Check In:

Introductions

- N2020 member, Vanessa Height helped set up the meeting in this location and talked about Impact Hub in Elliot Park. This is a coworking space for social entrepreneurs. Everyone is doing community work which is exciting to be around.
- Space owned by Finnegans Brewery – which sells its beer as a nonprofit.
- All members, guest speakers, city staff and members of community were asked to name and one thing good about "innovation."

Grounding Review – Working agreements, Equitable Engagement Blueprint, City Council equity definitions, Acronym key

- **Equity definition -**
  - Question: Are we bound by these definitions? (Concerned about "process")
    - Example: A lot of our applications do not state anything but "other" for ethnicity
  - David R talked about how people self-identify
  - Facilitator talked about even the govt being confused.

Presentation:
IAP2 Intro – David Rubedor /Ann Carol (not present), Director of NCR Community Relations

Summary – In previous meetings the group discussed the IAP2 engagement model. David and Ann Carol were invited to give a 10 minute break down on that process. Ann was unable to attend and David recommended she visit at another meeting. David shared a Spectrum of Public participation model that NCR encourages all city departments to use. What follows are comments beyond the handout, shared here.

- IAP = International Association of Public Participation – consortium of organizations that put together a practice about how engagement should be conducted and we use it in NCR
- Intended to be deliberately community-focused
- Challenge: it is not universally applied within the city
  - City does have an engagement design who uses framework
- On handout -
  - #3 can we be really clear about the impact on the city
  - #4 – when you're asking the city why they are going out to engage, we point to this
  - Example of "Inform" - We are declaring a snow emergency
  - Example of "Collaborate" – co-creation with community to create a process to make recommendations (such as the Neighborhoods 2020 project)

- Empower: We've handed out a decision for community to be done
- #6 – this is important as it is the accountability piece.
- Regarding Distractions – This makes it clear as to why we are going out and define a beginning and an end and report back to people.
- This helps people think through. It makes it clear as to what the expectations are and when we they will report back.
  - On the Public Engagement Toolkit from City of Westminster
    - It is a good example of a product that could come out of Neighborhoods 2020 project
    - Westminster is a great PROCESS. What its missing – and what Minneapolis has – is a great application. Lets pair those together.
    - Question: You said it was adopted so why is it not universal?
      - Answer: In order to do that a citywide engagement policy is needed.
    - Question: Concern that the city of Westminster is way ahead of us. So what would it take to have all city departments required?
      - Answer: Dept funds a number of trainings
    - Question: How is it determined which type of engagement to be used?
      - Answer: At this point we meet with departments and ask what they are looking for and what they are trying to achieve.
        - Follow Up: Are there any benchmarks? (If this, then that)
          - Answer: there are not. We do it on case by case with engagement design team
            - Follow Up: It seems that things happen that affect people but they don't seem to be involved
            - Response: That would be a good point for Ann
    - Question: Can the city departments just pick and choose where they go on the spectrum?
      - Answer: (Yes) We spend more time on ensuring they are "doing it well"
    - Question: (Back in 2004) There was a community engagement process model. There is an impact scale recommended that had consequences. I think something like the impact scale is something to look at.
      - Answer: You could try to marry those ideas together. Creating a matrix could be something this group does.
    - Question: What happened to the 2004 recommendations?
      - David said he will check and come back to the group.
      - It was never implemented Citywide
    - Question: What are pieces that make this policy enforceable?
      - Answer: the big thing is engagement. If we have a citywide engagement policy the council will have that for you.

Public Works with guest speakers Brett Jolly and Patty Day

Brett and Patty spent time talking to – and answering questions from - the work group about how Public Works is using the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation to foster more equitable engagement and understanding with the community.

- Public works is recognized within the City departments as putting heavy emphasis on equity and engagement work. However, Brett and Patty say they are far from perfect and are still learning.
  - They have seen what an appropriate level of equity in a project looks like
  - They see the dept stepping up and do things that needed to be done to reach everyone
  - It comes down to more time and more investment.

