

Small Group Session Comments from Community Engagement Meetings

Van Dusen Community Engagement Discussion **(1/29/07)**

Main Points

Knowledge of those at the grassroots must be respected

All neighborhoods need to be held in equal regard

Respecting & empowering and recognizing grassroots knowledge

Neighborhoods must be funded to ensure communication with its many diverse constituency.

Recognize neighborhood groups value in increasing two way - top down & down to up communication

Show me the money

What can the City do to help you better participate in decisions?

Actively seek participation from all citizens

Hard to find info on WWW

Gov't is representational

Explanations needed to be provided on decisions

Great inconsistency on willingness/ability to work with models within city that other depts could use.

Restorative Justice good example of how it works

1. Decisions already made
2. Departments involved but not engaged with citizens
3. Squeaky wheel - who really has grease
4. Inconsistent & confusing vs. consistent
5. Community group staff is important (cat herders)

Begin to reach out to youth

Squeaky wheel - not fair that bombarding city council is what seems to get results

Public hearing is sham - decision has already been made - e.g. DT Transportation (didn't have real input)

Discouraging when take time & effort - find that meeting is sham

NRP funds disappeared - now we hear there is a budget surplus

N'hoods don't have power - e.g. disregard n'hood on land use recommendations

Board takes time formulating letters but decisions seem to be made - ongoing problem but no feedback.

CLPC got heard on development. It was fun to be heard

Inconsistent process - hard to know what process will be from dept. to dept or board

Two-way communication about process e.g. talk to communities about decision making process

Requests w/input coupled w/barriers - e.g. impractical schedules / meeting times

What can the City do to help you better participate in decisions?

Listen to two-way communication between City & neighborhood orgs.

City must promote and empower neighborhoods (really listen)

More communication should occur between departments within City
Info needs to be available through schools, park, and community centers
Like it when city staff come to neighborhood - two way
Condense (focus) info
City must fund neighborhood groups
City website (some of the website) is good but it needs improvement
City staff need to know n'hoods & boundaries - e.g. notices only go to one n'hood
No real power in our decisions - if city says "no" nothing can be done. There should be a process for impacting decisions.
City does not utilize TV channel the way they could -wasted time e.g. radio broadcast, broadcast schedules, re: broadcast council meeting
CE recommendations need to be communicated in clear way so anyone can understand
What can the city do to help?
Information spread through school
Meeting places
Continue NRP funding & empowering neighborhoods
Create and maintain an open online forum
Use a variety of communication tools & languages
Dialogue with and in community
Improve responsiveness of City staff to phone calls
CE model process - standardize approaches but is still vague - no "two-way" arrows between stakeholders - city

What is working now?

Neighborhood communications to their residents is working (especially if they have paid staff)
Communication between neighborhoods & NRP has been very good. If it goes away we need a replacement
NRP
Info dissemination
Geographic based activities - Decentralized format
Tech innovation

What needs to change?

Follow through and accountability need to be improved
City needs to be more aware of what neighborhoods are doing
Gov't doesn't necessarily need to be convener - community natural place for input
Consistent channels of communications are needed
Consistency in decisions is needed
More opportunities should be available for this kind of engagement
More effort must be made to connect with diverse constituencies
Better P.R. but in plain language.
Consistent channels of communication and decisions with follow through and accountability
Need to know why - even if city disregards - i.e. communicate back to n'hood why decision was made the way it was.
Reemphasize importance of groups
Attitude toward neighborhoods & group assets

Recognize NRP and neighborhoods. They should be highlighted/valued
Increase two-way communication

Burroughs School Community Engagement Discussion

(1/29/07)

Main Points

Neighborhoods with ability to determine uses of funds are critical to CE
Neighborhoods want to give input to the city before decisions are made
Residents want to participate in setting the agenda
Neighborhoods want to be proactive rather than react to a crisis
Communication is the key. The best way to accomplish this is to use the already existing neighborhood organizations which represent thousands of citizens
Concern about starting from scratch. Why not improve rather than completely new?
Who is empowering who? Are people empowering city govt. to do their will? Or is it the reverse?
What is a stakeholder and who defines stakeholder?
What will be the outcome of participation?
Explain Board's accountability - not understood and how "firm" are decisions
Neighborhood decisions weight and influence is not understood
Has there been true CE in developing CE report or system?
Is adopting model binding and will it be followed? How will compliance be measured?
City leaders set the tone & expectations for city staff
Engagement is conversation --- Neighborhoods really want empowerment
Investment of volunteers is on different hours than City Hall - Board meetings, festivals, community communication

What can the City do to help you better participate in decisions?

