



**Meeting of September 21, 2015
8:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

Augsburg College
Room 100, Oren Gateway Center

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---------|--|----------------------------------|
| 5 min. | 1. Welcome and Introductions..... | Paul Pribbenow |
| | <i>Review and Approve Minutes of July 27, 2015</i> | |
| | 2. Jobs & Youth | |
| 45 min. | a. Opportunity Hub | |
| | i. Hennepin County Update | Peter McLaughlin |
| | ii. City of Mpls Update | Abdi Warsame |
| | iii. DPS grant, Athletic Wear | Kari Dzeidzic |
| | iv. Core Team Update | Marcela Sotela Odor |
| | v. Employer Commitments | Louis Smith |
| 10 min. | b. Youth Collaborative | Mohamed Mohamed
Abdi Muhktari |
| 15 min. | 3. Infrastructure – Capital Projects Update | |
| | a. Augsburg Ctr for Science, Business & Religion: | Steve Peacock |
| | b. Other News | |
| 15 min. | 4. Safety | Inspector Kjos
Carla Nielson |

CEDAR RIVERSIDE PARTNERSHIP MINUTES OF MEETING OF JULY 27, 2015

Partners Present: Paul Pribbenow, George Sherman, Cindy Fruitrail, Anne Weyandt, Brian Shekleton (for Peter McLaughlin), Marcela Sotela (for Abdi Warsame), Rich Thomasgard (for Nasibu Savera), Mohamed Mohamed, Amano Dube (for Chanda Smith Baker), Jan Morlock.

Also Present: Kari Dzeidzic, Laura Beeth, Linda Bryant, John Thorson, Mohamed Ali, Jamie Schumacher, Abdi Mukhtar, Mark Brinda, Joe Scala, Mike Kjos, Phil Kelly, and Louis Smith.

1. Welcome and Introductions

President Pribbenow welcomed everyone to Augsburg College and asked for a round of introductions. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of March 5, 2015. *It was moved by Mohamed Mohamed, seconded by Brian Shekleton to approve the minutes of March 5. Upon vote, the motion carried.*

President Pribbenow acknowledged the news of Faith Cable Kumon's transition from Smith Partners. He expressed his thanks on behalf of the Partnership for Faith's service. Louis Smith noted Ms. Kumon's passionate commitment to the work of the Partnership, and also noted an ongoing commitment to building local capacity among various partners to engage in this work.

2. Jobs & Youth

a. Scrubs Camp

Laura Beeth described the 6th Annual Scrubs Camp at Augsburg College, which included 76 students this year. There was a number of successful elements to the Camp, including inspiring speakers and students deeply engaged in the classes. Ms. Beeth noted that we do need to work on building stronger connections to neighborhood residents. President Pribbenow noted that the Augsburg Camp had also inspired the creation of a Scrubs Camp at St. Paul College, and he expressed his appreciation for this model which grew out of the Cedar Riverside Partnership work and building health careers pathways. He suggested that we need to continue to turn to capturing outcomes from these camps and examine how we can continue to build on this success.

George Sherman noted that seven Cedar Riverside residents had attended the camp, and that he would seek to promote more outreach activities for example through the Somali television station for next year's recruiting. Louis Smith noted that he attended the graduation ceremony and that the students spoke about their powerful experiences and their inspiration to pursue healthcare careers in college. Senator Kari Dzeidzic expressed her appreciation to Larry Pogemiller of the Office of Higher Education support of scholarships for the camp.

b. Youth Collaborative

Mohamed Mohamed and Abdi Mukhtar reviewed the activities of the Youth Collaborative Steering Committee and Action Groups. These activities include meetings to discuss improved uses of Currie Park and to build more collaborative relationships among youth workers. President Pribbenow stated that it was his sense that this was an important effort at connecting the silos of various organizations working to serve youth. In this way we are setting a powerful example for improve collaboration, and taking the focus off of any one single organization in this mission. Mr. Mukhtar expressed his appreciation for the work that Faith Cable Kumon had done in developing this collaborative and also his appreciation to Jo Haberman.

