

# Meeting Notes

## Southside Green Zone Task Force

April 17th, 2018 5:00-8:00PM

Urban Ventures, Colin Powell Center, 2924 4th Ave S \*Third Floor

### Meeting Objectives:

1. Receive Community Engagement report on information gathered related to SGZ topics and recommendations.
2. Engage in dialogue about Equity and Anti-Displacement.
3. Complete Equity/Anti-Displacement action items & work plan development.
4. Review and approve final prioritization process & criteria.
5. Engage in prioritization process for Equity and Anti-Displacement; choosing top three priorities.

### 5:00 PM Opening Circle: What's your energy level?

The Task Force meeting was opened with everyone gathering in a circle, introducing themselves and answering the prompt: What is your energy level on a scale from 1-5?

### Recap & Agenda

Facilitator, Etonde Awaah, reviewed the agenda with Task Force members. She confirmed that the May meeting date will remain May 15 but for anyone who cannot attend that date, an alternate time will be provided on May 10. The Task Force profiles have been finalized and will be printed and shared with the Task Force at the May meeting.

### Community Engagement Update

Engagement Team members, Alisa Hoven and Eric Avery, provided a recap of the Green Zone 101 held on April 12 and a series of events/opportunities for community to engage in Green Zone conversations.

- MCTC project on display April 17-18
- Green Zone table at Minneapolis May Day event, Sunday May 6
- Conversation at Heart of the Beast puppet workshop, Saturday April 21 (lunchtime)
- Green Zone information at Aurora Charter School family event this Saturday, April 21
- Public service announcements on KRSM 98.9 local radio
- Final Green Zone 101, Thursday May 3 6:00-9:00PM at Hope Community, Jordain Building

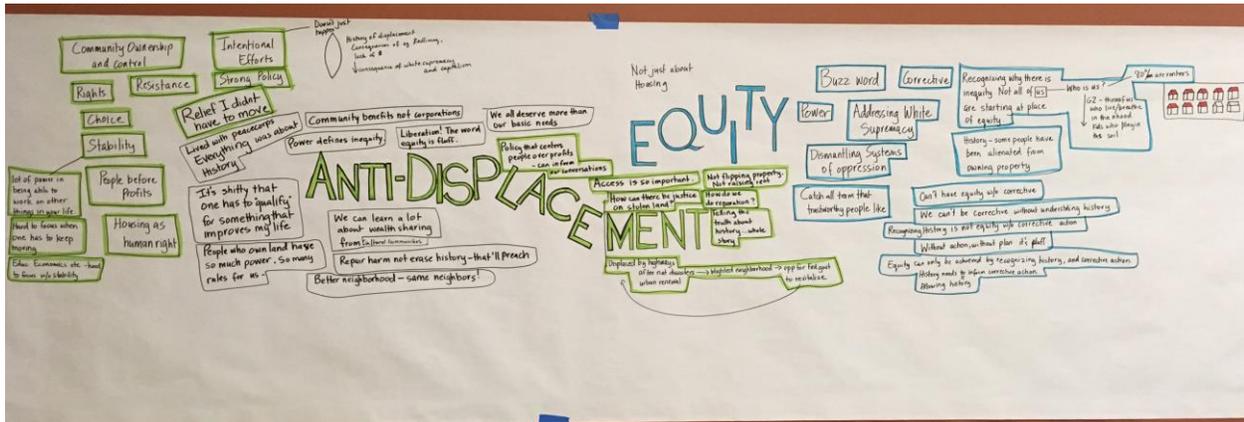
The April 12 Green Zone 101 centered on equity and anti-displacement. The Engagement Primer provided in Task Force packets included comments from participants on what equity and anti-displacement meant to them. Task Force members reviewed the Primer and then engaged in a conversation responding to 1) what resonated with them and 2) what was surprising. This conversation was captured by visual artist, Anne Gomez of Visual Sisterhood.

### Equity/ Anti-displacement discussion/ definitions

Next Task Force members were asked “Does the current Work Plan reflect these community perspectives on equity and anti-displacement?” Using the thumb voting method, 12 folks had thumbs in the middle indicating some disagreement with the question, one had a thumb up indicating agreement, and one had a thumb down indicating strong disagreement.

The Task Force members gathered around the poster of recorded comments and engaged in a conversation around, What does equity mean? What does anti-displacement mean?

Figure 1: Visual capture of Equity and Anti Displacement conversations (credit: Anne Gomez)



6:10 PM

Break

## Review Actions Items for Equity/Anti-Displacement/Green Jobs

The facilitators, Etonde and Laura, recognized the need to unpack the vote around whether the draft Work Plan sections reflected the community thoughts on equity and anti-displacement. Some of the issues raised by the Task Force included:

- Some of the community thoughts are difficult to include, such as redistribution of wealth
- There has not been adequate time to discuss how we are stabilizing housing; need more conversations about renters and tenants
- How do we know this time [the outcome] will be different [than other engagement projects/planning processes]?
- No one is going to do this [work] for us – we must grab power and hold people accountable. It’s a fight; a battle for justice.
- The City’s systems are not conducive for this work going forward (fighting inertia)

The Task Force was asked for recommendations on how to try and resolve these issues in the draft Work Plan. Ideas included:

- Bring community and Task Force conversation around Equity/Anti-displacement into Work Plan, such as definitions, concepts, history, etc.
- Okay to include in the Work Plan things the City may not have control over; emphasize the reasons folks are asking for certain issues (e.g., rent control); even if that does not become the action item

- Add community benefits agreements with the City (add to Action Item 1.2). Leverage the City's openness to engage with community in new/creative ways
- Demand and implore the City to go farther than it thinks it can go
- Include history in Action Item 3.2.2 (develop process that decolonizes), such as families that were displaced by the construction of I-94
- Anti-racist centering must be proactive, and *named* in each Action Item
- Recognize disinvestment by intentionally investing in Green Zone, within community parameters
- Mitigate harms done to those most impacted (African American/Black and Indigenous peoples)
- Communicating the *Why* of this work

## Prioritize Action Items

Facilitator, Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn, reviewed the changes to the prioritization process from comments at the last meeting, including: three additions to the feasibility criteria, some word-smithing in the foundational principles, and a more thorough prioritization chart. Following questions about the process, the Task Force voted to move forward with the prioritization process. With limited time left in the evening, facilitators asked Task Force members to identify their top three Action Items within the draft Equity/Anti-displacement/Green Jobs Work Plan, and fill out the prioritization chart for those three Action Items. The prioritization charts were collected and results will be used to inform the next meeting.

## 7:50 PM Closing Circle and Evaluation

City staff, Kelly Muellman, noted that the prioritization process is challenging but very important for moving toward action. The Design Team may be asking Task Force members to do work between meetings, and may offer space to do work in a work-group setting. Stay tuned to email for updates.

Etonde led the closing circle, asking participants to demonstrate a stretch/movement that they use to relax. The rest of the circle mimicked the movement.

## 8:00 PM Adjourn

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 5:00-8:00PM  
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