CE applied by department heads has to be consistent and a priority.
Make certain community involvement is not mistaken for community engagement.
Simplify structure for CE
Contact person refers to someone else & on & on. Story changes & no longer same story
Contact person drops issue - Need to use a "Feedback Model". Person should tell what happened to topic i.e. "referred to", "denied", etc.
City Hall should embrace a "Listening Model", neighborhood groups & "engagement"
Consistent contacts are needed in each department --- long term relationships should be established between City and neighborhoods.
Things the City should not decide on & leave up to "smaller" jurisdictions, communities, neighborhood groups, etc. should be identified
Define roles of City vs. neighborhood
Create a working, living model, not a handbook

What is working now?

Small neighborhood groups are working; regional model does not engage more volunteers. Keep it small.
Neighborhoods have made changes on a neighborhood level. POP was too big to fairly disseminate dollars.

What needs to change?

- Apply resources to a new effort to capture CE definitions from ALL stakeholders
- Flow chart is needed of people bringing issues to the City - neighborhoods initiate & City respond
- Use more visual communication to provide consistent feel
- CE has to begin earlier in any process.
- Fund and strengthen existing neighborhood organizations (e.g. Cedar Riverside) as a means of communication
- Come to the neighborhood before final decisions are made
- Expand the report flow chart to better define which decisions neighborhood organizations should be involved in and which need to be handled by our elected officials (e.g. budget & major personnel = no; development & re-zoning, libraries = yes (these directly affect neighborhood orgs. and residents))
- Create a monthly information package to notify neighborhood orgs. about changes, issues & updates (e.g. safety, schools, libraries, etc.). Neighborhood organizations 's get barraged with e-mails and information.

Plaza Verde Community Engagement Discussion

(1/30/07)

Main Points

- City government wants input from the community but not influence. "Real influence involves financial involvement in communities determined by the people"
- "We take pride & ownership in our communities when we see what has been initiated & worked on by us"
- Real influence, democracy & community engagement have bigger arrows coming from bottom than top. "By the people, for the people".
- Communications, accountability, and follow through needs to improve
- Empower and fund neighborhoods
- Neighborhood groups are working but not supported enough
- City government wants input from community but not influence"
- Pay attention to what we say through the neigh. assoc.
- NRP is still critically needed esp. in certain n'hoods. Recognize & support successful efforts by n'hoods to improve community.
- City has not properly acknowledged end of NRP as a problem.
- Purpose of current CE input process is unclear.

What can the City do to help you better participate in decisions?

- Provide a specific place to go to address/resolve problems (311, Office of Getting Things Done)
- Leaders need to listen to grass roots in decision-making
- Funding pool should be available based on specific criteria, projects, outcomes.
- City support (\$) for n'hood events and initiatives it takes credit for as city efforts (I.e. Powderhorn fireworks display)
- Understand if they want people to be empowered, be engaged, they have to have real authority - resources to organize & do projects & programs
- Provide money to make decisions real.

Clearer information about how people can get involved in city processes.

Better communication about what city resources are available. (loan programs, fix up funds)

Continued support for and recognition of small, neighborhood-scale organizations

What is working now?

Cost effective for city to keep NRP. Tons of free citizen labor from NRP volunteers.

Saves hundreds of thousands of dollars of planning money.

Comm. Engagement builds community & civic engagement

Problems are addressed by those closest to problem. Strength comes from those closest to problem.

Green Institute

Community engagement driven cameras, shot spotter, greenway. BOTTOMS UP not down

People have fought way through

Election system is working

City does chose who it funds

Council member attendance at N'hood meetings

Council member Schiff's & others newsletter

Existing working relationships between city staff, council, & community

Council members attend mtg's

Funding neighborhood orgs

NRP process

City support for neighborhood initiatives

Small, local scale of neighborhood orgs. "Small is beautiful"

Helping communities/neighborhoods get stuff done

Arrows going both ways - they listen now.

City boards & commissions work for the people who are on them (not well known)

Is public television working

What needs to change?

If you want to influence community give them money

City should re-evaluate commitment to NRP and continue funding it. Especially for neighborhoods in dire need.

Top Heavy

Things may need to be tweaked & run better. But no reason to end neighborhood programs.

