

**CBN Civic Capacity Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2016**



**Members Present:**

- Colleen Hafner (co-chair)
- Reggie Scott (co-chair)
- David Desai-Ramirez
- Kevin McKinney
- LaTanya Reeves
- Brooks Goedecker
- Joe Decepida
- Stephanie Co
- Maria Langston
- Paul Woodruff

**Staff Present:**

- Karl Guenther
- Gary Newcomer

**I. Welcome**

**II. Updates**

- Invest STL: CRA Ladder of Capacity Building**
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund**
- Invest Health**
- St. Louis County**
- Promise Zone**

- The CRA Ladder of Capacity Building addressed the Committee's prior recommendation to connect banks with community building organizations. The speed networking workshop in June built these connections and the Developer Showcase on Aug. 9 displayed organizations project proposals and bank partnerships. The initiative also connects investment capital to member organizations. Preliminary award decisions were made by the showcase committee on Aug. 9. CBN and Rise plans on creating a survey to distribute to participating organizations following the Showcase to collect additional feedback. Due to unanticipated overlap with the CRA Association's speed networking event in June, many nonprofit participants did not attend both events. In the future, CBN will work more closely with the CRA Association so that dates can be collectively determined.
- CBN has continued conversations with the Mayor's Office on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Karl, Tom Pickel, and Loura Gilbert met with Mary Ellen

Ponder, the City's attorney, April Ford Griffin, and Nahuel Fefer. They are going to look into how their legislative agenda could raise revenue that could then allow for more of the Use Tax to go to Affordable Housing. Their attorney, city councilor Michael Garvin, is going to check on the legality of how they have been using "creative financing" to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The City is trying to figure out a revenue increase strategy that can free up the Use Tax funding. CBN will reach out to EHOC about these discussions.

- Invest Health is an initiative supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Reinvestment Fund. The St. Louis Team is made up of CBN, For the Sake of All at Washington University, BJC, MFH, and the City of St. Louis Community Development Administration. The funding that comes with the award is \$60,000. The focus of the St. Louis team is community development interventions that address obesity and related chronic diseases. The health actors are looking to foster work in the Choice Neighborhoods footprint, north St. Louis north of I-70 and potentially along Martin Luther King Drive by Arlington Grove. These locations are not publicly official yet. CBN is handling the grant management and staffing work for the committee. We should be able to receive close to \$8,000 for this work. The ultimate goals are to get a pipeline of projects impacting obesity surfaced, to bring the health and community development worlds into more understanding of each other, and establish policies/systems changes that could support the ability to address health through community development work.
- CBN met with St. Louis County to rekindle conversations on our joint policy proposals. The county is working to align its departments and agencies around indicators in different categories of their strategic plan. They have developed a set of 30 or so for community development. They shared this list with us to get input from CBN members on what makes sense to hone in on. This will shape what policies get focused on first. CBN will send out these indicators via email and start looking to register input among members through a survey to find top priorities among the indicators. Once we receive enough responses to gauge areas of focus, CBN will call together a meeting of members working in St. Louis County to discuss in more detail what needs to be our priorities when communicating with St. Louis County. CBN will be working to meet with County Council persons once we know who is in what seats and what indicators are the highest priority among our members.
- The form for Promise Zone Support is now live. CBN has shared it with our members via email. The sustainable communities committee is working on a community benefits agreement policy by way of ordinance and community indicators that can be used for helping vet activity or planning in the zone. Currently, the 100&Change grant is being planned for between Forward through Ferguson and the Promise Zone.

### **III. SLACO Vacancy Initiative**

#### **a. Discuss Current Proposal & CBN Comments**

#### **b. Next Steps?**

- Vince Schoemehl is initiating a bond proposal to directly address the issue of vacancy in St. Louis. SLACO is taking the lead in the effort and CBN will likely be asked to take a stance on the proposal. While the effort has already begun to collect signatures, CBN is working to stay involved and influence the creation of administrative rules following the passage of the bond. The Board has read the proposal, provided comments, and should be ready to take a stance on the issue by the next Board meeting.
- CBN reported CBN comments to SLACO and Vince Schoemel with the following requests: revisiting the language of “highest bidder” to address more than price (possibly change to “strongest offer”), replacing the words “renovation” & “rehabilitation” to “stabilization”, utilizing the existing vacancy task force for input and implementation of the program (issues of budget, marketing, alignment with community plans), creating a tax abatement limit exception for LIHTC, and revisiting the role of community planning and property sales in the ordinance to eliminate the ward boundaries and promote proactive community planning. Some of these changes have already been made and the rest will be worked on as the administrative process is created (tax abatement language was not among them for political reasons). CBN is hoping to be at the table when the administrative policies are set. Gary or Karl will send out the final version of the proposal in an email.

### **IV. Refine St. Louis City Policy Agenda**

#### **a. Update on CBN Progress**

#### **b. Review Current Policy Goals & Research**

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

- CBN is revamping its set of policy recommendations for elected officials in the City of St. Louis. At the last meeting, the Committee reviewed a CBN-generated idea list for policy agenda in St. Louis City. CBN has created three types of policy goals: planning, implementation, and alignment. These goals are meant as broader areas of focus. CBN is exploring opportunities to align these policy goals with the goals of partner organizations as well as meeting with local aldermen. In the meantime, CBN staff is creating more focused policy recommendation deliverables based on the broader policy goals with summaries, recommendations, and case-based research. CBN staff shared three examples for the meeting.

- The Committee supported the current approach, but made the following recommendations to our policy agenda:
  - create an internal document that list ownership over each goal
  - divide the policy into “calls to action” with specific tactics in the same vein as the Ferguson Report
  - Include neighborhood associations among plans for multi-year commitments of resources (not just CDCs)
  - Prioritize protecting existing streams of funding in addition to raising new revenue
  - Specifically list fully funding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund as a policy
  - Instead of listing planning among NSOs as a policy goal, prioritize city partnerships with CDCs
  - Include policy that encourages implementing scoring in application processes that give points to projects meeting the goals of neighborhood plans
- Once CBN staff makes changes, Gary or Karl will send out the updated policy agenda for additional review. While still an evolving document, these will form the basis of future policy discussions. CBN will begin initiating discussions with city aldermen.

**V. Mayoral Forum**

**a. Update on Partners & Initial Details**

**b. Discuss CBN Policy Priorities for Forum**

- CBN met with Trailnet, For the Sake of All, EHOC, Ready by 21, Social Innovation District, Envision STL, & MCU to consider possibilities about partnering on a Mayoral Forum in February. The CBN Board has voiced their support. All members in attendance confirmed support from their respective organizations in pursuing the partnership on a Mayoral Forum. The collaboration decided on 1 Forum focused on the Signature Priorities of the Forward Through Ferguson Report--Justice for All, Youth at the Center, & Opportunity to Thrive--with racial equity woven into all sections of questioning as well as a few questions regarding leadership style and management. The group is considering how to build in community engagement for attendees and other residents to share their priorities within each topic area. The Committee stated the importance of this partnership to collectively monitor the promises our Mayoral candidates make at the Forum to hold the elected leader accountable in the future. CBN needs to compile a list of our organization’s policy goals by the end of September to share with the partners. Gary or Karl will follow up in an email with our refined policy agenda (see above) to ask which policies CBN should champion at the Forum.

## **VI. Conclude**

- Thank you for coming to the August meeting. Our next meeting will be October 19th at noon. Location TBD.