

neighborhoods 2020

Work Group 2: Governance Notes for Meeting 2: August 22, 2018

Pre-Meeting: Equitable Engagement

The following reminder of the City of Minneapolis' Blueprint for Equitable Engagement was displayed prominently for attendees near the entrance of the room.

Check In: Name + Artifact & Connection

All attendees were asked to take something out from their bag, pockets (etc.) and share a brief anecdote about what it means to – or says about – them.

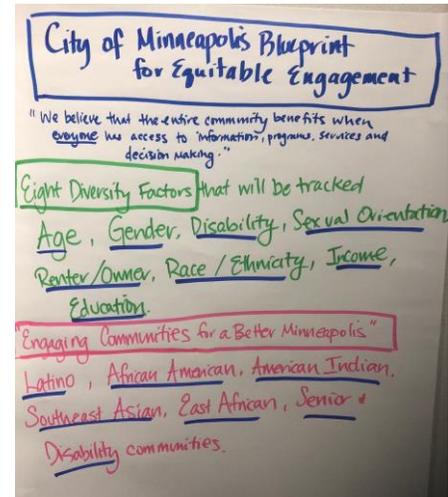
Discussion: Working Agreements

Time was spent reviewing expectations of workgroup members, including reference to conversations heard during the previous meeting. Members came up with the following working agreements.

- Start and end on time
 - o Ask for permission to extend
- Listen to each other
- Listen to learn
- Let people finish before chiming in
- Timing for activities/convos
- Stay on task
- Leave each meeting with action items
- Keep the mission top of mind
- Speak in plain language (try to avoid industry jargon)
- Using diverse patterns for group sharing
- Members have options to pass
- Multiple avenues to get feedback from neighborhoods
- Contributing to agenda as a collective
- Info/ideas/resources to Steve

Additionally, the following elements were discussed as requests for processes that the group will begin using and can revisit to see what is working or could be adjusted.

- Place the mission on the external agenda for each meeting
- We are not following Robert's Rules
- Use diverse patterns to encourage group sharing.
- *Two mins on front and back in for "check ins"*: Intent is to make sure people are not stewing on an issue (that may cause them to ultimately "check out" of future conversation). This is a



purposeful attempt to create an opportunity to share any concerns and/or positive feedback a member was thinking about.

- *For wrapping up small group conversations:* facilitator raises hand and groups finish their next thought and raise hand when they are ready. Facilitator is given permission to put an end to conversations for the sake of keeping on schedule.
- *Offer time management for all activities and conversations:* facilitator announces time up front, reminds of time remaining near the end and wraps up in allotted time.
- *On public participation:* all members of public who attend the start of the meeting are invited to introduce themselves. After each agenda item the group will offer an opportunity for comment from the public. (Alternatives considered: a specific time for comment - last five minutes of the meeting, etc.) Special focus will be paid to how much time it is taking and if members of the work group may or may not be getting space to speak/process.
- *Public forum/listening session:* While several members do not feel adequately prepared to lead a listening session at this time, there was a commitment made to revisit the potential for this idea in the future.

Discussion: Role of Resident Committee in this Work with David Rubedor, NCR Director

David spent ~40 minutes with the work group discussing state statutory requirements and the history for each commission. He also gave his views on what opportunities have been missed at the city and enterprise level and what the City needs from an appointed board or commission. What follows is discussion, questions and answers over and above the three documents David shared with the work group, that can be found at www.Minneapolis.gov/ncr.

Documents:

- Resident Advisory Committees and Engagement powerpoint
- Ordinance amending Title 16, Chapter 419 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Planning and Development: Neighborhood Revitalization Program
- Resolution 2011R-668 of the City of Minneapolis

Quotable/Notable from David –

- David takes direction from city council – though they may end up in situations where they challenge each other along the way
- We have 50+ boards in Minneapolis – four are engagement based (resident based with very specific pieces of focus)
- We have boards and commissions to help us have insight into building better engagement and better outcome
- Reminder on “Appointed Boards and Commissions” (ABC) like Neighborhoods 2020 work groups: though no individual within the group has the power to make decisions, they work as a collective body to recommend
- One option we looked at years ago was to go to the state and change the statute. We run the risk with an unfavorable legislator that they may likely just get rid of it. Due to the risk of losing funding, this is not a seemingly viable option.
- On NRP
 - It is required by state law and thus subject to specific legal requirements

- NRP is 100% focused on neighborhood organizations
- Vacancies on NRP are tough to fill
- Attendance is an issue
- Several meetings over the years where no quorum was established
- NRP program will still be up and running “long after we are gone”
- On the Engagement Design Team – we ask departments to come to this group first before a major initiative to talk about their process, brainstorm and help departments think through how to actively think through engagement
 - We can't require departments to come to EDT, but do try to compel them
 - Many depts are doing really well in engagement. But they just aren't going to NCEC.
- Gaps –
- Neighborhoods need a resident advisory committee
 - Too many programs to not have more support
- We are having gaps in how individuals are being informed
- One of the things that came out of previous discussion was combining the two groups, NRP and NCEC
 - Conversation ensued about how the two groups (NRP and NCEC) voted in the past regarding whether or not to join as one
 - NCEC voted for merger, NRP voted against it
 - Hard to get city departments to get on board – who are these depts reporting to and why can't they have a mandate to be a part of
 - David asked if we revisit the current structure of two boards – and whether or not that is efficient?
 - Reminder: Structure dictates future actions. It would be important to look at the structure and see if this would lead more departments to chime in and involve.
- Challenges
 - Need advisory to meet statutory requirements
 - So how do we add other services?
 - These are volunteer boards – people on NCEC for example spend a lot of time, so there is a capacity challenge
 - Relevance for City departments – what is the value? NCR does it because they have to. But other departments are elective and we have a hard time getting them to come.

