

Southside Green Zone Task Force – Meeting Notes
October 17, 2017
Stewart Park, 2700 12th Ave S

Task Force members (bold – in attendance): **Abe Levine**, Asha Omar, Brian Smith, Jerilyn Jackson, **Joe Bernard**, **Jose Luis Villasenor**, **Karen Clark**, Michael Goze, **Michelle Chavez**, **Nimo Mohamed**, Patrick Hanlon (fill-in: **Lisa Smestad**), **Steve Schacht**, **Thamyr Golafaie**, **Tina White**, **Tyler Sit**

Facilitators and staff: Etonde Awaah, Kelly Muellman, Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn

Guests (community at large, including additional City staff): Aisha Gomez, Allan Campbell, Brad & Carol Pass, Cecilia Martinez, Danny Lindholm, Emily Stern, Eric Avery, Juli Leerssen, Kayla Foss, Sam Calahan, Say Yang, Sean Gosiewski, Tamara Downs-Schwei

5:00-5:20 PM

Settling In

Task Force members and guests arrived and settled in. Introduced themselves at their table. Food arrived around 5:20pm.

5:20-5:45PM

Opening Circle

Everyone stood and created a large circle in the room. Everyone was given the same prompt and then went around the circle and had a chance to share. The prompt was to introduce themselves, including: name, community or city affiliation, and to share in a sentence or two why they wanted/agreed to be involved in the Task Force.

5:45-6:05 PM

Charge of Task Force & Sign Oath of Office

Kelly (City of Minneapolis) provided a brief background on how the Task Force came to be established by City Council and what the group's charge is going forward. Some of the key points included:

- Collaborative approach:
 - Collaborative decision making & co-designed plan (city government reps & community members)
 - Evaluations throughout (after every session) to allow for adjustments early and often
- Time Commitment
 - Monthly meetings through May (there was a hand-out to indicate the best dates Nov through May)
 - Interviews with facilitators. One to get to know each other; one as part of final evaluation.
- Deliverables
 - Action-oriented work plan that can immediately be implemented (what is the action, who is responsible, when will it happen, what resources are needed, etc.)
 - Will take the Work Plan to City Council for adoption, however, City Council may not be able to adopt all actions. Not all actions will necessarily be City-led actions. That doesn't mean those actions cannot be in the Work Plan; and it doesn't mean community leaders cannot move them forward. The Work Plan

may include any and all items decided upon by the Task Force. This goes back to the collaborative design approach. Although there is no guarantee that it will be adopted by City Council. Kelly and other staff will commit to keeping leadership updated regularly and bring them along.

- Roles of Task Force Members
 - Community members: show up to contribute; represent yourself and your community (however you define that), take back to your community what you have learned and bring to the meetings reflections from your community; be aware there may be “homework” between meetings; set and follow group norms and ground rules.
 - City government: show up to contribute; be transparent, explain which departments are present & their connection to the GZ/TF; bring information about programs, policies and resources and help community members understand how to impact and/or take advantage of them
 - Facilitators: Laura and Etonde will be with us to facilitate Task Force meetings

Christian Rummelhof from the Minneapolis City Clerk’s office presented the Oath of Office, asked Task Force members to stand and agree to the Oath. Task Force members signed their Oaths, which will be returned to them with a gold seal at the next Task Force meeting. **Any Task Force member not present may come to City Hall to take their Oath of Office** (contact Kelly with questions, kelly.muellman@minneapolismn.gov).

6:05-6:40 PM

Group Norms

Laura and Etonde presented examples of group norms and the purpose for establishing group norms. Task Force members were asked to take a few minutes to themselves to develop norms they felt were most important for this group. Each Task Force members was asked to share their ideas while Etonde recorded the ideas.

Here are the draft group norms that were brainstormed by the Task Force:

- Allowing moments of silence
- Step-up/Step-back; self-check and balance our contributions
- Don’t take things so seriously
- Keep in mind who is not in the room – and find a way to engage them
- Public is welcome – and should be given opportunities to contribute. *[The Task Force is required to follow [Minnesota Open Meeting Law.](#)]*
- Assume the best intent and that everyone is coming from their most honest place
- Presentations should be as interactive, multi-sensory, and accessible as possible
- Facilitation should include large groups, small groups and personal reflection
- Bottom line: what are the community’s rights?

- Challenge each other's ideas and biases, but not each other's stories
- Be prepared to be challenged by peers; don't take it personally
- Honor each other's timelines (especially the community's, which may not be the same as the City's)
- Decisions should be made through consensus, not majority rule
- Create a "bike rack" to capture adjacent ideas for future discussion
- Examine issues at multiple scales, including impacts on different communities
- Everyone present should to commit to respectful & honest report of what is shared/discussed

We will revisit our reflections & group norms more deeply after the CEED training is complete in November or December, especially the norms about decision making. Additionally, the question of how the public engages in the work with the Task Force was raised. One suggestion was for regular public attendees to be asked to sign on to the group norms just like the Task Force.

6:45-6:55 PM

Break

6:55-7:50 PM

CEED Presentation

Kelly introduced Dr. Cecilia Martinez from Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, a local environmental justice and research organization that is nationally known for their work on EJ issues and primarily responsible for bringing the idea of Green Zones to Minneapolis.

Cecilia presented information on health and environmental disparities and history on Green Zones in California and in Minneapolis, starting with the Environmental Justice Working Group for the City of Minneapolis Climate Action Plan in 2012. Cecilia introduced ideas such as cumulative risk, exposure and impact in communities that face multiple environmental, social and economic inequities. She talked about the different environmental justice screening tools developed by California and the EPA with support from local organizations. Additionally she addressed how the Green Zones in Minneapolis should be connected with other City and community initiatives around resilience and climate adaptation.

7:50-8:05 PM

Wrap Up: Closing Circle, Evaluations, Schedules

To wrap up the meeting with some reflection, everyone was asked to circle-up again and was asked to describe the energy they have for the work based on the first meeting. Everyone drew a smiley-face to reflect how they felt and used a few words to describe their smiley and state of energy.

Everyone was provided with a short evaluation and a form to fill out with schedule preferences for meetings November through May.