

Key Points

The University Northside Partnership Community Meeting
May 13, 2006 - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Rainbow Terrace

The information on the next 9 pages is from consultants' notes. Much of it is paraphrased and intended to represent the intent of what was said rather than the exact comment. No attempts have been made to validate the information.

Summary

The May 13, 2006 information meeting presented an opportunity for Northside residents to learn more about the University of Minnesota's Northside Partnership (UNP). It was the second of four UNP informational meetings hosted by Northway Community Trust and NRRC (Northside Residents Redevelopment Council). The additional meetings will be held on May 16 (North Commons Park) and May 25 (Northway). Approximately 60 people attended the forum including people from the Willard-Hay, Near North, Folwell, Hawthorne, Webber-Camden, McKinley, Heritage Park/Sumner-Glenwood, and Victory neighborhoods of Minneapolis. Opening comments included a welcome by the host organizations and sharing of information about the University's history in North Minneapolis and University educational, entrepreneurial and other opportunities available to the Northside community. Reasons that the University is interested in having a visible presence on the Northside and an explanation of NRRC's work with community residents and organizations to design a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that will be negotiated with the University of Minnesota were also noted. The remaining portion of the meeting included audience comments and questions.

Welcome/Purpose

The meeting hosts, Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) and Northway Community Trust, welcomed participants and encouraged discussion of both supportive comments and concerns related to the University Northside Partnership (UNP). The May 13th meeting is one of four community meetings for information sharing prior to the Minneapolis City Council vote on property development. Community members can ask questions at information meetings and think about the recommendations they want to make regarding the development of property. NRRC sees the UNP as an anchor and economic development project and is working with community residents and organizations to develop a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) that will be negotiated with the University of Minnesota. The CBA process includes four informational meetings in May; a community review and recommendation meeting (the community votes) to be convened by the NRRC Residential Commercial Task Force and held on July 10; and a final NRRC board meeting July 17th when the board will vote and send recommendations to the Minneapolis City Council. The audience was reminded about the opportunity that a land grant institution can bring to the community (education and services) and that such institutions have a responsibility to the community.

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Presentation

Presenters discussed the University of Minnesota's vision, interest and opportunities and specifically focused on the value of a partnership and, economic development, early education, and family center opportunities.

University Vision, Interest, and Opportunities

- The meeting is about community needs and how to best frame the University Northside Partnership (UNP).
- The underlying principle behind what the University is trying to do with the UNP is to leverage more resources to better serve the community.
- The University:
 - Is trying to bring more of its enormous resources (which the Northside community's taxes help keep in place) to the community.
 - Has not done well by the community, however, its leadership is trying to address communities in different ways by assisting communities in addressing quality of life issues.
 - Hopes to focus on real world issues and wants to really help address community concerns, not just come-in, do research, collect data, and leave.
 - Would have a long-term commitment.
 - Does effective work through Extension education and other outreach, but it has not agreed on how to leverage other resources to better serve the community.
 - Sees it as a responsibility to do more to leverage its resources to better serve the community.
- There is a quest to become the top research university, but the University of Minnesota also has an urban agenda.
- The University is already in the community in a number of areas, but is very interested in having a visible presence. However, University staff recognize that whatever is done in the community has to be a shared vision, including being clear about what the community needs and how it might be addressed as part of the UNP.
- Transformative changes are part of the University's vision for its work in the community, but it is recognized that there must be mutual interests, shared responsibility and accountability. The principles that the University uses in thinking about community partnerships are to have long term commitment and sustainability, a shared vision, to recognize the value of community knowledge, identify mutual interests, benefits, shared responsibility and accountability.
- The University wants to work in partnership with the community to create and support programs to: improve school and learning outcomes for young children; help with job training and business opportunities; provide treatment and research to children and families struggling with depression, child abuse, violence and other problems; increase access to higher education; and meet the identified needs and interest of the community.