Jan Morlock noted that this is an inspiring report but asked whether these meetings will truly add value. Mr. Mukhtar stated that these various organizations had never established a working relationship before, and now there is the ability to share capacity, improve communication and build trust. The group is also discussing sharing facilities coordination. Mohamed Ali said that there are also more tools in place now to align resource for youth and that there is much more collaboration happening. He said this collaborative helps Emerge work on training and employment connections. Linda Bryant stated that Cedar Riverside previously had been isolated and is now coming together much more to avoid duplication of efforts and better serve youth. Phil Kelly stated that this has been very pragmatic and successful work addressing a number of issues in focused and productive way.

c. Opportunity Hub

Louis Smith provided an overview of the most recent work on the Opportunity Hub. He noted that the Smiley Clinic site had some physical access challenges and related cost implications. Additional consulting work from the University of Minnesota business students had identified other potential sites, including Fine Associates new Five 15 on Park Building which Hennepin County as identified as a possible suitable and feasible site for a combination of workforce, library, and other services for the Opportunity Hub. Mr. Smith further reviewed the list of partners in the draft resolution which have all expressed an interest in collaborating in this Hub, with the understanding that Hennepin County would continue to play a lead role.

John Thorson reviewed the most recent information to explore the Fine Associate site, as well as identify anchor partners who will collaborate to provide career connections, navigation services, and recruiting opportunities. He noted that Commissioner McLaughlin, Council Member Warsame, and United States Attorney Lugar will be meeting soon to discuss the Opportunity Hub.

Marcela Sotela Odor reported that the Legislature had approved \$250,000, of which some portion may be available for local government grants and utilized at the Opportunity Hub. She also reviewed the governance structure for ongoing work on the Opportunity Hub, including core team, stakeholders, foundations and other funders, as well as residents who are impacted and served by the Hub. Senator Dzeidzic stated that she would be in touch with the Commissioner of Public Safety about the process for applying for this local government grant from the appropriation.

President Pribbenow expressed his gratitude to Fairview for making the Smiley Clinic building available, and that it also serves to keep connections coming down Riverside Avenue so that resources may be shared with the whole Cedar Riverside neighborhood. He noted the positive activity of the Sisterhood Boutique and said that he like the idea of continued youth entrepreneurial activities at that site.

Anne Weyandt noted that St. Kate's is new to the Partnership but that she is very excited about this opportunity. She noted that St. Kates has a focus especially on serving young women, and while there has been history of a focus on health careers, there is also a new initiative to support women entering technical careers. As a result, this Opportunity Hub is a very timely discussion for St. Kate's and she is pleased to be participating.

Senator Dzeidzic noted that there has also been early discussion of sportswear that is culturally appropriate for Somali women and girls. MCTC has apparel technology course; there are good wages for industrial sewers, and this might be a promising enterprise.

Linda Bryant reported that Emerged has received a youth and workforce grant from the State and will be committing more resources to Cedar Riverside as a result. George Sherman noted that he is building out space for Emerge that will be available in October. He also compared his experience in developing workforce resources on Broadway in North Minneapolis, and pointed out the opportunity to engage the school district as well.

City Fruittrail said that on behalf of Fairview, they are pleased that the Smiley Clinic building could serve as a conversation starter, and that Fairview is comfortable with a focus on youth entrepreneurial activities like the Sisterhood Boutique and potentially the athletic wear initiative at Fairview. Amano Dube said that Sisterhood Boutique has been very successful and has needs to utilize more space if possible.

Mr. Thorson stated that this dual location approach is exciting. He noted that the County is approaching this Opportunity Hub not only as a service provider but as an employer. He noted

State grants to Hennepin County for health advocacy, facility engineers, and public office administration, all of which could result in career opportunities for Cedar Riverside residents. President Pribbenow noted that Augsburg is undertaking a \$70 million construction project soon, and it will also include goals for community hiring.

There being no further discussion, it was moved by Jan Morlock, seconded by George Sherman, to adopt the proposed resolution adopting a refined planning framework for the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Hub. Upon vote, the motion carried.