Who is engaging who: the community is engaging city not vies versa

Are City electors empowering city or is the city empowering city electors?

Does not seem MPLS is following true democratic model.

The community engagement report is another tool keeping citizens away

Neighborhood organizations need money for capacity, need to be supported in work

TIF money < get back to original money it's warped into something else

Community organizations are a tool we use to push things through even though powers downtown (contractors) don't feel the same way.

NRP works "bottom up" not "top down". Report focus is top down

How reports & surveys are initiated does not work.

City needs to keep supporting successful & effective community organizations & projects.

N'hoods & residents must be genuinely invited to the table.

See "regular faces" at these meetings. Those who most need to be involved are not engaged or included.

Block Clubs and N'hood orgs are best at "door to door" level outreach - this is not properly acknowledged or valued by city.

Need a clear flow chart - "weight" of activities on pg. 6 not explained - who has the most say, and where?

Where is this meeting & this process leading?

Community capacity building at the grassroots level should be better acknowledged & utilized by city

The energy put into this report and these meetings could have been "put to work" to start fixing the system now instead of just talking about it - need an overall vision.

Report feels "top-down"

Language such as "impending decision" is ominous

Need flow chart to understand process - MPLS gov't harder to understand than Washington D.C.

Roles of overlapping jurisdictions is very confusing e.g. Library Board, Met Council.

No clear system for building requirements, zoning, codes, etc.

Culture of respect w/city staff

Every 5-10 yrs have to start over again w/community engagement discussion

Clearer engagement processes are needed

Feedback about outcomes is important (Will the survey really impact anything?)

Did our effort result in something?

Last minute decision making & rushed big projects

Just because someone says they represent a community, doesn't mean they do. Check w/neigh.

Not enough interest in boards or commission

Know difference between public & private relationships. Don't take it personally.

People are just expressing frustration.

Communication & engagement w/immigrant pop.

General disconnect of citizens

Vision statement needed.

Why community voice is important

Benefits of relationships!!

Return to Democracy!!

Have to go downtown, middle of day, not time specific or time changes

Systemize between dept's & community engagement on on-going basis.

Not explaining process, unclear

Certain developers have learned to work the system

Empower & fund neighborhoods

Funds to address issues (blighted housing) others

When individuals have issues, city has not made it easy to communicate & affect change,
improve conditions (safety, traffic, others)

Takes a long time to get things done

Lack of follow through

Minnehaha United Methodist Church Community Engagement Discussion

(1/30/07)

What can the City do to help you better participate in decisions?

What about money for neighborhoods?

Tell us about the meetings earlier and use a variety of sources--

Online

TV/Radio

Welcome Wagon

Library/Parks

Do you really want to hear our input?

Recognize that residents have busy lives

Elected reps must be responsive

Use neighborhoods to help get word out

Centralized city info

Customized to neighborhoods?

Better defined rules for engagement

What is working now?

Initiatives from neighbors

Neighborhood solutions for neighborhood problems

NRP does CE process because it is a non-city community empowerment program

NRP & participation works. What is the future of this process?

NRP is user-friendly.

Keep community decision-making decentralized. Build on NRP model - use the NRP public input process for other city decision-making.

What needs to change?

Report premises questioned

Top-down view of CE needs to be more Bottom-up

Report assumes CE not working

Separate NRP funding discussion from City-CE process & funding

City encouraged to support NRP extension past 2009 in the MN Leg.

Metrics/yardstick needed to assess Community Engagement

Example metrics:

Satisfaction w/results

Surprised (or not) w/actions/results

Random sampling/scientific measurement is essential in measuring results

Present some data – clearly.

More CE (i.e. engagement of residents) is needed in formulating the CE process

Do a better job of getting the word out

Want to know that our input is valued & has some effect

Neighborhood organization's & elected officials are listening & responsive

Streamline processes but not lose our power to have a n'hood solution w/city resource

