

## Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Minneapolis Central Library

**NCEC Commissioners Present:** Boyd, Houle, Russell, Mills, Cichowicz, Mussa, Dedeaux-Swinton, Lewis, Louwagie, Esmaeili, Strand, Vogel, Kimmons

**NCR Staff present:** Michelle Chavez, Nicholas Ngo, Rebekah Tedrick

**Guest:** Joe Mendyka, City of St. Paul Community Engagement Coordinator

**Members of the public:** 3

**1. Meeting Opening by the Chair: 5:11 p.m.**

- a. Approve Agenda (Action)
- b. **Motion:** Mills moves to approve the agenda. Esmaeili seconds. Motion carries.

**2. Introductions**

**3. Conversation with City of St. Paul Community Engagement Coordinator: 5:16 p.m.**

- a. Staff report
- b. Overview of District Council (DC) system
  - i. 17 DCs provide advisory input on urban planning, land use, liquor/entertainment license applications. Mayors and City Council frequently consult them.
  - ii. Each DC is a nonprofit with between 10 - 27 directors on the board and contracts with the City to provide community engagement services.
  - iii. Range in size from 1 - 4 full time staff.
- c. Funding
  - i. Largely funded through General Fund and City Development Block Grants (CDBG). The total budget is \$1.2 million annually. \$100,000 portion is in the form of a competitive, Innovation Fund grant. The remaining \$1.1 million is allocated by a formula using variables such as population, poverty, employment, non-native English speakers, etc. Reimbursements follow CDBG standards.
  - ii. Each DC receives between \$51,000 and \$109,000 annually.
- d. Priorities
  - i. The City of St. Paul has recently focused on racial equity in the DCs with regards to staffing and priorities.
  - ii. DCs consult with residents to set priorities.
  - iii. Outreach to renters has been a struggle.
- e. Answers to follow up questions from the NCEC
  - i. The St. Paul Office of Financial Services administers the capital budgeting process. It uses task forces rather than the DCs to approve applications.
  - ii. The DCs exist because of a 1975 resolution, but the 1 nonprofit per district is just a norm rather than a structure dictated by policy. Some districts contain multiple DCs.
  - iii. For past City comprehensive plans, St. Paul used DCs to get public input. This time, St. Paul did outreach directly to ensure a representative sample of residents.
  - iv. Makeup of DCs is a combination of elected and appointed councilors.

- v. Planning and Economic Development department (PED) supports the DCs for issues like zoning. There are 9 staff spread among the 17 DCs. Joe provides technical assistance.
- vi. Some DCs have historical preservation or community development organizations that operate like a sub-district council.
- vii. If there are multiple neighborhood organizations, the DCs act like a fiscal agent for neighborhood activities.
- viii. DCs receive additional funds for crime prevention programs. Local police work with DCs to engage the community after a crisis. The departments directly hire multicultural community engagement staff.
- ix. DCs rely on City Council to deal with any issues that are beyond the DCs' scope.
- x. CDBG funds provide renter support through the programming and community engagement portion of its budget.
- xi. St. Paul owes the stability of its DC system to the grassroots connectedness of neighbors. A city should direct resources to places where social capital exists and where there is potential for it to form.
- xii. DCs interact with neighborhood groups and business associations through fiscal sponsorship, co-staffing, co-coordinated events, etc.
- xiii. Developers are encouraged but not required to consult DCs on development plans.

**4. Executive Committee Reports: 6:17 p.m.**

a. Chair's report

- i. Committees of the Whole to continue 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- ii. Need for a second grievance panel. New commissioners are encouraged to serve.

**Motion:** Mills motions to approve Houle, Lewis and Russell. Strand seconds. All in favor except Boyd. Motion carries.

b. Secretary's report

- i. Previous meeting minutes presentation. Spelling of Mariani and Cichowicz corrected. Change the motion on page 9 of minutes to reflect that Strand moved to adopt a measure, not to vote.

**Motion:** Strand moves to approve minutes with corrections. Mills seconds. Motion carries.

c. Attendance report

- i. Change Weathers's and Kimmons's absences to be excused. In October, Lewis was present.

**5. Secretary's Annual Evaluation: 6:29 p.m.**

- a. NCR staff sent out the annual evaluation survey to NCEC commissioners serving for the 2016-2017 term.
- b. Findings will be presented at a future meeting.

**6. Staff Report on Community Connections Conference – Nicholas Ngo: 6:32 p.m.**

- a. Staff report: 7<sup>th</sup> annual Community Connections Conference is on 2/10/18 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Includes panel, exhibit space, workshops, lunch and networking for residents, organizations and City departments.
- b. Last year's metrics: 540 attended out of 600 registered. 40% of attendees were people of color, and 60 neighborhoods attended. Attendance has increased each year.

- c. Exhibitors must apply by January 5, 2018.
  - d. Commissioners are strongly encouraged to attend, present and invite other interested parties.
- 7. 2016 Neighborhood Programs Annual Report – Michelle Chavez: 6:42 p.m.**
- a. Staff Report: The Annual Report contains highlights from the neighborhoods. Invested \$26 million in community based projects. Neighborhoods provided about \$2 million in volunteer hours. Program income from NRP loans reached \$2.8 million in 2016.
  - b. Programming: 90% of neighborhoods did outreach to underrepresented groups. Neighborhood organizations worked to improve livability. NRP funds were used to leverage a loan from Nonprofit Assistance Fund for Youthlink (homeless youth services).
  - c. NCR supported neighborhood organizations with technical assistance, board trainings, and funding. The back of the report lists the services.
- 8. Committee Reports: 6:50 p.m.**
- a. Committee of the Whole: NCEC will begin monthly Committees of the Whole (COW) on 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - b. Wednesday of the month. Executive committee will finalize the dates.
  - c. City Department Engagement Committee: Created an outreach plan. Connected CPED with downtown neighborhood. Will be outreach events for Minneapolis 2040 on Dec. 2, 9, 11 among others. NCEC is encouraged to attend any of these to evaluate effectiveness.
  - d. Neighborhoods 2020: Doubts remain that NCEC can make a recommendation to City Council by March. Three topics that NCEC should make recommendations about are structure, funding stream, and equity/inclusion for neighborhoods. Will meet 12/18/17. 1/23/18 at Plymouth Church there will be a dinner and Minneapolis 2040 outreach.
  - e. Crime and Safety Task Force: In the process of scheduling a meeting.
  - f. Grievance Task Force: Did not meet since last time. Soon will report feedback from neighborhood organizations about grievance policy. The 60 day comment period ended in October.
  - g. Bylaws Task Force: Met November 8, 2017. Will submit a report in writing.
  - h. NRP Policy Board: Did not have quorum at last meeting. Will submit a report next month instead. Will be sending a letter to the state to remind members to appear at meetings.
- 9. Other:**
- a. Instead of a December NCEC meeting, there will be a holiday party. Date and time TBD.
  - b. Grievance Committee requested an apology letter but forgot a due date. Next meeting will return to this topic after Executive Committee reviews this.

Adjourn: 7:12 p.m.