3. Safety

Lieutenant Kjos reviewed current crime statistics for the Partnership. He noted that crime is generally lower in Cedar Riverside this year and also lower for the summer. He noted particular concerns for Korean elderly residents near the Peace Garden. He also noted a recent homicide on Cedar that appears to be gang related. Joe Scala asked about whether downtown bar closing problems extend also to Cedar Riverside. Lieutenant Kyos said that it is a common problem and has been for many years, and that the Police Department is continuing to focus its effort on this concern. Amano Dube asked why crime is down and how that can be sustained as a trend. Lieutenant Kjos pointed out that he feels that beat officers are developing good community relationships, and that greater collaboration with citizens leads to more effective work. He also noted the value of the youth programs and specific police initiatives to work with youth.

Senator Dzeidzic asked about any recent issues at transit stops. Lieutenant Kjos noted that this is a matter of ongoing interest and concern, especially with people from outside of the neighborhood using transit and committing robberies. The Transit Police are working to address this issue and generally transit stations are experiencing fewer incidents. Amano Dube noted an issue with a fence near the Coyle Center and Lieutenant Kjos noted that that is an issue that can be pursued in the context of all of the relevant government partners.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Smith



RESOLUTION ADOPTING REFINED PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR CEDAR RIVERSIDE OPPORTUNITY HUB

WHEREAS, the Cedar Riverside Partnership is committed to working collaboratively to identify and mobilize long-term, strategic investments to promote a vibrant Cedar Riverside neighborhood as a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work, and play;

WHEREAS, the Partnership has identified that young adults in Cedar Riverside ages 18-25 are often lacking important resources and support to advance their education and find employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2014, the Partnership identified potential public and private resources that could align to provide support for a Cedar Riverside workforce center as a location for integrated education and job counseling and placement resources;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2015, the Partnership adopted a preliminary planning framework to pursue a collaborative model for an opportunity hub that would integrate workforce development, library, and other services, and the Partnership directed its Counsel to provide support to Hennepin County and other partners in the development of this opportunity hub, to identify short-term opportunities among community partners, and to provide a report on its feasibility by June 30, 2015;

WHEREAS, community partners have continued to meet regularly to develop plans for an opportunity hub, and have formed a Core Team of participants to devote focused effort to this initiative and keep other key parties informed;

WHEREAS, these partners continue to affirm the concept of a creative hybrid -- made up of library, workforce, and other community services -- delivered through collaborative model and managed by trusted connections navigators; this collaborative model would have a managing partner that acts as a backbone by bringing together a series of programs from multiple organizations, coordinating the use of space and managing the facility;

WHEREAS, a number of public and private organizations have expressed interest in delivering scheduled services and programming in an opportunity hub, including:

- Hennepin County Workforce;
- Hennepin County Libraries;
- City of Minneapolis;
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board;

- Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board;
- West Bank Community Coalition;
- Pillsbury United Communities;
- Emerge;
- African Development Center;
- Riverside Plaza Tenants Association;
- Augsburg College;
- Minneapolis Community & Technical College;
- St. Catherine University;
- Fairview Health Services;
- Cedar Riverside NRP; and
- West Bank Business Association;

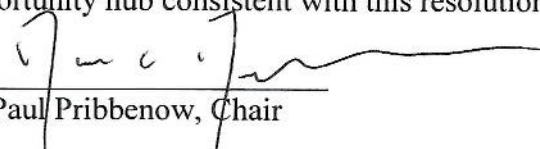
WHEREAS, with the assistance of the Carlson Consulting Enterprise of the University of Minnesota Business School, Hennepin County identified street level space appropriate for the opportunity hub at Fine Associates new FIVE15 On Park building, which appears to be a suitable and feasible site for the combination of workforce, library and other services for the opportunity hub;

WHEREAS, the Smiley Clinic building on Riverside, offered for community use by Fairview Health Services, also appears to be a suitable and feasible site for related youth entrepreneurial programs, such as the Sisterhood Boutique guided by Pillsbury United Communities;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cedar Riverside Partnership hereby adopts this updated planning framework with the list of identified community partners and utilizing the Fine Associates and Smiley Clinic sites as described above;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Partnership hereby authorizes its Chair, Augsburg College President Paul Pribbenow, to submit a letter of support with any grant application for this opportunity hub consistent with this resolution.

Attest:


Paul Pribbenow, Chair

Date: July 27, 2015

We can do work now. 