Not enough dialogue on what's broken that needs to be fixed

How do / can n'hoods help the city engage residents
If the city is looking for feedback - allow time for stakeholders to respond; people need time to be made aware, time to process and talk, and time to respond. More time on front end.
More citizen participation & input on funding decisions
Need to know funding priorities
Clarify process & next steps and share with neighborhoods
Clarify roles & responsibilities of partners
Define accountability for all partners
Web site of city hard to use - not well designed.
How can Neighborhood help the city participate in the Neighborhood discussion of issues & making decisions?
Engage residents early in discussion - before proposed decision.
Share power
Make it easier to hear what the Neighborhood says
Continue to fund NRP - define for what purpose
Use community papers to disseminate info
What is broken that needs to be fixed?
 Lack of dialog?
How can engagement happen without an impending decision - e.g. problem to solve
 Call Council representative
 Participate in neighborhood organizations
 Organize Block Clubs
 Use 311
 Develop a Handbook on how to address issues
 Neighborhood groups working on larger issues
 Funnel info up from the Neighborhood level
City departments need to listen & respond to citizen engagement
Empowerment different from engagement
 Example = master planning process where citizens empowered
City doesn't enforce laws that are on the books. What can citizens do?

Marcy Holmes Community Engagement Discussion

(1/31/07)

What can city do to help us better participate in decisions?

Buck stops??? Here?
Clear lines of responsibility
Like idea of "President's Council" from neighborhood associations to cross-pollinate
Build a huge spirit of inclusiveness that people believe
Invite everyone to the table
City council meetings should travel to neighborhoods
Complete budgets need to be transparent, clearer to people & in timely manner
Go beyond "written word" to build consensus

You'll get more participation if people feel their voice is important / being used in decision-making

Offer leadership in getting communities more engaged w/their schools.

More interaction / cooperation between neighborhoods

City priorities/longterm goals should be:

The understanding of importance of education as crime prevention

Priorities and goals should underpin all decision-making (core values)

Make rest of state proud & supportive of our city

People are too busy / how to engage?

What is working now?

Parts of NRP

Neighborhood organizations

- more participation at neighborhood level vs district level

City should support - neighborhood newspapers, neighborhood websites, newspaper websites

311 system

Local police precinct cooperation

Engaged city council members / good relationships

Council members' e-newsletters/updates

Third Ward Summit w/residents & city officials

NRP

Neighborhood orgs.

Odemtotu pf meogjbprjppds

Neighborhood initiated proposals for change

Community input and control over how resources are spent thru NRP provides important information for what's really going on

Community orgs. Provide greater access to information about what's going on.

What needs to change?

Lack of accountability / follow-through, esp. Housing Inspections with outstanding orders

Quit using "lack of funding" as excuse for inaction

Develop more/new leaders - not same old folks

More "proselytizing" / outreach

Other methods

Govt. 101 primer needed / start @ grade school level & new immigrant communities

Everything takes so LONG...

Why are all the boards separate (MPRB, Library, Bd of ED, etc.)

Some public hearings don't function well

- Better technology

- Bigger room

Differentiate jurisdictions / what each does

Help with Independent zoning from an attorney

Money to hire outside person to help with process issues

Meetings that affect you should happen in the neighborhoods & at night

Ombudsman for zoning & planning issues

Grievance procedure for planning actions (& other boards & commissions)

Recognize, support & fund NRP
City leaders & staff have respect for community members
Review policies that bypass community input like administrative review
Council members recognition of NRP
Council members that are "home grown" from the neighborhood and community
Property info on website
If city asks for input needs to be valued not ignored
311 (weekend hours)
Earlier public release of agendas & reports
Use of consent calendar (Planning, zoning board of Adj.)
Boards & Commissions should be fair, balanced, transparent
Civility - respect
Better communication & notice of citywide issues to citizens
Need non-geographic groups/boards
City should provide resources to make neighborhood orgs. work
Inform of budget/money ahead of time
Review successes and failures of past
Apply principle of measurable outcomes to develop best practices from previous system
Concern that we are "throwing the baby out with the bathwater"
Don't start all over - improve what we've got
Would like to have full picture over entire decision process
communicate input up front
less information over time
current process went to quickly from planning to reaction
communication broke down - not consistent
Have info ahead of time so community is able to plan - not react
Need to understand the whole process to effectively influence decisions
How is input used in decision process
Hearings are not public engagement
Front end is defining - community and communication. Engagement is formality
no way to revisit
more of a show than authentic conversation
no chance to shift direction
Arrogance from elected officials
City controls questions, expertise.
Charge is framed to what they want the answer to be
Citizen involvement to define scope of work
Community needs to understand regulations and questions when community input is required (i.e. zoning)
Give citizens knowledge of the tools they have to work with
Broker priorities by having control over resources
Public hearings should be held at times when people can attend. Other opportunities should be available for input other than at times of decision
Improve ways that information is disseminated
Be clear about the critical question for decision
Speak to that issue

Report back to community how input was used - rationale for decision
Explain limits of power - both city and community

Clear expectations

Assure that there are as many ways / options as possible to participate
Encourage everyone to participate.

