

Meeting Minutes

Southside Green Zone Task Force
December 19th, 2017 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Steward Park, 2700 12th St. S

Meeting attendees:

Working Group Members Present: Abé Levine, Brian Smith, Joe Bernard, José Luis Villaseñor, Karen Clark, Michelle Chavez, Patrick Hanlon, Thamyra Golafaie, Tyler Sit

City Staff: Kelly Muellman, Isabelle Ballet, Juli Leerssen, Tamara Downs Schwei

Guests: Angie Courchaine, Say Yang, Cassandra Holmes, Daniel Solis-Corona Jr, Viviana Rodriguez, Kamille Demo

Working Group Members Unable to Attend: Asha Omar, Christina White, Jerilyn Jackson, Michael Goze, Nimo Mohamed, Steve Schacht

Meeting Objectives:

1. Establish decision-making & community input processes for Task Force work.
2. Update Task Force on Community Engagement work.
3. Identify environmental/green zone-related initiatives, projects, and opportunities happening within and/or affecting the South Side Green Zone area.
4. Determine which environmental areas/recommendations Task Force will shape work plan around.

1) Opening Circle

2) Group Norms and Decision- Making

Laura reviewed the Task Force's group norms from October and reminded the group that they needed to come up with a decision making model. Their group norms indicated interest in consensus decision making.

- As a recommendation, Laura presented a collaborative decision making flow chart. The flow chart shows that a body would test for consensus, and if consensus is reached then the action is resolved, if consensus is not reached then it moves the group back to discussion. One person suggested that if group members are talking past each other and not to each other, the whole group should move to a talking circle.
- Laura presented with the fist to five model as a tool to test for consensus. Concerns were raised around the fist to five method and what it would fully mean to "block" an

idea. The group shared other decision making models they have worked with in the past.

- As a whole the group (task force and community members at large) agreed to use the collaborative decision making flow chart. For testing for consensus, the group will use the thumb method presented by José Luis. Instead of the fist to five method the thumb method has four components; a thumb up, thumb horizontal, palm on chest (abstain) and a thumb down.
- The group indicated preference for noting dissenting opinions/ideas, but to be careful not to let the dissenting items become issues. Additionally, dissenting opinions should be included in the presentation to City Council to show all that the Task Force considered in addition to its recommendations.
- Additionally, Laura presented the Numeric Decision Making Method when having to distinguish a rank towards issues and work they are prioritizing as a whole. The group (task force and community members at large) decided to use the Numeric Decision Making Method without modification.

3) Community Engagement-

Eric Avery (Land Stewardship Project) and Alisa Hoven (Hope Community) gave an update on their concept for community engagement as consultants for the Southside Green Zone, and asked the question: how can we keep community voice central?

- In an effort to gain rich feedback Eric and Alisa proposed their invitation of creating a space for task force members to engage outside of and in addition to Task Force meetings. This additional space would be held roughly once or twice a month, ideally on Thursdays and would be hosted at Hope Community. This additional meeting time would serve as a space to prepare community engagement work between the Task Force and community specific partnerships. This space would also serve as a venue for spillover discussion following up on what was not able to be brought up in the time constraints of the monthly Task Force meetings as well as somewhere for task members to go if they have missed a past meeting and want to catch up on work.
- The group voiced some concern around the space being too informal and wanting to ensure that the input that is generated through these additional meetings is properly tracked and captured. How would they bring the work that is done at these meetings back to the Task Force meeting space?
- In response to the concerns Eric and Alisa further clarified their roles as facilitators in this new “community engagement hub” space.
- One task force member with a community organizing background emphasized that he thinks it would be beneficial for the task force to meet with Public Works, Human Resources and other City offices to clarify what a green zone is and how they plan to contribute since many City staff don’t fully understand the term and focus of the project.

Break

4) Resource Mapping (summary attached)

Participants were asked to cycle through stations based on the Green Zone Work Group and HIA recommendations. Each person placed stickers on 6 separate maps each labelled for a different Green Zone Recommendation (Equity/anti displacement, Greening, Air, Water and Soil Quality, Health and Energy in Housing, Green Jobs, Healthy Food Access). There were three different stickers to identify (1) issues, (2) opportunity/initiatives and projects and (3) dreams.

- The maps identified place based specific areas for work prioritization as well as allowed the group to identify key areas and observe trends
 - There was a separate table for community engagement strategies and group input
- A summary of the suggestions for Issues, Opportunities and Dreams is attached.

5) Prioritizing Task Force Work

Attendees individually ranked which Green Zone recommendations they would like to focus on through the numeric prioritizing method. The priorities were turned into the facilitators to be tallied following the meeting.

- The facilitators asked whether the Task Force wanted to address all 6 of the initiatives or pick a few to focus on over the next 5 months?
- One recommendation that will be included in the Task Force's working regardless of voting was equity and anti-displacement
- The group also identified that many of the recommendations intersect and that there is a lot of room to bring up, for example, green jobs within many of the topics. The recommendation area acts more as a framing of the issue.
- Questions were raised around what the timeline will look like – Group acknowledging that it is a very fast process.
- The group will revisit voting on priorities in January and what is not included could be included in the project's next phase.
- It was clarified to the group that prioritizing these different recommendations (topics) does not correlate to the amount of funding for any particular issue. This prioritization is solely to establish what will be in the work plan and goes to City Council. Funding for each item will be determined by needs and available resources, regardless of how the item was prioritized.

8:00pm-8:30pm Closing Circle and Evaluation

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 23rd 5:00pm-8:00pm
Open Arms of Minnesota, 2500 Bloomington Ave