Question - Can you give the case or need for resolution

Answer - City was expanding engagement work and needed a broader array of engagement work. In 2009 the city put in resources to broaden work to other areas of NCEC (Examples: language access, people with disabilities, marginalized groups, etc.) while NRP policy board still focused on work of neighborhoods themselves.

Question – Are jurisdictions in Hennepin County and state of Minnesota doing this same work?

Answer: We are unique in that we are ahead of most areas (including St Paul). Most major municipalities have recognized need for engagement and it is getting better throughout the US.

Question - Can you pair down and clarify our goal?

Answer - Your Primary role is to figure out how the Neighborhood program should be covered (NCEC and neighborhood program). You could come back and say what we have is fine or you could bring alternatives

Question - When we are talking about governance, how are we defining when it comes to the neighborhoods?

Answer -

You need to reach the state statutory requirement (NRP is not going away)

David asks out loud...

- Beyond that, is it possible to have different representation on that board
- What does it look like order to feel that this represents them at the city?

Question: Why did you develop (the two separate groups) if you knew there would be duplication?

Answer: (David speculating because he was not there at that time). Intent was NCEC would become the primary driver

- To a certain degree that has played out. NCEC has a more robust agenda and work is almost entirely on neighborhood focus.
- One of the challenges for this group – is that structure needed and if it is there, then does the city need another group to get to the other engagement work?

Question: Can we share between other N2020 work groups

Answer: We can involve both. We can share ideas and even create cross over sessions if needed.

Question: Where are the statutory requirements?

Answer: Page 12 of document

Question: About our goal of ensuring the role of equity

Answer:

- All of the engagement work is about equity – creating paths for people that have not normally had it. City has done a lot of work in that particular area
- NCEC has always been one of the most diverse groups in the city
- Missed opportunity: A lot of the new work from the city has an equity focus but there is no advisory committee overseeing
- Committee member noted that the following departments/campaigns did engage with NCEC: Public works 20 year street paving; city clerk election ambassadors; MPD community crime prevention; CPED Minneapolis 2040

Follow Up Discussion: What questions need to be asked to move forward?

The workgroup split into three smaller groups and wrote out the following questions (written verbatim as no full group discussion commenced due to time).

- What do residents want? (and business + stakeholders)

- Process to ensure neighborhood residents are engaged and are themselves able to define what makes the neighborhood concerns + needs.
- Board to provide a forum + venue to air issues, challenge city hall processes, hold officials accountable
- Structure that encourages and allows the city to provide the neighborhood orgs need (Discover)
- Define body of work of NRP + NCEC and NCR over past 10 years. (Policies, procedures, outcomes, reports, etc! Chart it out)
- Educate the public on issues and needs
- Review prior advisory recommendations (e.g. Comm Eng Task Force, 2007-2008, etc.)
- Get models from other major US cities (summary info.)
- What do neighborhood organizations need from the city to help them be successful?
- What is currently working and not working in governance?
- What are existing procedures for the ABC's and city departments to engage with neighborhoods, and vice-versa?
- NCEC coming up with their own agendas and initiatives – how to ensure priority alignment with neighborhoods?
- Neighborhoods are interested in collaborating with each other and be less silo'd – how to do that?
- How do we communicate key ideas across all three Neighborhoods 2020 work groups?
- How are we going to pull in more diverse people?
- How do we get voices of under-represented/marginalized people?
- Can we weigh in (or revise) on roles and responsibilities of NCR and NCEC?
- How do we ease up on bureaucracy requirements for participation at Board & Commission and Neighborhood Association levels?
- Can we weigh in on leadership participation model of NAs?
- What new shape can our city governance take on at all levels (spherical vs pyramid)?
- Can we expect policy language to be given in lay terms?
- What can be rewritten for clarity or context?
- Can we expect equity at all levels of governance if neighborhood associations are equitable and meet racial, age, ability, gender, economic parity, etc.
- How do city boards, commissions, and staff departments keep that continuum?

Check Out:

- Next meeting is Tuesday, September 11 from 6 to 8 p.m.
 - Location TBD
 - The group asked to move locations to one quadrant (north, south, east and west) for each of the remaining four scheduled meetings.
- Reminder to use the Workgroup Resource Library, link [here](#).
- Homework:
 - A member of the group wanted to ensure the group has an “Equity Checklist”:
 - Facilitator noted it is her role to help the group consider equity throughout the

process. This includes but is not limited to approaches to work, which voices are being heard, power dynamics, asking questions and seeking perspectives. (see blueprint above)

- That “checklist” may, for example look like “What are the (3-5) questions to always ask?”
- ACTION ITEM: What should be on the equity checklist? And how do we want those to be applied?
 - **Think about what you would want in an equity checklist and send ideas to Steve by 8/28**
 - Steven.gallagher@minneapolismn.gov
 - 612.673.2905
- Do you have questions for the community? Steve has the ability to ask those that volunteered to be on a listserv. Contact him with suggestions!

Acronym Key:

In order to avoid assumptions and increase understanding amongst group members, all acronyms used in each meeting will be defined.

- ABC = Appointed Boards & Commissions
- CPED = Community Planning & Economic Development
- CPP = Community Participation Program
- EDT = Engagement & Design Team
- NCEC = Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission
- NCR = Neighborhood & Community Relations Department
- NRP = Neighborhood Revitalization Program