Everyone must be included in the decision process.

Somali Subgroup

Very important to be involved

Information is a key

Immigrants attend meetings and want elected officials to come to their meetings

Regular meetings are needed with officials and organizations that can assist with meeting community needs.

Direct relationships are needed/cut out the middlemen

City needs to establish a relationship with SWIM to help better solve problems

Direct contacts are needed with decision makers

More information and education is needed to help address community needs

Firefighters Hall & Museum Community Engagement Discussion

(1/31/07)

What can the City do to help you better participate in decisions?

Go to a meeting to be informed

Communicate with the community

Get to the place where the community is asked by the "City" prior to making a decision

Find new ways to include people in the process

Encourage and support greater collaboration between groups

Involve us early in planning vs. okaying a decision

Get young people involved

Put a face on the City at a community level - ombudsman

What is working now?

Geographical-based/neighborhood based groups that are multi-jurisdictional

NRP vulcanized the City - made neighborhoods important

Neighborhoods tend to know what they "don't" want vs what they "do"

Small groups (neighborhoods) making decisions and moving them up

Smaller groups allow us to have a voice at the local level

Neighborhoods can use their resources to improve property values

People engage because they know resources (\$) are available

NRP very effective at bringing people together via the n'hoods, bringing resources together to make things happen

Neighborhoods know the business of neighborhoods better than the City - give us more resources to get things done

Funding stream creates independence

What needs to change?

311 - depth of info is lacking, not complete (for example no info available on appropriate signage, parking of vehicles - which kind)

City can ignore decisions made by neighborhoods (how can we expect consistency when this can happen) / capriciousness

Hard to make "dirty things" transparent

If NRP as it is now goes away what does the city plan to put in its place? Since NRP has been so effective, what could they propose that would be as effective?

Where is the acknowledgement - from the Council - that NRP has accomplished so much Empowerment - not just engagement

Suspicions about why we are talking about this again, why there is no talk in the report about budgets. How does the city define "community"?

Power is being taken away

Greater transparency -
The report has a model that shows how it could be improved, but where is the description about how it works now?

More "why" when things don't happen or things happen counter to n'hood requests

Why not let the City contract w/NRP to do the CE? (this could eliminate confusion, duplication, inefficiencies - the City currently contracts w/other entities w/in city departments) and this should be pushed out through the n'hoods

Does this suggest disinvestments in neighborhoods that will result in blight?

What about issues like eminent domain, aggressive developers, old houses being torn down to accommodate larger interests including the City

What will you do w/this?

Will we be asked again to discuss this - we are not convinced our engagement on these issues has been sufficient

Jurisdictional repetition
How are overlaps between City, County, State, etc. being addressed?

Continue to fund neighborhood org. (costs up/funding down - why?)

CMs - better communication budgets

Communication + 2 way = engagement

Designated neighborhood coverage for city departments (other boards)
CPED Inspections
MPRB Regulatory Services

Not only impending decision but which decisions

Decisions on completed plan not on plan

Priority setting < not just yes or no

Instead of creating -- fitting into existing boxes

Economic part - incentive to get ideas

Simplify language - lose the acronyms

Will the powers that be look at the information?

Will we hold them accountable?

Keep small structure (neighborhoods) & Improve

Keep NRP & have a "regional" group so they can cooperate for the area as well.

Larger area projects. Add an intermediate level

Neighborhoods - bring in more voices. Not limited to the "usual suspects"

Neighborhood organizations are not a buffer to prevent participation.

City wants more engagement but keeps cutting funding
Joint office/community area for shared resources
Tasks for levels better delegated
Need specific structure to avoid "turf wars".
Structure driven by task
Groups driven by "passion" for the issue
Encourage use of 311 and One Stop liaison. Avoid acronyms! But get them to WORK
Make the city user friendly
Proactive with city rather than reactive
Keep small neighborhood system
Work up from there
Not a buffer
City business held out in the communities vs downtown
People don't feel their input is going to make a difference
How can people plug into existing groups to influence decision-making?
What we don't need is putting \$\$ into neighborhood organizations that become self-serving entities unto themselves.
What do neighborhoods have to show for their effort?
Lack of community participation/participants don't represent diversity
Block clubs have weakened from the past where they used to be feeders to neighborhood organizations.
Network with your immediate neighbors
People feel decisions have already been made prior to neighborhood meetings
Lack of connection with the youth
Not having community schools takes away from community cohesiveness

North Regional Library Community Engagement Discussion

(2/1/07)

What can the City do to help you participate in decisions?

