

**CBN Civic Capacity Committee Meeting
Agenda
June 15, 2016**



Members Present:

- Sal Martinez
- Esther Shin
- Kevin McKinney
- Suzanne Hough
- Joe Decepida
- Sean Spencer
- Stephanie Co

Staff Present:

- Karl Gunther
- Gary Newcomer
- August Mense
- Amanda Bast

I. Welcome

II. Updates

a. Invest STL: MFH Grant Support for Staffing, CRA Ladder of Capacity Building

- The Missouri Foundation for Health approved a grant to support a portion of the staffing costs for Invest STL over the next three years which gets us closer to being able to afford to hire someone.
- The CRA Ladder of Capacity Building is underway and headed into the second phase of action which culminates in a partnership networking event next Thursday (June 23rd). Banks and community based organizations will be discussing project ideas and forming teams to fully develop and hopefully implement project ideas.

b. Affordable Housing Trust Fund

- CBN sent letters to the President of the Board of Aldermen and Chair of the Ways and Means Committee about funding the affordable housing trust fund to its legally determined level. The Committee recognized that there seems to be internal miscommunication about the gap in funding -- \$500K this year and at least \$2.5m over the past few years. The Committee expressed

disappointment toward the decision and supported CBN in reaffirming the message tomorrow (6/15) during the meeting with the Mayor's office. Hopefully, this conversation can be the beginning of a continual conversation concerning community development.

c. Invest Health

- CBN, Missouri Foundation for Health, BJC, Community Development Administration, and For the Sake of All at Wash U went to the first Invest Health convening last week. An existing grant covers travel costs to national member meetings. The goal of the partnership is to support community development interventions that impact health (specifically obesity in St. Louis City) by bringing the health and community development institutions together.

d. St. Louis County

- Staff members to the St. Louis County Council expressed interest in opening conversations to implement CBN's policy recommendations for community and economic development. CBN staff is setting up a member team and meetings with relevant St. Louis County staff to initiate these discussions.

e. Promise Zone

- The Economic Development Partnership is moving forward with support for the Promise Zone designation. They have already drawn up some process to be used before supporting a project. CBN staff will be present at Promise Zone meetings and will send out relevant materials in an all-member email.

f. SLACO Vacancy Initiative

- SLAYCO is attacking vacancy in the City of St. Louis. They have established active committees and are conducting an inventory of vacancy initiatives in the City to discover potential partnerships and prevent the duplication of services. The Committee recognized that interest in the City's Vacancy Task Force seems to be losing momentum.
- The Committee expressed interest in a potential ordinance meant to mothball vacant properties (rather than demolish) for future development through the issuance of a bond. The Committee also stated the need for more

detail on the proposal, especially concerning the incentives imbedded within the policy.

III. Refine St. Louis City Policy Agenda

a. Review previous meeting ideas

b. Discuss approaches to raising visibility and support for policy agenda, development of concrete policy proposals

- The Committee reviewed the ideas for the policy agenda and identified 3 main types of policies: planning, implementation, and alignment. Additional ideas shared during the committee concerned turning the Neighborhood Improvement Specialists (also known as Neighborhood Stabilization Officers) into more of a planning role, recalibrating tax incentives to support community desires, and building support for local businesses. CBN staff will group policy ideas into sub-headings, conduct research and examine other cities (i.e. Pittsburgh), and refine the policy ideas.

IV. Mayoral Forum

a. Potential Partners and Next Steps

- At the last meeting, we discussed partnering with other organizations on a mayoral forum during the upcoming election. Karl has gotten verbal commitment or interest from Trailnet, For the Sake of All, EHOC, and believe there could be interest from Forward through Ferguson and Ready by 21. The Committee considered the role of partnerships during the event and determined that CBN should take a leading role among partners to boost its political clout moving forward. Moreover, the Committee expressed the need to limit the focus of the event and concentrate on community development issues, or at least the nexus of other topics and community development. CBN will continue exploring partnerships and lock in formal commitments.

V. Conclude

- The next Civic Capacity Building Committee meeting TBD.