

Southside Green Zone Task Force – Meeting Notes
November 28, 2017
Center for Changing Lives, 2400 Park 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**, **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): Carol Pass, Carrie Lindberg, Cecilia Martinez, Eric Avery, Juli Leerssen, Kayla Foss, Lena Jones, Luke Hollenkamp, Michelle Wenderlich, Sam Calahan, Say Yang

- 5:00-5:15 PM** **Settling In**
Task Force members and guests arrived and settled in. Introduced themselves at their table.
- 5:15-5:25PM** **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 a holiday dish that their family loves but that they do not.
- 5:25-5:40 PM** **Review Task Force Charge and Group Norms** (Attachments 1 & 2)
Kelly (City of Minneapolis) reviewed the Task Force charge from City Council and shared a handout with the text from the City Council Resolution (attachment 1). Additionally, she covered how the Task Force interacts with different groups, including the general public/community members, the City Council and city staff.
Laura (Facilitator) reviewed the group norms drafted by the Task Force at the October meeting. She proposed adding two new norms from the written comments. The group norms were adopted by the Task Force, noting that the norm about decision-making would be revisited for more discussion at the December meeting (attachment 2).
- 5:40-7:40 PM** **Presentations on HIA Recommendations and City's Work Group** (Attachments 3 & 4)
Kelly introduced Dr. Cecilia Martinez from Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED), 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 the history of Green Zones in Minneapolis, starting with the Environmental Justice Working Group for the City of Minneapolis Climate Action Plan in 2012. She described how the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency received funding in 2014 to conduct an urban air quality health impact assessment (HIA). MDH contracted with Nexus

Community Partners, who then engaged CEED, Isuroon, Waite House, Land Stewardship Project and Hope Community to form the HIA Steering Committee. Cecilia showed the data used by the state to select the Phillips community – the disproportionate environment burden – and the recommendations developed by the HIA Steering Committee for a Green Zone policy. (Attachment 3: CEED slides)

Participants took a break for food around 6PM and presentations re-started by 6:15PM.

Kelly presented the process and recommendations from the City's Green Zone Workgroup which formed in 2016 and met monthly through early 2017. The Workgroup was charged with developing criteria for designating Green Zone areas, establishing goals and metrics, and identifying potential strategies. The Workgroup was a mix of City staff and community members. They created seven goals around the topics of equity/displacement, air quality, housing, green jobs, soil/water contamination, greening (vegetation/energy), and food access (urban agriculture). The Workgroup identified data as criteria for designating Green Zones and layered the data together. The resulting map showed that North Minneapolis and the Phillips and Cedar-Riverside neighborhoods should be designated as the City's first Green Zones. In April 2017, the City Council designated the two Green Zones areas. In May 2017, the City received a grant to support one Green Zone, and City Council determined that staff should start with the Southside Green Zone. The Northside Green Zone will be launched in 2018 in partnership with the Minneapolis Health Department following the Northern Metals Consent Decree Advisory Committee. (Attachment 2: City slides)

Participants were asked to identify which joint recommendations were most important to them. Below are their initial responses.

Group One:

- Jobs/TIF (tax increment financing) as a means of addressing poverty
- Housing stock (energy efficiency)
- Creative financing tools for residents (wanting to upgrade or build housing; inclusive financing)
- Land trusts
- Community benefits agreements
- Financial incentives for housing development - affordable housing should get incentives from City (Regulatory Services)

Group Two:

- Housing – Energy costs & subsidies
- Priority on people
- Communications (simplifying complex information)
- Toxic exposure (air, homes, water, ground)
- Strategy & framework (incentives in conjunction with industry, e.g. dry cleaners)

- Jobs with environmental justice priority – good for people and environment (paying attention to which people)

7:45-7:55 PM

Introduction to Community Engagement activities

Eric Avery from Land Stewardship Project and Carrie Lindberg from Hope Community introduced themselves to the Task Force, and shared that they will be developing a plan for community engagement activities to inform the Task Force's work from January through May 2018. Eric and Carrie spoke about some ideas they had for engagement activities, including home dinners, conversations with residents in the community as folks are going about their daily activities, and/or going to places where community already gathers. They are looking for ideas, input and interest from Task Force members over the next month and will be back in December for a longer conversation.

7:55-8:20 PM

Wrap Up: Closing Circle and Evaluations

To wrap up the meeting with some reflection, everyone was asked to circle-up again and was asked to reflect on one issue/recommendation/priority that has them really excited for the work.