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- In particular, the University has an interest in helping to address low college participation rates of students of color. There is interest in ensuring that students have access and do well. The University has created the Founders Opportunity Scholarship to assist student access and is looking at other ways to improve access.
- The institutional partners involved with the UNP are the University of Minnesota, Hennepin County/NorthPoint Health and Wellness, and City of Minneapolis. Community organizations that have been in discussions about the UNP are the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC), Northway Community Trust, Urban League, Stairstep Foundation, Coalition of Black Churches/African American Leadership Summit, Black Psychologist, Black Social Workers, Folwell Center for Urban Initiatives, NAACP, Washburn Child Guidance, Way to Grow, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board, and others.

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)

- NRRC continues to hear the question what are you doing to change the high rates of “this and that”—a partnership with the University can bring resources that benefit the community. The community can really use economic development resources from the University.
- The community currently has limited corporate and institutional entities. One company, Cub, generates jobs for community and family. Over the years the community has lost as many as 500 jobs through the departure of Time Warner (approximately 200 jobs) and Kodak (approximately 300 jobs). The presence of an academic institution can help the community benefit from additional health services, including mental health.
- The community has health issues that need addressing (Example: Recently the director of NRRC had a 3rd degree burn and it took 12 hours for a health care agency to recognize the extent of the burn because the agency’s staff was unfamiliar with how skin color—“chocolate”—affects the appearance of a burn).
- The director of NRRC traveled with a Minnesota group to Mt. Hope Family Center in Rochester, New York the week of May 8, 2006 and it was “a real eye opener.” The group met three students of color (including an African American student) that are working on their Ph.D. degrees. They also talked with families of color (including an African American family) that received services from the Mt. Hope Family Center. Both students and families were highly supportive of the Center’s work and specifically credited Dante Cicchetti with the progress that they’ve made. Families were especially grateful for help with children.

Office of Business, Community and Economic Development

- The Office of Business and Community Economic Development (BCED), University of Minnesota would like to bring the following services to the Northside community: A business incubator (technical assistance for small businesses), technical assistance for nonprofits, the Student Entrepreneurs Program, the Construction Trades Apprenticeship Program, and University Extension classes in business and nonprofit management.

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- Staff of the BCED office is hoping that the University and community can have a conversation to move past differences. The University can bring quality economic development assistance to private, public and nonprofit organizations.
- The BCED office can potentially assist 8 to 10 businesses that could focus on health care interests through a business incubator.
- The office could also create a clearing house for information gathering, education, and networking; and help develop a laboratory for community innovation that connects students with entrepreneurial interest to a business incubator.
- The Penn and Plymouth corridors have the potential to be places of community innovation.
- Staff of the BCED office visited the Mt. Hope Family Center in Rochester, New York the week of May 8th and was very impressed with the work done there.

Center for Early Education and Development

- The goal of the Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) is to help promote school readiness for all children through active partnerships, research, teaching and service.
- CEED provides outreach and education, and early childhood research and training that includes a range of professors.
- Examples of resources that CEED can bring to communities are: Developing . . .
 - And disseminating tools for assessing early language, literacy, and social development
 - New ways to promote language and literacy development in home and child care settings,
 - And disseminating ways to teach effective practices to child care providers,
 - Local and state networks and policies that promote effective practices, and
- Evaluating classroom and home-based programs for language and literacy development.
- The Minnesota early literacy and training project is ongoing in North Minneapolis.

Family Center

- Dante Cicchetti shared information about his background and work at Mt. Hope Family Center:
 - He has personally experienced family violence, neglect, poverty, and things being out of control. His family members have suffered from mental health problems. Dr. Cicchetti research and the research of others show that being maltreated does more to an individual than simply living in poverty.
 - He left Harvard University because he did not have a place to do his work and founded Mt. Hope in Rochester, New York, which is and internationally renowned child and family center.

