

## House Meeting Leaders 10-27-09

Attendance: Nan & Si Si, John, Hamadi, Janette, Ayan, Jobanna, Tri, Maria, Virginia, Nohelia, Diana, Esperanza, Jesse, Shelia, and Bill Oswald.

Esperanza does ice breaker – who can name everybody

Diana introduces MidCity CAN –

- 1) The Networking Council is a collaborative where agencies do a “community scan”. House meeting leaders practiced a community scan and shared their thoughts about what is happening in City Heights:
  - People raising issues about not knowing enough about the agencies
  - Graffiti
  - Food Issues
  - Health access
  - Lack of jobs
  - Lots of issues with Myanmar community
- 2) Elections of Coordinating Council are happening December 8, 2009 @ 8am and 6pm at the Wellness Center
  - To be eligible to vote people who belong to an organization must be a formal member of Mid-City CAN; any City Heights resident can vote. The coordinating council is working out details about needing to show IDs.
  - The Coordinating council has very active subcommittees – voting, BHC, and evaluation.
- 3) Momentum Teams have people from all the circles – momentum teams form out of the community scan e.g. food justice momentum team that created gardens and farmers market
- 4) MID-CITY CAN is a clearing house – a network of services – advocate for change
- 5) Question and Answer
  - Q- What is the role of Mid-City CAN after the community plan for Building Healthy Communities Initiative is submitted?
  - Q-how does the California Endowment see the role of residents will it be included in the future – will people get paid – what is Mid-City CAN's role?
  - A-Can't speak for the California Endowment – they make own decisions. Mid-City CAN is committed to being resident led
- 6) Building Healthy Communities Initiative (BHCI):
  - Planning Process: June 2009 to March 2010
    - 25 House Meeting leaders

- 104 house meeting
  - 1467 residents involved
  - The momentum teams involved in BHC are: Food Justice Momentum Team, Built Environment, Access to Health Care, School Attendance, and Peace Promotion
  - Community Congress: February 2010
- 7) Discussion on the momentum team and BHCI planning process
- The link between residents and momentum teams has not been clear – however, the momentum teams are not more advanced than this group. Right now momentum teams are not meeting – some have brought in residents without the work of house meeting leaders – e.g. school attendance. The momentum teams will reconvene in November where the momentum teams will be setting their calendars –
  - The 5 teams each meet separately – coordinating through the All Team Meetings
  - In November momentum teams will gather and start with the data collected by the house meeting leaders.
- 8) Diana proposed that house meeting leaders develop a “resident team” that would be part of the all team meetings.
- Q-what would the resident group focus on – A- is residents would work on outcome #10 that is focused on resident organization – this is the group that would be the one to create the accountability of the California Endowment to the community
  - Q- What if we don’t get enough people to the community congress – A- if you form the resident team then becomes the place where the rules of the congress are set.

### **Consensus**

Bill shared training on consensus, a model for decision making to house meeting leaders to develop agreement at meetings. The group tested the model with question: Can the house meeting leaders organize a Momentum Team (a resident team that would be a part of all team meetings.) This proposal was amended to house meeting leaders will convene again to have a longer discussion before making a decision about creating a momentum team. **All house meeting leaders are encouraged to attend to be a part of forming this important decision.**

## **CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING**

**WHAT IS CONSENSUS?** Consensus is a decision making process that requires everyone to agree before a decision is made.

### **WHY USE CONSENSUS?**

Decisions made by consensus make a group stronger because the process ensures everyone’s buy-in. Decisions made by majority vote often leave a large part of the membership feeling left out. If 20 people make a decision by consensus then 20 people are committed to the decision.

In a majority rule vote only 11 of the 20 people need to be committed to the decision, leaving 9 members with little commitment to the decision.

