

Meeting Notes

Southside Green Zone Task Force

July 12th, 2018 5:30-8:00PM

Lutheran Social Services, Center for Changing Lives
2400 Park Ave, Minneapolis MN 55404

Attendees: Kelly Muellman, Carrie Lindberg, Alondra Cano, Maggie Brown, Chad Hebert, Steve Sandberg, Karen Clark, Steve Schacht, Alisa Hoven, Brad Pass, Francisco Gasca, Jose Luis Villasenor, Patrick Hanlon, Jason Rodney, Abe Levine, Samie Johnson, Lena Jones

Meeting Objectives:

1. Determine plan for spending 2018 Green Zone funds.
2. Discuss structure of Task Force, community leadership and City's role moving forward
3. Commitment for volunteers/participants in Final report and City Council presentation

Opening circle

Name, Who/What you come to represent (topic/issue/interest, organization, etc.), Favorite extreme weather

City's Commitment

The City of Minneapolis is committed to the success of the Southside Green Zone and will continue to support the Southside Green Zone through staff hours (Kelly Muellman) and the dedication of program resources (e.g., Green Business Cost Share, Home Energy Squad buy-down, targeted outreach, and more).

Kelly would like to see the Task Force transition to be more self-directed, establishing a leadership structure that sets its own meetings and agendas. Kelly is committed to supporting the Task Force through that transition and being a conduit to the City in an ongoing capacity.

Council Member Alondra Cano share her commitment to the community: that Phillips catches up to other neighborhoods and that the City makes up for past disinvestment. The Southside Green Zone needs transformative investment. She has committed to work with her Council Member colleagues to get an extension on the \$75,000 if needed, and to help the Southside Green Zone leverage its limited resource now to get many times that amount from other levels of government and philanthropy.

Spending \$75,000+

The City has approximately \$20,000 remaining in the one-year grant from the Funders' Network which must be spent by August 2018, and \$75,000 allocated in the 2018 City budget. Council Member Cano has offered to get an extension on the \$75,000 if needed.

The full brainstorm of ideas is included below. The final recommendation for spending the resources was:

1. **Full-time Green Zone Organizer** (based in community) (\$75,000 – for living wage salary and benefits)
 - Could Organizer be hosted by a local organization who could provide office space? Matching funds?
 - What is the hiring process? Job description?
2. Support collection/**team of community-based organizations** (stipend amount tbd; ~\$17,000 remaining in grant funds; could be \$2,000/organization for 6-8 organizations and some funds remaining for food and childcare)
3. Up to 6 **scholarships** for Green Zone organizers to attend the **2018 EcoDistricts Summit** in Minneapolis in October 2018 (\$510/participant * 6 = \$3,060)
 - Attendees must report back their findings and ideas for the Minneapolis Green Zone
 - Create information pieces to share at the Summit (Kelly – lead)

Full list of brainstorm ideas:

- Weatherize Phillips housing
- Scholarships for EcoDistrict Summit
- Scholarships for environmental degrees
- Grade school/High school programs
- Emergency fund for eviction/foreclosure prevention
- Down-payment assistance for current renters to buy in area
- Rehab city-owned homes and give to residents in need
- Bicycles or bus passes for residents
- Bicycle/car loan program
- Communications campaign to increase awareness/use of existing city programs/resources
- One-year full-time Green Zone organizer
- Door-knocking informational teams (\$15-20k, for stipends) – youth opportunity
- Deeply engage with Cedar-Riverside – support existing events – youth opportunity
- Building community leadership/leverage small team of organizers (Cohort? New structure? Or continue Task Force stipends and support organizations' participation in continuation plan) (\$20k)
 - 10 people
 - Food and childcare
- Ask allies to contribute/match the City's investment in team of organizers
- Soft money – rent space in Green Zone for organizer(s)
- One tangible project to show success/quick win (small but scalable)
- [Remember intersectionalities/ none of these issues occur in a vacuum]
- Revolving fund for eviction relief (renters contribute to the fund, and can pull from it when needed; City and/or Green Zone could match renter contributions)
- Revolving fund for emergency home fund (like EPIC had or PPL). Use to have a state fund as well.
- Make sure to list other funds we are leveraging for Green Zone action items (when presenting funding requests or presenting to City Council)
- Organizer and team of advocates
 - For housing
 - For Green Zones generally

- Use models from across City/country for training (money for presenters or travel); leverage other funds
- Communication and training on Green Zones in general (CEED providing in 2018)
- Mobilize our collective resources (MCTC, MNSCU, etc.)
- STEM & EJ education and organizing with youth that lead to careers in this field

Next Steps

Meet again soon to discuss structure of Task Force, community leadership and City's role moving forward. **Kelly will send a Doodle Poll.**

City Council presentation on Southside Green Zone Work Plan and Priority Action items – September 12 (Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights and Engagement Committee) and September 21 (City Council).

Adjourn

Mark your calendars: Green Zone Task Force Celebration!

Date: Thursday, July 19, 2018

Time: 5:30-8:00PM

Location: Hope Community – 611 E Franklin Ave

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/2HTic8F>