- In the more than 30 books and approximately 300 papers that Dr. Cicchetti has published he has not compared African Americans with whites or other racial/ethnic groups and there are no anti-African American comments in his writings.
 - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is way over diagnosed. Dante Cicchetti understands why the community is concerned about past and current treatment. He is powerful enough as an international scholar to begin addressing the ADHD “over diagnosed” issue.
 - Dante Cicchetti promotes resilience and works with parents, schools and after school programs.
 - Over his academic career, Dr. Cicchetti has helped 8 graduate students obtain Ph.D.s and he is currently working with 3 Ph.D. candidates in Rochester, New York for which he receives no compensation. He will continue working with the students without compensation until they complete their degrees.
 - Seven federal grants, which could have followed Dr. Cicchetti, were left behind at Mt. Hope Family Center because of Dr. Cicchetti’s strong commitment to sustainability, which he would bring to any project he’s associated with. An important factor would be to sustain the UNP in Minneapolis.
 - Currently, Dr. Cicchetti is the only staff member of the proposed UNP Family Center.
- Ninety-five to 98 percent of the children who came to Mt. Hope Center were designated as maltreated, but they did not go to foster care. That’s what the North Minneapolis community wants.
 - At Mt. Hope, no one was denied treatment if they didn’t want to participate in research.
 - Drugs were not given to any of the children in the Mt. Hope program. Mt. Hope programs are behavioral-based.
 - Evidence based treatment means that treatments are used that careful research (using random assignment) has shown to be effective. It is the best possible treatment for the condition and optimizes the treatment received.
 - The Family Center research component is to build knowledge, which helps people improve treatment.
 - To participate in research a family has to volunteer and sign a consent form (informed consent). It’s deplorable what has happened to African Americans historically, no one will be required to participate in research at the UNP Family Center unless they want to.
 - Family center research involves youth from a variety of racial/ethnic groups--it’s not just African Americans.
 - There are grants a family center can bring to Minneapolis for treatment and research because of its affiliation with the University of Minnesota. The funding can assist psychologists, social workers, and students of color. Students could work with role models.

Comments and Questions

Approximately 55 minutes was devoted to comments and questions from the audience. There were more comments (36) than questions (18), which included statements about the partnership, proposed services, education and research, jobs/economic development, and broken promises. The paraphrased comments are organized according to the five headings.

University Northside Partnership

- The UNP institutional partners and organizations have had lots of meetings. The minutes from all meetings should be available for community review. Then the community will understand if community perspectives were an after thought.
- All meetings and minutes of the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) are open. The only information that cannot be shared is about people who rent from NRRC. NRRC will make all meeting minutes related to the UNP available for review.
- The NRRC board meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. at the NRRC Office, 1313 Plymouth Avenue. All public meetings are open to the community.
- A petition can be signed if community members do not want the UNP to build in North Minneapolis. (Carol White asked that interested people contact the group that has been protesting for 9 Saturdays).
- One person expressed hope that the UNP will do what it said it will do and that it makes sure people in the community benefit from it.
- There were lots of references to *I, me, and my*-- it's important to remember that the UNP is a community issue.
- If the UNP really wants to be helpful, it should go door to door and see the conditions that people are living in (Examples: not enough money to buy food; kids sleeping on the floor).
- A role of the NAACP forums is to get information out. The NAACP is not taking sides it is gathering facts and getting the word out about differences of opinion. It's important for the NAACP to be at the table to not necessarily agree, but to hear all opinions so that it can help hold parties accountable.
- We were told that the UNP was a done deal. Community meetings were not set up until protesting started.
- NRRC calls those who "come around the table" partners. It does not mean they have signed an agreement to support each other.

Services

- The UNP should not provide mental health support.

