

Framework for the Future Comments from Ward 13
Monday, March 10, 2008 • Lynnhurst Park

Sponsored by the seven neighborhood organizations in Ward 13:

Armatage Neighborhood Association (ANA), East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA), Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA), Kenny Neighborhood Association (KNA), Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHINC), Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association (LYNAS), West Calhoun Neighborhood Council (WCNC)

Please note that, in the minutes of the meeting, comments by meeting participants were documented as closely as possible, but are not meant to be taken as verbatim transcripts. Also, the neighborhood from which the resident resides is included in parentheses after the comment if it was known. If it was not known or indicated by the commenter, no neighborhood follows the comment.

The meeting was brought to order by Linea Palmisano, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council President, at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were 30 residents including Noah Schuchman, President, Armatage Neighborhood Association; Matt Perry, Chair, East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association; John Finlayson, Vice-Chair, Fulton Neighborhood Association; Linea Palmisano, Chair, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council; Shahnaz Coyer, President, Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association; and Bob Miller, Director, NRP.

I. M. Perry, meeting chair and East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association president, shared goals of the meeting agenda:

- a. Provide Context for discussion
- b. Gather your input on what you value about neighborhood organizations
- c. Communicate Next Steps

The review of goals and agenda brought much discussion amongst attendees.

About 4-5 attendees indicated that their expectation of what the meeting was to address was different from that of the agenda. They felt strongly the meeting should focus more on what residents think of the Framework for the Future as it is currently written, rather than focusing on what residents find of value with their neighborhood association. Other attendees stated that they were there specifically to talk about what they value in their neighborhood and they wished to continue with the agenda as written.

One attendee urged looking at Community Engagement separately from NRP.

The meeting chair noted all comments. The agenda remained the same.

II. M. Perry reviewed the Community Engagement Timeline.

III. J. Finlayson gave an overview of the NRP Process and what exists today.

IV. M. Perry gave an overview of the Framework for the Future proposal.

V. Neighborhood Organizations' Value

- a. **What are the things you have liked about what your neighborhood association has done in the past:**

- Appreciate what neighborhood associations have done for park systems, school, libraries. Decisions came because neighbors came out and said “this is important to us.” Some of these things likely would not be accomplished if decisions had to be made at the city/administration level.
- Before NRP - neighborhoods had a nimble, neighborly system. Neighborhood associations were a place where people could have a voice and it didn’t seem to be the neighborhood association’s role to direct fund for bigger expenses such as schools, infrastructure. Neighborhood associations have become more responsible for such things. (Linden Hills resident)
- Neighborhood associations act as conduits of information between residents and developers, the city, etc. (Fulton resident)
- Parent spoke who had little children when moved into neighborhood. Her family benefited from having a place to go to voice concerns (the Armatage Neighborhood Assn.) and improve community. Neighborhood association was a piece that kept them in the city, versus moving out to the suburbs as they had intended to do after 5 or so years. Now have stayed for 15 years. Great relationships formed. (Armatage resident)
- Chose Linden Hills b/c of great park, library, etc. Thrills me that there is a place (neighborhood association) that we can funnel funds and sets a process through which to accomplish things in the neighborhood. (Linden Hills resident)
- In Southwest we are pretty insulated. In Linden Hills, there are things that could be done before NRP because it is a strong community with advantages. We have been able to accomplish a lot with NRP. Southwest has the ability to accomplish much even without NRP support, but that is not as possible in other neighborhoods. Other neighborhoods outside of Southwest didn’t have the same ability to organize, implement. NRP has improved housing stock, community engagement, helped with language barriers. The connection to the neighborhood association allows them to know where to go for help. We need to keep those neighborhoods in mind when looking at the Framework as is. (Linden Hills resident)
- I think we can agree that we value the opportunities to get things done locally. We are not bound by the city’s hours - 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. We can get things done in the neighborhood. The things that make neighborhoods work and don’t work without the “do-re-mi.” (Armatage resident)
- I moved to Armatage - and soon after was introduced to the neighborhood group. It was a way to be a part of the community. No need to rely on immediate neighbors for community - was connected throughout the neighborhood. (Armatage resident)
- NRP breaks the city into manageable parts. Great value of neighborhood associations is the sense of community and place. Neighborhood pride, sense of community, volunteers. The city cannot do this alone. Neighborhood association contributes to that.

Innovation that is bureaucratically lateral (gave example of problem with lighting not reaching sidewalk). Spend smart and leverage money. Residents are improving their properties because the neighborhood quality is going up.