- Key comment on possible engagement plan from Neighborhood 2020 Project:
  - ***Think of selling this as a recommendation created to help us do a better job rather than 'here's what you are doing wrong and have to fix.'***

- Community Outreach examples: We have programs in place where we go out and talk to groups and gather information. We are seeking input all around the city.
  - Access Minneapolis – 10 year plan
  - Bicycle plan
  - Pedestrian plan
  - Water main work
  - Jobs – in October we will hold ~30 job events to help fulfill the 1,000+ staffing needs
  - Organics Example – this was a mandatory project with support from City Council and Mayor. Residents had to opt in to take advantage but were paying for it regardless.
    - Initial adoption was low, especially in areas where comprehension may have been difficult to a number of factors
    - Brought in extra help
    - Knocked on doors
    - Explained benefits in several languages
    - We have seen positive uptick in results (but it is a journey and we continue to evolve)

- On using the Spectrum of Participation model (IAP2: see previous handout):
  - When Patty joined the staff in January, she inventoried all projects to assess engagement needs and prioritized where to invest time.
  - There was a time where we thought a letter was enough. But now we don't think that way now.
    - We are trying to do what we can to meet people where they are at
    - Or create spaces for them
  - We have lots of plans and ask people to let us know what they think
    - We seek feedback, take it and work it into updates, then go back with our more robust plan and make sure that is what they saw
  - Informing: we do a lot of it
  - Specific example - Mn 28 Bridge – looking at what to do with it
    - Residents were dissatisfied with the initial process and so we started over
    - Held a new meeting, had a great turnout
    - Gave choices
    - Went back with our ideas to make sure we heard it right
    - Residents were more satisfied with outcomes

- These projects, while they may seem small on the whole, are very important to those impacted most.

- Question: Did you not use this before?
  - Answer: (Patty) just started in January – I'm catching things and trying to bring them to where they should be
- Question: You mentioned the bicycle advisory commission. So you go to these commissions that are advisory. How much are you required to get opposing opinions?
  - Answer: The advisory commissions are added to all of the other parts of that project. There are other controls on these projects that are outside of it. We also have a citywide bicycle plan that has a lot of community and city-wide input.
- Question: You mentioned engagement wasn't good enough. Where is that coming from
  - Answer: City, Advisory, Community (everywhere)
- Question: It sounds like you two have done a great job. But if you leave tomorrow, then what? What is something we can take with as a policy piece? (To know this practice of engagement will continue)
  - Answer: The policy piece we have is the communication plan – it's prebuilt. At least on the larger practice and that is our standard practice We know what we don't know. We really like to get things done but we know we need to go to NCR to help with engagement.
- Comment: I work with a lot of groups and they all have information to share. Relationship at the most basic grassroots level is important. I think there is a difference between issue-based organizing.
  - Response: Not all of the neighborhoods have the same level of engagement. There are real concerns. There are heavy conversations. We talk with NCR about how to overcome barriers.
- Question: How does your equity plan deal with communities and affinity groups? (I've been in groups and been in meetings and the plan where it hasn't been considered)
  - Answer: I think that is where we are growing and trying to do a better job. Our outreach has changed over time.
    - As a follow up: What may work in Nokomis may not work somewhere else. It took members of the community to go to the city council. How are you dealing with intercultural communities?
      - Answer: We are trying to change and grow.
- Question: Do you think we have two different processes?
  - Answer: We'd rather have all hazards planning

Discussion:

A discussion surrounding the purpose of the group meetings ensued with members voicing a range of opinions on the value of having outside groups speaking about their engagement work. The group was reminded that the purpose is to come up with a framework for a citywide engagement policy and by having departments come speak it gives background on the value each department puts on equity and should help develop a plan and process to hold them accountable.
- Steve pointed out that this group has a chance to write a plan that empowers (those involved in the "new" structure) to make more engagement happen. This N2020 group

has a chance to recommend a process where they can require a department to do more of this equity work.
- There was agreement that the group is getting closer to understanding what they want to do.
  - The group is not going to reinvent the wheel.
  - The task appears to be to take the valuable documents the group has been presented and formulate a plan that makes sense from what they see working, not working and what needs to be added from those documents
    - Special care should be made to embrace the diversity and equity of opinions brought to the table by the members and the neighborhoods they represent so this does not become another document written by white men
    - Special care should also be taken to create an enforcement mechanism so it's becomes a living, breathing process and not just a document
  - These thoughts led to a substantial homework assignment (see below)

Check Out:
- Next meeting is Thursday, September 27 from 6 to 8 p.m.
  - Location: TBD
- Resource reminders:
  - Use the Workgroup Resource Library, http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020 .
  - Reference materials here
- Homework:
  - Review the
    - The IAP2 Spectrum
    - City of Westminster Public Engagement toolkit
    - Blueprint for engagement
    - Model city engagement
- Task:
  - What do you want to keep?
  - What's not good?
  - What is missing?
  - Turn in ideas 09/25/18
  - Steve will combine all and present at next meeting
    - Steven.gallagher@minneapolismn.gov
    - 612.673.2905
- **Next meeting – Identify neighborhood responsibilities for Citywide Community Engagement**