

Neighborhoods 2020 Lunch Conversation

October 30th, 2017
City Departments

BACKGROUND

As part of NCR's robust engagement surrounding the Neighborhoods 2020 project, there were two lunch conversations held in City Hall in October. The first conversation was on October 17th with City Council and Mayor staff. The second conversation was on October 30th from various City staff who work with Neighborhood Organizations on a regular basis. This is a summary of the October 30th Conversations.

How do you interact with Neighborhoods?

- Sounding board for development
- Work with NO's on the neighborhood plans
- To disseminate information to community
- Will interact to answer questions NO's may have
- Schedule meetings to inform community or get community input
- Great starting point – NO's have the pulse of the community
- Partner for programming or city projects
- Were instrumental in partnering for North Greenway Project (got community involved)
- NO's serve as a resource (can refer people to NO)
- Entry point for community to get involved (civic participation)
- They bring community issues to the City
- Are seen as valuable – residents appreciate them there

How do Neighborhood Orgs add value to your work?

- Potential is there – need to bring more diverse voices to the conversation
- Great way to connect to residents – especially if there are similar "issues" city and community are addressing
- A great sounding board
- City needs to remember we all work for our neighborhoods
- Ground level engagement

- Great and convening community – knowing what message will bring community out (ex. “this is about your kids”)

What would you change to improve the value of your relationship and / or the current neighborhood system?

- Very inconsistent – one neighborhood organization is great and the other next to it is in a state of chaos
- Can they work together better and pool resources
- Look at what is working in neighborhoods that do engagement well and bring diverse voices to the table – use as a model for the other NO’s (Prospect Park was mentioned as doing a great job)
- Tool kit/best practices for NO’s
- City should distribute resources more equitably
- Barriers to participation like childcare
- Think about the issues NO’s decide to take on (ex. If the NO’s only deal with issues pertaining to homeowners – that sends exclusionary messages to renters or if they are fighting a rental development, etc.)
- Contractually define NO role/responsibility better
- Incorporate better accountability – expectations
- NO’s need to figure out how to be more inclusive and bring diverse voices and their issues
- Designate “seats” on the board for identified community who isn’t historically heard