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- The community needs to decide what is normal and what's not normal with regards to mental health.
- No mental health screening for youth.
- There are seniors and youth with mental health issues (Example: Suicidal behaviors).
- Current problems such as drugs and gang violence need to be addressed and that is not being talked about.
- There is concern that medical experimentation on African Americans (such as the Tuskegee Study) may be repeated with the UNP. Such experimentation has been documented throughout history from 1832 to 2005. (A summary of the 1832 to 2005 experiments is available).
- Seniors would like to have a close location to their building (Rainbow Terrace) where they can receive dialysis. Currently, approximately 6 people at Rainbow Terrace receive dialysis and each has to go to a different location for treatment. Seniors "laid the ground" for younger members of the community and would like for young community members to give serious consideration to their interest and needs.
- A senior daycare center is needed.
- Lifespan help can be available at the family center.

Education and Research

- Bring community education back to the neighborhood and link it to students at North High School.
- African American professionals need to have a stronger presence in our community. Post secondary presence promotes success in the community.
- Although the UNP research is said to be with voluntary consent, something will be offered for families that will persuade them to participate.
- Research review boards prevent the coercion of families to participate in research.
- Whenever the University does research "on us we look bad."
- The book *The State of African Americans in Minnesota* discusses disparities in the community, there is enough research done on the community.

Jobs/Economic Development

- The speeches seem to be changing from meeting-to-meeting. At the May 9th meeting, it was said that the UNP could bring as many as 6,000 jobs to North Minneapolis—now it sounds like 300 jobs.
- North Minneapolis needs a mall that can really benefit and bring income into the community.
- The University's economic development services are welcomed. They can bring the programs that are already in existence.
- The coffee shop in the Urban League building needs assistance.
- One audience member expressed support for economic development if the sanctions are made clear.
- It is anticipated that \$30-\$40 million (less or more) will be invested in the UNP.

Broken Promises

- NRRC has promised a great deal that the community has been dissatisfied with (Example: a dry cleaning business).
- Stairstep obtained \$316,000 to hire and train people from the Northside community. The Empowerment Zone asked that the \$316,000 be forgiven.
- Promises were made about Heritage Park (Examples: businesses and more jobs—if allowed to build, employers will train people from the community to work in businesses that are established; those working there don't look like members of the community and community members are unable to afford most of the Heritage Park housing, yet \$2.3 million of our tax money supported the building of Heritage Park).
- The University has made promises to North Minneapolis and has not come through. Promises were believed and now the community is in worse shape as a community. (It's time we go outside of Minnesota and request help from others such as Magic Johnson. The community has therapists who can deal with the community's issues.)
- Promises were made for economic development and tax incentives were received (Example: buildings that will house employers who will hire people from the community—then certain stipulations of the land prevented the employer from moving in).
- There should be a community covenant and consequences for breaking promises.

Questions

Eighteen questions were raised regarding the University Northside Partnership, research and services, cost, and economic development. An equal number of questions came up about the

partnership, research and services and funding (5 respectively). Time restraints did not permit responses to most questions.

University Northside Partnership

- Why not put money into the Urban League and Pilot City and allow them to do the Family Center work?
- Will NRRC speak on behalf of the community?
- Is the NRRC board predominantly white?
- Will a subcommittee of NRRC decide?
- Why is NRRC listed as a partner if it has not already signed off on the UNP?

Cost

- Where will funds come from to support those who use the UNP? (All states are required to submit a mental health plan)
- How much money will be invested in the Family Center?
- How will the UNP get money to do free treatment?
- Where will the money come from and under what conditions?
- Has NRRC spent any money from its budget to support the UNP?

Research and Services

- There is lots of research on African American families and children, why not put that to use to bring about change rather than investing in more research?
- How can the UNP guarantee that no drugs will be used in the UNP's work? (Don't want to see children drugged anymore)
- Did any of the children of the CEED spokesperson go through the programs she talked about?
- How do we make our children better prepared for school and life?
- What kind of help will be available for seniors?

Economic Development

- How much more job training does this community need? (Been through several, where are the jobs?)
- What has NRRC done related to economic development?
- Why after so many years hasn't NRRC held anyone accountable for not following through with economic development opportunities promised to the community?