

Exploration of a Community Compact for the Central Corridor

Meeting Discussion Summary

Friday, June 26, 2009 1:00 – 3:00

Attendees

Phil Anderson, Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association
Melvin Carter, Saint Paul City Council
Toni Carter, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Metric Giles, Community Stabilization Project
Nancy Homans, City of Saint Paul Mayor's Office
Tim Mungavan, West Bank CDC
Russ Stark, Saint Paul City Council
Carol Swenson, District Councils' Collaborative
Mark Voerding (for Janice Rettman), Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Jonathan Sage-Martinson (host), Central Corridor Funders Collaborative
Gordon Goodwin, Carol Lukas (facilitators), Fieldstone Alliance

Discussion Summary

The meeting began at 1:10 p.m. with a review by Jonathan Sage-Martinson of the interests of the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative in hosting these meetings; their hopes for the outcomes; and conditions under which they may continue support of this work. Jonathan noted that this meeting is the last that the Funder's Collaborative will host. Their hope is that after this meeting leadership will emerge from somewhere else in the community for the development of a shared community agreement. He said that the Funder's Collaborative is especially interested in seeing an agreement that covers the full geographic reach of the Central Corridor; that has multi-sector representation; and includes attention to a broad range of the issues and strategies affecting communities along the Central Corridor. If a process emerges that includes these elements the Funder's Collaborative would consider supporting it.

Carol Swenson and Nancy Homans then reviewed the work that has been done by the working group since the last large group meeting on March 31, 2009. Nancy noted that although there is no central structure coordinating the Central Corridor development, and there are many groups (around 20) working on a wide variety of issues related to the overall development, the values and principles guiding the work of these many groups are very aligned. Carol reviewed the discussion that occurred in the working group and the recommendations the working group is making to the larger group (see attached Report from the Working Group: Summary of 4/24/09 and 5/15/09 Meetings). She described the elements that an agreement might include, and a possible structure that could be used to both develop the agreement and sustain commitment to that agreement over time, as described in that report. Carol noted that there are several potential benefits to creating this agreement, including:

1. Enhancing communication about what is happening across the various groups working on the Central Corridor;
2. Ensuring effective governance related to the community impacts – making sure groups sign on and follow through on their commitments; and
3. Getting engagement of all parties – public, private, nonprofit, and community.

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Next Steps

After much discussion the group decided on next steps to move forward with development of a shared agreement. These include the following items with volunteer names after each:

1. Create a new document outlining what a shared agreement might look like and the proposed structure. The new document should be shorter and focus on the need for courageous leadership, shared vision and values, and a structure that will ensure community benefits are achieved. The new document will start on page two of the report. (Nancy, Carol S. with review by Russ, Toni, Melvin)
2. Provide opportunity for others to have input into the proposed plan for the agreement.
 - This will begin with a short discussion at the second Community Summit on July 7. (Toni, Carol S.)
 - There will also be an effort to get more Minneapolis/Hennepin County involvement.
3. Carol Swenson agreed that the District Councils' Collaborative would provide overall leadership to keep momentum going on development of a shared agreement. This leadership will be shared with:
 - Ramsey County Board of Commissioners (Toni Carter)
 - St. Paul City Council (Russ Stark, Melvin Carter)
 - St. Paul Mayor's Office (Nancy Homans)
4. Other organizations that need to be actively engaged in the process going forward include:
 - African Development Center (Hussein Samatar)
 - Aurora St. Anthony CDC
 - West Bank CDC (Tim Mungavan)
 - Community Stabilization Project (Metric Giles)
 - Hennepin County or City of Minneapolis representative
 - Jewish Community Action
5. The group did not schedule a next meeting at this time. How we proceed will depend on input received at the second Community Summit.