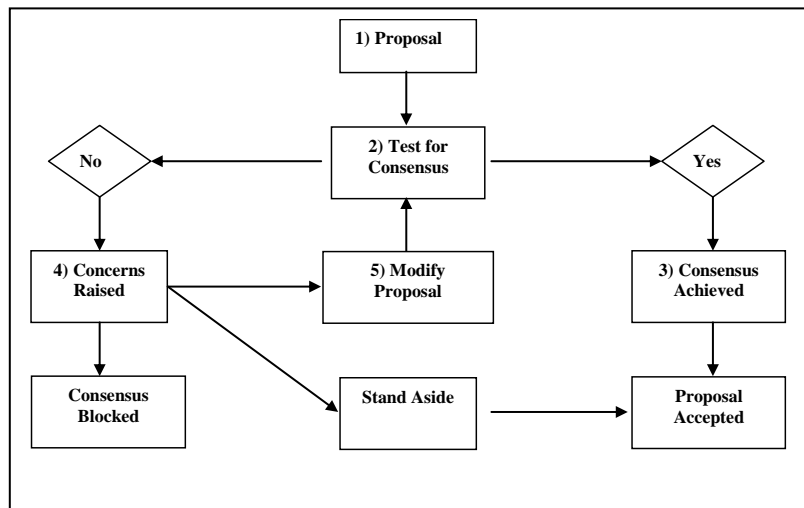
## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Deciding by consensus can take longer than voting, but the outcome is worth the effort. The diagram to the right shows the how consensus works. The steps are:

1. A proposal is made to the group

2. Test for Consensus: When a proposal is made, everyone involved is asked to state their opinion; why they think the proposal is good and why it's bad; what are the strong points and what are the weak points.

3. Consensus Achieved: If everyone agrees with the proposal as stated it passes



4. Concerns Raised: If there is disagreement about the proposal the group discusses it and works to modify it in order to address the concerns or objections people have.
5. Modify Proposal: The proposal is changed to address people's concerns. Once the proposal is modified, the group tests for consensus (step 2) again. If consensus is achieved, then the proposal passes.

If consensus is not achieved the group can either continue to modify the proposal until all objections have been resolved or it can ask the person or persons objecting to decide whether to block consensus or to step aside.

Step Aside: By standing aside, the person makes it clear that they do not favor the proposal, but their objection is not strong enough to stop it from being passed.

**Block Consensus:** By blocking consensus, the person stops the proposal from being passed. If someone chooses to block consensus, they must explain their decision to the group. Blocking consensus is a very serious act. It allows one person to stop the group from taking a particular action. Because of the seriousness of this action, the person who objects to the proposal must decide if their objection so strong that it should control what the whole group does. Usually someone only blocks consensus if they believe that acting on the proposal is a violation of their own personal values or if they think acting on the proposal will harm the organization.

## **Communication**

Nohelia shared the proposal to contact the participants of house meetings to invite them to participate in future meetings with house meeting leaders. Consensus: The group decided they wanted to do outreach for the next meeting.

- Meet once a month with house meeting leaders and residents at large –
  - The ask: Contact residents to invite them to the next meeting of house meeting leaders.
  - The group was encouraged to make personal invitations. Some suggestions were:
    - Word of mouth
    - Email
    - Phone tree
    - Presentations
    - Others ideas
      - Coffee dates
      - Flyers – radio
      - Use public comments at other meetings
      - Go to parent meetings at schools - build relationships with schools
    - The group was encouraged to develop your story (personal story) to invite residents to the next meeting. It is similar to an “elevator speech – 30 seconds” but more personal.
      - It explains 1) Why did you get involved and 2) why should they participate in the next meeting.
    - The group was encouraged to practice a Script through an exercise in teams.
    - Please review your sign in sheet –and invite residents to the next meetings.

## **Next meeting**

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the City Heights Wellness Center. Child care, translation and food will be provided. This is an open meeting and house meeting leaders are encouraged to attend and invite other residents (from house meetings and momentum teams.)

## **Announcements**

- We have copies of sign-in sheets; if you need them to make phone calls to invite people to the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting please contact Esperanza.

- House meeting leaders who did not attend the meeting are encouraged to read these meeting notes and contact Nohelia if you have questions or comments. Also bring your proposals to the next meeting.
- Have a great weekend and see you next week! 😊