

Record of Board Action Via Email Vote - APPROVED

June 2 - 6, 2023

In an email dated May 26, SNG Treasurer Ron Schlatter proposed sending a letter in opposition to NCR's proposal to change the election of neighborhood representatives to the NCR Policy Board (see below).

In an email dated June 2, Lisa Boehlke seconded Ron's proposal and initiated a Board of Directors vote by email.

Six board members voted AYE: Terry Barnes (6/5), Tami Traeger (6/6), Ron Schlatter (6/6), Ryan Morgan (6/6), Steve McCauley (6/6), Lisa Boehlke (6/6).

There were no NAY votes and no abstentions.

The letter of opposition was approved: 6 in favor, none against.

Proposed Letter of Opposition to NCR Proposal for NRP Policy Board Election:

To the Minneapolis Council Members on the Public Health and Safety committee:

The Neighborhood Community Relations department will bring a proposal to your committee member on June 7, 2023 that would change the representation on the NCR Policy Board.

First, the City Council should reject the process being proposed by NCR to elect "neighborhood representatives" to the NCR Policy Board, and support precedent and current ordinance which clearly state these representatives should be elected directly by neighborhood organizations.

The current ordinance clearly states that there will be "four representatives of neighborhood organizations." And this is the key issue. What NCR is proposing will not be "representatives of neighborhood organizations." Their document refers to "neighborhood representatives" but neighborhood organizations themselves will have no role in this process. And just slapping the label "neighborhood" onto "representative" doesn't make them a representative of neighborhood organizations.

For the 20 years of the NRP program, the neighborhood organization representatives on the NRP Policy Board were elected directly by neighborhood organizations. After 2011, neighborhood organizations directly elected representatives to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, which then could appoint four of its members to the NRP Policy Board. While this was less direct, the NCEC could only appoint the neighborhood organization elected representatives from the NCEC to the NRP Policy Board. So they were still "neighborhood organization" representatives.

NCR cannot take a piece of paper to the City Council and say "we want to do this" if it contradicts existing ordinance. They need to change the ordinance first. (This also highlights a different ongoing problem, the constant thoughtlessness with which NCR follows through on almost any process.)

Second, the City Council should not approve this or any process until NCR can demonstrate it has used a process that follows the Core Principles of Public Participation.

NCR has not followed its own principles of community engagement on this process. NCR promotes its Core Principles of Public Participation, but violates those principles all the time, and this is a prime example. NCR has done an abysmal job of informing neighborhood organizations about this process, and has barely sought input. The fact that only one neighborhood organization provided any input should be a red flag that the process followed was insufficient.

For a department that is supposed to be the champion of the Core Principles at the City, such careless process on something of such import should be unforgivable.

If the City Council doesn't believe that NCR should follow the Core Principles on important issues, let alone minor issues, then they should take the Core Principles off their website and stop lying to the public.

Thank you for your willingness to hear these concerns. Other members, including CM Chavez, are also hearing these concerns from their constituents. If you have any questions or would like to have a conversation about these requests and concerns, please contact me.

Seward Neighborhood Group