

# ONI BUDGET WORKGROUP

## October 8, 2007

### ATTENDEES

**Workgroup:** Richard Bixby (EPNO), Sylvia Bogert (SWNI), Anne Dufay co-chair (NWNW), Tom Griffin-Valade (NPNS), Vicki Hersen (Elders In Action), Cece Hughley Noel (SEUL), Patty Lee (Ashcreek NA/SWNI), Shirley Nacoste (Center NA/SEUL), Linda Nettekoven (HAND/SEUL), Jerry Powell (NWNW), D'Norgia Price (Urban League), Joseph Santos-Lyons (NECN), Doretta Schrock co-chair (Kenton NA/NPNS), Mark Sieber (NWNW), Alison Stoll (CNN), Frank Walsh (Madison South/CNN).

**ONI:** Amalia Alarcon de Morris (Director), Amy Archer (Operations), John Dutt (I&R), Havilah Ferschweiler (Crime Prevention), Michael Kersting (Finance).

**Guests:** Sanj Balajee (Community Connect), Colin McCormack (Community Connect), Bob Tomlinson (OMF), Liesl Wendt (Mayor's Office).

**Facilitators:** Joe Hertzberg & Carol Turner

### WELCOME: Amalia

- New aspects to the ONI budget process this year:
  - Sped-up budget timeline due to change in computer systems and resulting training needs. What has been required in the past by the end of January now is pushed up to Dec. 21.
  - Community Connect recommendations are coming forward and are due to go before Council on Dec. 13. Some recommendations directly pertain to ONI.
  - Mayor has indicated that we will not be looking at new programs this year, and he is the ultimate person to say yes or no on the ONI budget.
  - Contract conversations with the Coalitions will have bearing on the budget.
- It is important to keep a focus on outcome measures and performance indicators. What can we show for what we do?

### WORK GROUP PROCESS

Joe noted that with the focus on Community Connect this year there will be related uncertainty in the ONI process. We do not know yet what the recommendations will be from CC, what Council will then adopt and what finally will be funded. It is important to coordinate with CC and trust the process. The goal here is to come out with a common set of recommendations that everyone can support.

### GUIDELINES

Carol led the group in a review of guidelines from past years. A few changes were suggested to account for differences in the process this year.

#### **If this is a successful process, we will:**

- Develop a common understanding of the bureau and the budget
- Be open and honest
- Be respectful

- Make good use of everyone’s time
- Be creative and innovative
- Reflect community needs
- Represent all communities
- Keep the big picture in mind
- Make consensus decisions
- Maintain our sense of humor
- Be willing to ask the hard questions and hear the answers

**A good ONI Budget will:**

- Meet ONI’s mission, including community involvement
- Meet the City’s goals and focus areas with particular attention to Community Connect
- Meet the needs of constituents
- Maximize resources
- Embrace change: forward thinking, groundbreaking
- Be strategic
- Be supported by community partners
- Be sold, supportable, based on evidence and trends
- Be transparent and accurate
- Give ONI and partners tools and resources to succeed
- Build in performance measures and clear outcomes.

**ONI OVERVIEW**

Amalia and staff presented an overview of ONI programs and written materials in the Budget Development Packet. Work Group members were told to contact Amy for further explanation, additional material, or differently formatted data.

**COMMUNITY CONNECT OVERVIEW: Sanj, Colin, Liesl**

Joe introduced the discussion by pointing out that our goal is to understand Community Connect and eventually to see which pieces clearly connect with ONI. It is important that we have a win/win solution; if not, the result will be lose/lose for both.

Sanj, Colin, and Liesl represented Community Connect; Cece also spoke up as an active participant in the process.

Community Connect is one of the Mayor’s top priorities in terms of Bureau Innovation Projects (“BIPs”). It is much broader than ONI: How do we view ourselves as a city? How are people involved in the community, especially underrepresented groups?

There has been a lot of research, with 19 data sources. The Community Connect committee has been summarizing, reviewing, and synthesizing the information. Their goal is to determine which ideas have the most support by early Nov.

Community Connect should be viewed as a 5-year plan. During the first year, we will be looking at quick wins and what is realistic. Some recommendations will take longer to implement. One tension is between building on what works and trying new things.

Of particular interest are “Ideas for engaging underrepresented groups.” A recent survey found that 68% of respondents would be willing to pay more to increase community involvement of underrepresented groups.

One question is, “How?” Community Connect representatives explained that many people view neighborhood as their primary basis of community, but many others identify primarily across neighborhood boundaries.

They are considering three options:

1. “Within the existing neighborhood association and District Coalition system.”
2. “Through an expansion of the existing neighborhood association and District Coalition system.”
3. “Through a new system parallel to the neighborhood system.”

This decision has clear impacts on the neighborhood system. Colin indicated that Community Connect will determine its recommendation in the next month.

We also discussed the challenge of increasing community involvement both efficiently and effectively. One basic challenge is just getting people to come to meetings. Good leadership training is essential.

## **PREPARATION FOR OCT. 22 MEETING**

The Coalitions will give a unified presentation in four weeks, sharing what programs have been funded and the range of approaches that have been taken.