Need independence in neighborhoods to accomplish things.

Independence = continuing the funding source. Need to count on funding to continue projects and plan. Monetary commitment over extended period of time. Issue of new budget each year. (Kenny resident)

- Attendee stated his gratefulness for everyone's commitment. Focus used to be all on schools and parks. Neighborhood associations gave us leadership and allowed us to collaborate with other neighborhoods. (Linden Hills resident)
 - Sense of community is best part of neighborhood associations. I moved as an adult to Boston after growing up in SW Minneapolis - there were not the same communities/opportunities. Here we support our parks, schools, businesses - for profit, not for profit, government owned - all benefit. This is an important piece. (Linden Hills resident)
 - There are now 72 neighborhood associations in the city of Minneapolis. There were 44 when NRP began. Half had boards that were not filled. Many of you couldn't tell me the neighborhood name of the neighborhood you lived in at that time ('85). Residents got together and built that community. Many residents may relate to a neighborhood, not the city. Name of neighborhood associations often have connection to the past - name of school in neighborhood or park. Creates a sense of place. We have been able to do something, been able to meet. People go if something will get accomplished being there.
 - There is value that neighborhood associations exist. I came from Columbia Heights where they have nothing like this. Problem in Columbia Heights because things are not getting done. (Cooper resident)
 - We have a police officer we know and we can call. He comes to our safety group meetings. Without neighborhood associations and NRP we lose sense of community. Unwilling to give that up. (Cooper resident)
 - I live on dumpster alley. There are many home improvement projects going on. Residents see value which is why they remodel - we have the lake, streets, blocks in Linden Hills. People are willing to invest in the neighborhood. (Linden Hills resident)
- b. Due to time constraints, we moved past section b: what neighborhood associations do today that we value.**
- c. What would you like to see Neighborhood Associations do in the future that has not been done in the past?**
- We could collaborate rather than starting over on projects. Share information. Help each other with less administrative capacity. Share program information with other people, maybe for a fee of sorts. Area of cross-boundaries and cross-business nodes. (East Harriet resident)
 - Neighbors could help establish city plans - more bottom up structure. There are things we cannot do on our own. Need city - collaboration.
 - Sets precedent to have a consortium of neighborhoods - best practices we can agree on and convey to the city. Need for permanent funding source. Neighborhoods need to stay together and meet with city council or legislature maybe quarterly or annually. NRP is a direct connection to government for neighborhoods. (Linden Hills resident)
 - Through legislature can be done on long term basis.

- Working hard to get citizen participation. NRP offers great training for children/teenage issues, etc. More can be done. Collective effort of neighborhood in caring for that. We need to train people more to become engaged. (Lynnhurst resident)
- Continual funding of NRP - substantial. Have to say all neighborhood associations are worth spending tax dollars on.
- ^a Need to look at benchmarks for success. The feel good factor is important, but with limited resources we need to answer to neighbors, are we getting value for all? Looking at measurements across all neighborhoods - cross city consortium. There are limited assets - need to use wisely. (East Harriet resident)
- Create ways to have input into city plans (i.e. land use planning initiatives). Be more prescriptive as to the type of neighborhoods they want to become at a very specific level. Be the forum for that process and communication around the community (ex: LASR CC program). (Linden Hills resident)
- Where neighborhoods came together as glue - i.e. handling road work issues. Wants training both for project-specific implementation (ex: street roundabouts), and training for creating community leadership within the board. (Lynnhurst resident)
- There is value in having a voice, and also having input, in things happening on the localized level. (Linden Hills resident)
- Neighborhoods set priorities - much broader approach - budgets dispersed down to neighborhoods. Budgeted and prioritized at the neighborhood level. Think about and build up from what you have.

Wrap up

The chairman reminded attendees that there are comment cards which may be completed and left at meeting or they can also be mailed. There is also an email address at the bottom of the card and comments may be sent there as well. The chairman also reminded attendees they were not limited to providing comments on the value of neighborhood organizations, but could provide input to the Community Engagement Coordinator on any aspect of community engagement including the Framework for the Future.

Lastly, the chairman said that the data collected tonight would be posted on neighborhood organization websites, sent to each of the seven sponsoring neighborhood organizations and to the Community Engagement Coordinator. The Ward 13 neighborhood organizations would use this input as part of their response to the City's Framework for the Future proposal.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.