- 1) Continue and expand use of block Clubs to cultivate community engagement
- 2) Provide money for home loans at reasonable rates
- 3) Reduce crime - respond to 911 calls

Not sure how individuals participate now.
Block club leaders / don't know each other. Crisis brings them together
Newspaper articles
City emails
Support for citizen patrols
Who at the city is the decision maker?
Where is the chain of command for getting info to neighborhood?
As resident feels meetings are chaotic no structure over long period of time.
City needs to communicate meetings/decisions better to neighborhoods
City needs to state purpose for mtg.
More people in neighborhood need to be communicated with.
Community websites/blogs.

Recognize that not everyone is on-line.
Need city at block club crisis meetings and on the citizen's schedules
City depts. don't communicate with each other.
Block clubs need assistance.
Strengthen blocks, give funding for funding micro businesses
Organize around other things besides crime.
Block Club leaders, who give permission, would like their names listed online.
Community newsletters need info from city.
Bridge gaps between youth, ethnicities, online use, poverty issues
Need more info about City's Budget and where the dollars are going, and what the resources are!
Joint meetings with other block clubs
City is selective about what they hear from residents - they create the agenda.
City meetings are too formal - take too long!
One-way communication at podium
Process - communicate - results
Why are we repeating history with this process?
Do we remember lessons learned
Find the green dream book and have City Council members read it. (special emphasis)
Communications that don't just go through the neighborhood associations / low tech
Funding for communications and to have a "seat at the table"
Find out why Park Board did not participate in C.E. Report. (special emphasis)
Use the Mayor's website as e-mail system
Neighborhoods should be part of planning not just a rubber stamp.
Hearings & Boards, Commissions Mtgs - different times after 4 p.m.
More "authority" to N.A.
City website of issues organized by neighborhood (over lay with NRP website)
Good Community Engagement involved in determining the C.E. Plan
Diversity By Language (special emphasis)
E-mail/Blog method of posting
Input/views, on issues with acknowledgement, for people who can't make meetings
Empowerment + C.E. + \$
Recognize the added value of N.A. Actions/Initiatives
Create motivation & value to participate by integrating city info into current neighborhood activities.
Have city staff & officials attend neighborhood meetings.
Condense info into topic abstract & timeline.
Inform Early! & Often!
Create in the resident a value of participation as officials being good & effective
Early engagement / on-going participation
Fund the infrastructure needed to support engagement

- Childcare
- Interpreters
- Evening meetings
- Variety of communications

More direct engagement w/community from city departments /employees -

Early! & Often!! Notification (i.e. - City Inspection)
LISTEN - currently don't listen - will our input make any difference
Believe majority people don't know which neighborhood they live in - City do better job of letting people know which neighborhood they are in.
Council meeting should have NRP decision makers present.
Do we actually have say? We (N'hoods) are not even on the chart
Funding > continued for NRP
N'hood need the means (\$) to make change (Highest priority of group)
Residents want a say in how funding is used
Have some council meetings in n'hoods and stagger so people who work can attend.
Get council meetings, library board & park board meetings (all boards) on dish TV & radio (more than just cable) in 4 major languages
All public documents in libraries and parks (at city expense, not library or park expense)

What is working now?

Crime rate is going up
311 is not working / (is a waste of \$ & time)
NRP coming to McKinley mtgs.
CCPSAFE - Harrison - Tim Hammett
Police advisory Cmte.
NRP funding for neighborhood associations is empowering.
City is interested in Econ. Dev. in North MPLS.
NRP gives the residents voice
Leader perspective: Most N'hood staff and boards work well. These are a lot of alliances and joint efforts between n'hood's and other organizations

Front desk city staff great but those with title not so good

Garbage collection

911 usually

311 usually, for something and many

NRP!!

Stacy rocks!

People know how to org. block clubs

Cultural organizations are working

3rd Ward Care Task Force

More Council Members working with neighbors in their own neighborhood.

Neighborhood Associations*

Council Member Barb Johnson who comes to meetings

My block club - CCP-Safe Crime rate working

What needs to change?

