

**Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission  
Committee of the Whole  
Wednesday, January 11, 2012  
Luxton Park Recreation Center**

**Meeting Notes**

**Commissioners Present:** Jeff Strand, Tessa Wetjen, Christopher Hoffer, Kenneth Brown, Marcea Mariani, Matt Perry, Maria Sarabia, Doron Clark, Mark Hinds, Ed Newman

**Staff Present:** Robert Thompson, Howard Blin

**Meeting Facilitator:** Tessa Wetjen

**Agenda**

**1. Introductions and Announcements**

There was agreement on the proposed agenda. The minutes of the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted.

**2. Review Revisions to CPP Guidelines**

Staff reviewed a revised version of the CPP Guidelines.

Questions and comments from commissioners on the revised guidelines included:

- Regarding the eligibility for food, it was asked if it were possible to find not TIF revenue sources to fund food. This would avoid the constant discussions about it with neighborhood organizations.
- The Committee discussed the relationship between the CPP submissions and the Neighborhood Priority Plans.
- A question was asked about participation fees?
- A desire was expressed for the Committee to review the appendices and templates for the guidelines.
- It was suggested that a more extensive and exhaustive list of eligible expenses be provided. There also needs to be more defined requirements for annual reports.
- It was unclear whether NCR would produce an annual report?
- The types of fundraising which are allowed must be clarified.
- It was asked if there are specific requirements for outreach to underrepresented groups.

- Given the interim nature of using NRP funds for 2012 – 2013, is it possible to drop all references to CPP for the next two years?
- Staff described the process underway among North Minneapolis neighborhoods in response to the 2011 tornado. The City is working with neighborhood organizations to carry out a broad participatory effort. This could be a useful model for other neighborhoods. A Commissioner stated that the guidelines as written do not reflect that model.
- It was suggested that the process in the guidelines seems to discourage long-term planning. There is also a concern about the need to continually do community engagement for longer term projects.
- The Committee discussed various scenarios for neighborhood initiatives and how the Priority Plans would address those initiatives. There was also discussion about the timing for reserving or encumbering funds for projects.
- A Commissioner commented that there was value in the Priority Plans, but not as a part of the CPP. It would be preferable to strip the Priority Plan out of the CPP process. It should be kept in mind that we are talking about very small amounts of money.
- It was noted by a Commissioner that the Priority Plan was created because it was necessary to meet statutory requirements. The Priority Plans are very different from the CPP. Priority plans are about capital improvements while the CPP is about Community engagement. The North Minneapolis model described earlier is not reflected in the description of the Priority Plans included in the guidelines.
- It was stated by a Commissioner that to make Priority Plans work, neighborhood must go where the money is. They are not connected to City plans.
- It was stated that the document promotes flexibility and creativity. There may be a fear from those who have not done community engagement.
- It was stated that there is not much time left to review the guidelines. It was also noted that review of the guidelines by the new NRP Policy Board would be difficult since they will not have the benefit of the background the NCEC has.
- It was suggested the description of the Priority Plans needs to be clarified and the Commission could establish a subcommittee to work on revised language.
- The Commission discussed the timetable for a final NCEC recommendation on the guidelines. It was noted that the staff report showing final NCEC action at the January meeting was in error and at the December meeting consensus was reached to take final action in February.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM  
 Prepared by Howard Blin