- we need to be out more. ^{emerge point}
- how to explain very regulated processes
- navigator/coordinator ^{≠ THAN COORDINATOR OF HUB} role to answer/direct questions ^{MCKNIGHT \$50K/HR 18mo}
- associate degree only required
- expertise on 5 MN SCU
- timing: how do we do it well?
- reconnect w/ youth w/ training thru Emerge
 - connect to existing MCTC programs
- Augsburg new building as a project to model

[IT Ready
OCT. 12, 15]

Parking Lot

Hangout
Space

Drop-in
Space

Programming
& COORDINATOR

Funding
- capital
- Programming

Offering
by ≠ groups
Recruitment

≡ moving
☺ ☺ SUPPORTED

Resources
& actual needs

Geo Location

Non-student
Outreach,
Planning that's
Tech assisted

Youth social
entrepreneurship
Two locations

- Fairview's project & Shermann Assoc as examples

- Connections to employers of those who already have degrees
- Training of liaison role for Libraries w/ employment readiness as well

Next Steps

- invite Emilia Avalos to explain navigator role
- 1 or 2 IP on your contribution to align w/ needs
- IP on anchor contribution
- PUC perspective on Connecting Coyle, HUB & SISTERHOOD

[WB BLOCK PARTY
SEPT. 12, 15]

BEST
ambassadors
FOR THE
WORK

CONTRIBUTIONS
made visible
sense of belonging

• COLLEGE CONNECTOR
CERTIFICATION.

FOR STUDENTS
OF COLOR

SPECIFIC
INFO FROM
DEMOGRAPHIC

no single
issue lives
• COMMITMENT TO
VISION • Have skin
in the game
CULTURE
& CENTER

• PRODUCE TALENT.

intentional
investment

SHARE
STORIES
TO CREATE
POWERFUL
NARRATIVE

OF all,
exceptional
& middle

• BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS.

SHARE
PHONE#s

CHECK IN
REGULARLY
EVALUATE

• CAPACITY TO DO
ADMINISTRATIVE
DUTIES • SUSTAINABILITY

• KNOWLEDGE
GAPS •
awareness

• ADAPT
QUICKLY •
FLEXIBILITY

• CONNECTION TO
INSTITUTIONS •

assets
CULTURAL LENS
COMMUNITY
CULTURAL WEALTH

HOLDING OTHERS
ACCOUNTABLE
SHAPING
THE NARRATIVE
CONNECTING
DOTS
more efficient
due to communication
• INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITY.
(RETENTION) (ORGANIZATIONAL)
LEADER OF COLOR

Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative

8-25-15 meeting notes

Present: Mohamed Ali, Linda Bryant (Emerge); Burhan Mohamed (WBCC); Abdi Mukhtar, Yasameen Sajady, Mahdi Abdi (PUC – Brian Coyle Center); Eva Song Margolis, Joan Riley, Siciid Ali (LSS); Phill Kelly (WBAC); Rachel Svanoe (Common Table/Augsburg); Caleb Rollins (Trinity Lutheran Congregation); Jo Haberman (YCB).

Consensus Workshop for Youth in Cedar Riverside

Jo asked about possible dates for a Youth Consensus Workshop for Cedar Riverside youth, to be led by Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board members. Two dates were offered: either Friday, September 25th around 5pm or Friday, October 16th (during MEA weekend) around 5pm. Jo will talk to Toya at YCB about these optional dates.

Employment and Training Action Working Group

- **Mohamed Ali reported on Emerge programs for youth and young adults:**
 - Northstar Digital Literacy – starts second week of September, locations TBD – Emerge offers programs at Hennepin Tech, MCTC, and Emerge Northside location; three full-time staff will be working with 16-25 year olds.
 - At Brian Coyle Center – IT Training will start October 12th, for three months, for 18-25 year olds.
 - In spring, IT Essentials course will be offered.
 - Emerge will offer programs at Northside location daytime hours and evening hours, based on community need.
- **Joan announced LSS is about to send out information about launching the new program designed to reach 30-plus young people from Cedar Riverside; she introduced Siciid, newly hired youth program and employment counselor staff member at LSS.**

Siciid introduced himself, saying he was mentored by Abdi and has grown up in this community, attended college and graduate school, and worked in this community. He is passionate about young people and giving back to the community - and committed to making the new program at LSS a success.