639 foreclosures Near North/ hsg

City must respond to 911 calls

Standing cmtes of city hall

Some mtgs in communities

More parking

City advisory/boards are not user friendly

Create policy that requires city staff to directly (in person) engage with neighborhood groups. (Look to St. Paul)

Engagement should be automatic Not only when we scream!

All city topics/reports should have summaries

When budget is the deciding factor --- Tell us!

DON'T make decisions before engagement!

Market NRP

Community Dev. Corp. More informative than CPED

Provide \$ and technical support for communication system thru n'hood org.

N'hood organization needs to be in decision-making schematic

City should be open to receiving input and ideas versus us waiting for them

More engagement of people of color >> NRP good @ homeowner but need more for rental

General communication

Because city understaffed (i.e. inspections example: I don't have time to talk to you.)

A lot of trouble with inspections over the summer.

Being unable to get a hold of an Inspector

CCP/SAFE b/c don't have the necessary staff

Police Dept. > response

Not well organized

Morale low

Poor Coverage

We have some council member that d/n talk to NRP staff and NRP staff d/n talk to council member with n'hood caught in middle and lose.

Need to have a good plan for communication

Don't throw out all the neighborhood work

Investigations on lesser crimes are not happening i.e. burglaries, etc. are ignored.

City staff living outside city don't have a clue what it is like to live here.

Libraries closed

Safety Center on West Broadway needs to happen.

Perception - needs to change that cops are the solution

- Need jobs, econ dev. etc.

- More than just cops.

Code of silence by elected officials and upper city leadership needs to end > Oh you don't need to know

City has gone into a spin/marketing campaign needs to end > City is focusing on looks not substance.

Less emphasis on cops and safety

More on kid safety (over crowded schools and closed libraries)

Closing of n'hood libraries frustrating

Next NRP > More for youth

Equity for North Minneapolis

What can the City do?

Get rid of the word City > I want to know who to contact

- > Get rid of 311 b/c the don't put a face on for city and no accountability

Mill City Museum Community Engagement Discussion

(2/5/07)

Why are we here?

Concern about future of neighborhood groups and their role in decision-making

CE Report ignores neighborhood role

Safety & future of W. Bank School of Music

What can the City do to help you better participate in decisions?

Put a process in place that actually engages the community (20 minutes of input is insufficient) and use the neighborhood structure that exists.

Respect and honor neighborhood work on and decisions about issues like zoning and neighborhood planning.

Examine the need for all of the commissions and eliminate redundancies - get down to essentials.

Help organize inter-neighborhood meetings (info sharing mtgs to benefit neighborhoods)

Support neighborhood orgs. Including financial support

Reject broad district model because doesn't engage as many volunteers.

2nd layer of bureaucracy is a negative

Strengthen investment in NRP process - and continue it for 20 years.

Strengthen CE

Don't continue NRP past 20 yrs.- Should be self supporting

What is working now?

People know who to call (out to neighborhoods and in to city)

Neighborhoods are geographically based >strong, clear

Some city council members do come out to neighborhoods and invite engagement

NRP funding is working.

311

NRP validates residents concerns for their neighborhood.

Avoids top down

Voice is heard through current system.

Report places citizens in reactive mode. NRP allows neighborhood initiatives to move up the ladder.

The neighborhood initiative is working

Neighborhood is quicker to notice and respond to changes in population and other local issues and respond

Geographic-based-small is a virtue; multijurisdictional is a virtue

Implementation funding has leveraged millions of dollars and volunteer hours and has successfully addressed local problems.

What needs to change?

Slow down process on notification - need longer lead-time

City should come out to find out how to help orgs. Be more inclusive.

Info from city - needs to focus more on quality rather than quantity.

Criteria (CDBG) for funding doesn't meet the needs in the neighborhoods.

Need more education & outreach around elections.

Council member should inform about priorities and upcoming decisions so the neighborhood can discuss and weigh in.

Organize and lobby

City's website needs overhaul -

1) Search function is ridiculous

2) Connection to neighborhood organization's needs to be stronger

3) Better explanation of how neighborhood organizations relate to City Council

Problem of Representation

Need a better process to inform citizens of neighborhood

The CE Report is an example of the problem

Don't see empowerment and ownership by neighborhoods in the city's analysis -

Neighborhood accountability

Neighborhoods and citizens need power to make decisions that matter.

An example: an imbalance of power. Decision of the Neighborhood can be summarily dismissed.

Neighborhood organizations need to be validated that they matter

One funding source of non target Neighborhoods.