

# Northern Green Zone Task Force Meeting Notes

April 10, 2019

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Episcopal Church in MN, Gathering Space (at the ECMN Offices)  
1101 W Broadway Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55411

**Members in attendance:** Anita Urvina Davis, Kitty Stratton, Anthony Taylor, Juli Leersen, Roxxanne O'Brien, Princess Titus, Markeeta Keyes, Michael Chaney, and John Jamison.

**Members unable to attend:** Guinevere Baptise-Johns, Yolonda Adams-Lee, Joanne Goddard, Linnae Nelson-Seys, Lars Morris, Catherine Fleming, Vanessa Willis, and Jim Voll.

**Guests:** Georgianna Yantos, Rebecca Walker, Fayola Jacobs, Marita Bujold, Kaleigh Swift, Alexis Pennie, Adrian Mack, and Jinaa Lane.

**Facilitators/City staff:** James Trice, Kelly Muellman, Kennedy Kruchoski, Kim Havey, Council Member Cam Gordon, Sam Grant, and Ade Salami

## Introductions & Review Group Norms

The meeting start was delayed due to snow. Sam Grant called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves and shared what they are passionate about within the Northern Green Zone. The group then reviewed and approved the agenda.

## Establishing Self-Governance

The group discussed whether they want to establish any sort of structure or leadership framework. Potential positions that were discussed included chair, co-chairs, a secretary, someone to check in with members unable to attend, and other "officer" type positions. The group discussed a more community-focused option, where work is delegated within the Task Force members. Members could agree to disagree during conflicts, if necessary, but each bring their strengths to the table, as well as their respect for their fellow task force members. Voting could show consensus, if that were needed.

Members noted that a more equal power structure, or some established protocols, may work well for this group. If everyone consistently shows up to these meetings as leaders, the group shouldn't need to elect an individual leader. Members noted that one person should never have all the power or be the sole face of the larger group – there could be established roles and responsibility that the group takes turns doing. Facilitator Sam Grant summarized the discussion up to this point – this group does not want to accept the standard model for these

committees that exists in mainstream culture, but rather set a condition where all members are effectively leaders.

Kelly Muellman mentioned that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) help set the agenda for every meeting. This communication assures that City staff aren't deciding what the agenda will be. Sam suggests that there be time scheduled at the end of each Task Force meeting to set the agenda for the following month. Members could reach out to Kelly or Roxxanne up until two weeks prior to the meeting to request that something be added to the meeting's agenda.

The group continued to discuss a collective approach to leadership, noting that this structure would require collective responsibility. All members of the group need to participate and lead, and ask for help when it is needed. Next the group discussed what protocols for this collective approach to leadership will look like. The following protocols were determined:

- If speaker is going on too long, Task Force members can step in and ask for a 5 minute limit
- Make sure we harvest all thoughts. If someone has more to say than time allows, offer to have them write down thoughts
- If someone is triggered, don't avoid the issue. If time allows, pause and deep dive into the issue. If time does not allow, create Transformative Justice Process protocol to follow through after meeting. Kitty, Michael, Markeeta + Anthony volunteered to help create Transformative Justice Process.
- Add time for agenda setting at the end of each meeting. Staff will email Task Force and ask for agenda topics up to two weeks before next meeting. Staff will offer conference call to set the agenda. Email Kelly or Roxxanne with agenda topics.
- Start meetings with check-ins – part of announcements/updates
- If writing letters, staff or Task Force can volunteer to write. Then Task Force reviews/approves/signs off on letters.

## **Updates**

### Upper Harbor Terminal

Task Force member Michael Chaney shared that a group from the co-creation team went to oppose the bonding bill for the currently proposed community performing arts center (CPAC). The co-creation team is continuing to attempt to secure funding to do outreach within the impacted community.

Alexis Pennie encouraged members to apply for the advisory committees related to the Upper Harbor Terminal – one through the City of Minneapolis and the other through the Minneapolis

Park and Recreation Board (the deadline for applications has since passed), noting the heavy lift of the work that these advisory committees will be doing.

The concept plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal was approved by Minneapolis City Council. An Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) will be done for the site, concluding in November. Following this review, a master plan will be voted on. The approval of the concept plan does not mean that there isn't room for change before the master plan is approved. Members suggest looking into potential pollution impacts of the plan in the meantime, such as increased traffic in the area. Other areas of interest for the task force include that the amphitheater is the center of this project, which is not in tune with this group's priorities for the area.

#### Northern Green Zone Resolution Amendment

Kelly provided an update about the Northern Green Zone Resolution which was recently amended to include 2 new seats, with the intent to represent residents of Northeast Minneapolis. There will be 2 new task force members by the May meeting. A discussion about the geographic boundaries of the Green Zones ensued, with the acknowledgement that the system used by the City now is exclusive to members of the Indigenous community who don't recognize these same geographic boundaries. These boundaries could potentially be softened for applicants from Indigenous communities across MN.

#### Lead and Asthma

The presenter for this section of the meeting was unable to attend, so their presentation materials will be sent via email to attendees.

Kim Havey noted that the Sustainability division has allocated \$100,000 in 2019 (through the Franchise Fee funding) to the lead and healthy homes program, which will provide energy efficiency upgrades to homes that receive lead and healthy homes visits.

Roxanne O'Brien updated the group about a bill introduced that allows a commissioner to advise or recommend paying air pollution fines to impacted communities as oppose to the state general fund. As such, the Northern Metals issue resulted in \$250,000 going to the impacted community.

#### **Criteria for Development in the Green Zones**

Time was limited for this discussion item. Members will have the opportunity to continue the discussion and provide feedback about criteria for development in the Green Zones via email.

#### **Presentation: Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance, Council Member Cam Gordon**

Council Member Cam Gordon presented about his Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance, which would require businesses to charge a five-cent fee, which the business would then keep, for single use bags, in an effort to encourage folks to use reusable bags instead. Council Member Gordon

asked for the group's support of this ordinance, noting the exceptions to the fee, as well as the importance of lowering the number of plastic bags in our waste stream. An iteration of this ordinance that also included a ban on plastic bags had been passed in Minneapolis before, but the State legislature prevented it from being enforced.

## **Adjourn**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

**Location:** EMERGE Career and Technology Center, Phillips Community Room,  
1834 Emerson Ave North, Minneapolis, MN 55411