizations. The needs-based allocation formula provides an equitable funding distribution. The feedback from the listening sessions and conversations have been strongly in favor of keeping the current system with a few tweaks. A unanimous request is that food expenditures would be allowed under the new funding source.

NCEC Option 4 (The Community Collaborative Model) *(Option 4 in the Roadmap is “TBD”, a placeholder for ideas to be added. NCEC has added one.)*

This model strives to increase community participation by encouraging neighborhood organizations to partner with non-profits and other community associations. The goal of the partnerships is to create community involvement of ethnic and cultural groups and produce diverse leaders. Such partnerships will increase community participation, increase the safety of the neighborhood, increase diverse leadership, bring diverse cultures together and keep a neighborhood healthy and strong.

¹ NCR renamed Partnership Model in marketing brochure. NCEC feels this is not an accurate name for this model.

NCEC RECOMMENDATIONS:

NCEC recommends the continuation of the Community Participation Program (“CPP”) Program with the following provisions and additional concepts:

- 1. Clearly defined roles and expectations among the neighborhood organizations, the NCEC, the NCR Department and the City of Minneapolis (to be developed with neighborhood organizations)**
- 2. Increased funding for sustainable programming, including food as a community engagement tool.**
- 3. Multi-year allocations (5-year) with ability to repurpose unexpended funds into the next cycle.**
- 4. Enhanced officers, board and volunteer capacity and organizational management required training added to future program guidelines, as co-defined by the City and the neighborhood organizations, to help ensure there is a base level of board proficiency in board governance and fiduciary duties.**
- 5. Equity and undoing racism training, along with support services to ensure that the organization board is representative of its community**
- 6. Strong & qualified administrative support from fully-resourced NCR Department, or from contracted services, 4-5 additional FTE’s (Neighborhood Support Specialists) consistent with the recommendations of the May 2016 Biko GrayHall Pentel report.**
- 7. Develop better coordination of services by Cultural Community Specialists to neighborhood organizations.**
- 8. Translation services available to neighborhood organizations.**
- 9. Develop a “Sister Neighborhood” program, including additional funding for hosting co-neighborhood events.**

The NCEC further recommends the following for future discussions and considerations by the workgroups:

On NRP Funding:

NCEC supports the NCR recommendation to continue the use of NRP funds into perpetuity.

On NCEC Structure:

- 1. Review and adjust the NCEC District Borders to reflect changes in population.**
- 2. All NCEC elected representatives to be elected by City Wards (13 seats).**
- 3. Reduce appointed NCEC positions from 8 to 4 positions, to be appointed by the City Council (2) Mayor (1) and the Park Board (1).**
- 4. Elect/appoint non-voting Alternates for all NCEC positions.**
- 5. Term Limit of two (2) consecutive two-year terms, with absence of one year before being eligible for election or appointment again.**
- 6. City needs to work with neighborhood organizations to adjust the boundaries of the NCEC Districts.**

Workgroups

NCR proposed three workgroups to be established in June to further develop the details of the action items of their proposal. Neighborhood organizations have many questions about the action items and the workgroups. **The NCEC COW met and recommends the workgroups be structured as follows:**

Funding, Guidelines and Implementation Work Group (15 Members)

- 2 NCEC – (old / new)**
- 1 NRP Policy Board**
- 3 Cultural Community / Community Reps.**
- 5 Neighborhood Reps.**
- 2 Subject Matter Experts (Neighborhood Specialist and Development Finance Staff)**
- 2 Undoing Racism / Equity Reps. GARE (Government Alliance on Racial Equity) trained equity leads**
- 1 Council – Non Voting**
- 1 Mayor – Non Voting**

Governance Advisory Structure for Neighborhood and Community Engagement (15 members)

- 2 NCEC (old / new)**
- 2 NRP Policy Board**
- 5 Neighborhood**
- 3 Cultural / Community Reps.**
- 1 Subject Matter Expert – City Clerk**
- 2 Undoing Racism / Equity Reps. GARE (Government Alliance on Racial Equity) trained equity leads**
- 1 Council – Non Voting**
- 1 Mayor- Non Voting**

City-Wide Engagement Policy (15 members)

- 2 NCEC (old / new)**
- 1 NRP Policy Board**
- 3 Cultural / Community Reps.**
- 5 Neighborhood Reps.**
- 2 Subject Matter Experts – CPED and Public Works**
- 2 Undoing Racism / Equity Reps. GARE (Government Alliance on Racial Equity) trained equity leads**
- 1 Council – Non Voting**
- 1 Mayor – Non-Voting**

Minneapolis Neighborhoods and Community Engagement Commission

Neighborhoods 2020 Committee: Funding Programs recommendation

Approved by the Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission

June 26, 2018

Minneapolis policy makers stand at a crossroad with the opportunity to renew and reinvigorate funding for programming that benefits city residents by supporting the work of neighborhood organizations and cultural and community organizations alike. The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (“NCEC”) recommends continued funding for programming in the model of the Community Participation Program (“CPP”), but with additional funding to support creative and innovative public engagement, deeper resident involvement with the municipal enterprise, and a refresh to the investments in built and natural infrastructure at a scale seen under the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (“NRP”) using 21st Century tools of participatory budgeting to redirect municipal priorities as envisioned under the NRP.

Funding to support neighborhood organizations and cultural and community groups must be adequate, consistent, regular and stable. The NCEC recommends that the City Council renew a multi-year (5-years) program that incorporates the best aspects of the Community Participation Program along with program improvements to ensure that organizations receiving support are welcoming, inclusive, and representative of the rich diversity among the residents in the neighborhoods served by the organizations.

Current program funding under the CPP is secured, subject to annual City Council budget approval of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (“NCR”), through 12-31-2020. The NCEC supports the NCR Department seeking City Council adoption of establishing funding commitment in the City’s financial plan for post-2020 renewal of financial support for neighborhood and community engagement program funding.

The NCEC recommends City Council approve future funding equivalent to prior program iterations of \$6M to \$8M annually, including funding for additional NCR Department staffing to support neighborhoods as recommended by the GrayHall/Pentel/Biko Associates report. Funding for prior iterations of the Community Participation Program was at the following levels: 2017-2019 (>\$12,300,000) and 2014-2016 (>\$11,400,000). The minimum annual allocation of \$25,000 is not sufficient for recognized organizations to fulfill the expectations for community engagement from the city; the base level funding should be increased to \$35,000. The NCEC recommends the City Council

consider incorporating a participatory budgeting framework for neighborhood organizations to submit project recommendations into the City's capital budget request process for a defined level of investment (e.g. \$5 million annually in the 5-year Capital Improvement Program) and subject to further review by the Capital Long-range Improvement Committee. Residents have in the past been empowered in Minneapolis through their ability to make financial recommendations about the built and natural infrastructure in their neighborhoods and communities; NCEC suggests let's renew that partnership between policy makers and the citizenry.