

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Abé Levine, Ahmed Hirsi, Aime Bitá, Council Member Alondra Cano, Council Member Cam Gordon, Carrie Lindberg, Cassandra Meyer, Francisco __, James Trice, José Luis Villaseñor, Juli Leerssen, Kameron Lindsey, Karen Clark, Kelly Muellman, Kim Havey, Lance LaMont, Lydia Anthony, Maggie Brown, Mary Timm, Maryan Abdinur, Patrick Hanlon, Shirley Hayer, Shruthi Kamisetty

1. **Opening Circle:** Name, whether you represent yourself or an organization, and what brings you home?
2. **Task Force Structure** - Application and vetting process for Task Force/Green Zone Council members

Kelly recapped the proposed Task Force/Green Zone Council structure developed over the past several meetings. Key points include:

- 12 community members and 4 city staff (non-voting);
- 2 year term length
- Residency in Green Zone not required, but strongly preferred
- Selection of members by community, not City Council Open Appointment process

A couple Task Force members shared their perspective. Abé spoke to the integrity and thought that has gone into this conversation and process; he's open to working with City Council; and wants to honor work that has been done. José Luis wants to recognize the Task Force as caregivers, noting that as the work moves forward the intention is to focus on this geographic place and to center resident voices and experience who live here.

Council Member Gordon shared his ideas for the Task Force/Green Zone Council, including a few proposals to have more direct City Council involvement:

1. Use City Council's Open Appointments process to select Green Zone Council appointments - standard process for advisory groups that become official city bodies; involves notice for application; vetting process to review applications (available for set number of days); and Council ultimately approves this.
2. Refined Open Appointment process - all applications received by the City are returned to community/Task Force and a selection committee of the community develops recommendations that they return to City Council for approval.

Council Member Gordon share that he prefers this process to allow more recruitment, openness and accountability. Has a fear and worry about advisory councils that get too far away from City Council; and get forgotten or lose touch. Wants Green Zone Council to touch City Council at least once per year if not more often. Give the City Council more ownership with less control; help get money for Green Zones in the budget; more attention from City staff; and for volunteers to see how important the Green Zone Council is.

Additionally, Council Member Gordon proposed having a seat for a Council Office on the Green Zone Council. This is done in some City advisory bodies including the Minneapolis Food Council. Creates champion or advocate within City Hall.

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A couple of community and Task Force members shared initial concerns about having a City Council member as member of the Task Force/Council. They would prefer to see Council staff to show up more as observers. One Issue is the power dynamic that comes with elected officials being present. When we are reaching out to community, some may not feel comfortable in presence of elected officials - speaking freely, etc. This issue also raises questions about privilege. Those who live in the Green Zone should drive the decision. Be careful of folks who are well minded and have the privilege to be here. How does the community and City Council strike a balance of community-driven decisions without too much City Council influence, but have City Council support for the work?

Council Member Gordon noted that there is no requirement for Task Force/Green Zone Council members to live in the Green Zone and asked if there should there be a majority of residents as a requirement?

Council Member Alondra Cano passed out background information on how original Task Force members were appointed. She noted it was a very open and community oriented process. And the process comes with all the City resources and privilege. She wants to ensure an open and transparent process and no conflict of interest. She noted that 99% of the time Council approves the recommendations from staff/community for appointments. She suggested including details of the selection process in the Resolution (especially if not Open Appointment process). Resolution is 90% there and need to tweak a few things.

Kelly wrote out a summary of the proposals for the room to reflect on, including:

1. Current Resolution draft (community-selection, need to define process)
2. City Council Open Appointment Process (standard)
3. Refined City Council Open Appointment Process (community develops a selection committee and process for selecting Green Zone Council members and makes recommendation to the City Council to adopt)

Additional proposals to consider included:

1. City Council seat on the Green Zone Council
2. Residency requirement for Green Zone Council

Everyone was asked to discuss with the person sitting next to them their reflections on these proposals. After five minutes, participants were asked to share some of their reflections, including:

- Everyone in the room is privileged. Want to see those who do not have the privilege to attend frequent meetings. Need a new option.
- Preferred the “refined” option because it combines the first option and the second option. To pass controversial policies and programs, need support and buy-in from City Council.
- Council appointment process feels like a level of control over Green Zone Council. Why is this needed?
- Want the most expansive representation on the Green Zone Council, therefore want to exhaust all resources and open to working with City Council

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- Want Community Steering Team involvement (former Phillips Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee, includes Nexus Community Partners, Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy, Hope Community, Land Stewardship Project)
- Resident appointments should be required. Set specific requirement: 80% of Green Zone Council should be residents within the Southside Green Zone. No business of the Southside Green Zone should be conducted without a quorum of residents.

Kelly asked the room to use thumb voting to indicate whether they were ready to take a vote tonight on which Green Zone Council process to move forward with. There were at least four thumbs-down, and very few thumbs-up: clear indication that they were not ready to make a decision. Those who voted thumbs-down shared the following feedback:

- Needs City Council support in favor of the community's current draft of the resolution before voting to ensure that the Task Force doesn't take a vote that is then overridden by City Council
- Wants a process to make application process accessible to the community
- Feels that non-profits manipulate the process of meetings. Need to talk about nonprofits accountability, as well as the City.
- Wants to connect more with neighbors to get their perspective.

Council Member Gordon share that he wants to present a clean resolution without edits. His next step is to form language around the hybrid/"refined" option and let people react to that option. Doesn't want to introduce a resolution to City Council that the Task Force does not agree with. He will work with CM Cano on this.

Shirley announced that the Phillips Clean Sweep event is coming up on Oct 13 - 8am to 2pm. This would be a great opportunity to recruit new members for Task Force/Green Zone Council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Reference – Green Zone Action/Task List

- ✓ Spending the resources - \$75,000 for organizer; \$13,000 for stipends; \$6,000 for EcoDistricts
- ✓ EcoDistrict scholarships – Carrie Lindberg, Abé Levine, Karen Clark, Cassandra Meyer, Nimo Mohamed, and Say Yang
- Task Force/Council structure – making progress ...
- Presentation to City Council – tbd ...
- Report back on EcoDistrict Summit
- Hiring Community Organizer
- Special Project(s)
 - Resiliency Hubs