LSS wants to work closely with youth so they get connected – not just “referred” to various other places and then lose contact. Program location will be at LSS Center for Changing Lives on Park Ave.

Joan and Siciid will co-staff the new program at LSS, designed to offer a range of youth resources and services, including:

- employment counseling – with an MFIP focus, but not exclusive to that;
- case workers
- training center – “The Tech”
- resume assistance
- mock interviews
- addressing behavior issues
- addressing housing issues
- parent support

Eva stressed that LSS wants to join other providers in this important work – she is excited to deepen the connections and resources widely for youth – a holistic model that encompasses physical/mental health, personal financial literacy, and employment skills and opportunities.

- **Burhan and Phill are organizing youth/young adult men in Cedar Riverside – (see more info in Safety and Crime Action Working Group section, below) - creating relationships of trust and talking about who is looking for jobs and opportunities to help move their lives forward.**

Discussion about CRYWC supporting a special initiative with Burhan and the outreach being done with youth/young adults around the community. Burhan's relationships with the young men creates a good position for him to take back information, resources, providers and relationships from the CRYWC Employment and Training group.

Phill has talked with Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC) about Cedar-Riverside.

Jo reviewed the proposal to create a CRYWC Employment and Training Stakeholders Group - those present thought the purpose statement looked OK; Rachel suggested adding back a key goal of the original working group, which was to address the need for outreach and getting responses when a program is promoted in the community. The Stakeholder group needs to find a new meeting time.

Linda suggested the CRYWC Employment and Training Stakeholders Group look at an expanded age group, including 16-25; especially 18-24 year olds don't have enough services, there is much untapped energy in this age group.

Currie Park and other practice spaces Action Working Group

Abdi reviewed notes from meeting held July 31st with Councilmember Cam Gordon, MPRB Commissioner Scott Vreeland and others.

Burhan updated the group about the meeting held August 19th by MPRB about future planning for parks.

Discussion about follow-up items from both meetings.

The CRYWC Action Working Group on Currie and other spaces needs to meet and look at how to move forward with follow-up items, other action.

Parks, practice fields, athletic facilities in other communities are in much better shape than Cedar Riverside - and there are a lot of new housing units and young people coming into Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

Certain people get the message that they are "not wanted" in other parks and places around the city. Can Jake Virden from Hope Community offer community organizing capacity? Hope has been organizing around equity issues in parks for several years.

Phill and Mohamed M. have worked successfully re: dealing with tenant rights/needs around the Plaza plans – this should be key to next steps re: Currie and other parks and spaces.

Linda – to effectively address what needs to be done with practice and athletic fields in the community, need a strategic plan of organizing that links elders and young people. Elders are needed to advocate for what young people need. Respecting and understanding what has gone on historically, and also bring newness to the organizing methods.

Abdi – next agenda – add gym space to agenda, now that summer is almost over.

Safety and Crime Action Working Group

Phill – Cedar Riverside Community Development Corporation owns 500 housing units along Cedar Avenue and in the Augsburg area.

Young East African males do not have places, spaces, programs, jobs - so as they move around in the community, they visit places where people have made rules about who can/cannot be on certain properties, etc.

Phill and Burhan and others are organizing the young men – they identify need for space, how to get connected to middle-class jobs, etc.

Burhan – the youth/young adult group has met a couple of time so far – they have the agency needed to move forward, to organize themselves around what they need - maybe for the first time ever.

Phill and Abdi have discussed how the West Bank Safety Center can have a role to help.

What can or should Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative do to help or strengthen what's already being organized? Ex: help connect Burhan and Phill to Emerge, LSS, other programs, so they can bring it to the youth/young adult group.

The elders in the community – especially mothers and grandmothers – are key to decision-making in this neighborhood – need to honor that and work with them.

Training Action Working Group

Rachel, Mohamed M., Burhan - discussion about Quality Youth Work.

Teaching organizing and systems change work.

Ahead of next summer – interns; re: encouraging organizations that have interns, Step Up, etc., to be part of training.

Updates

Abdi – Opportunity HUB update.

Abdi – tomorrow at Coyle Center – Minneapolis Foundation West Bank Community Fund information meeting.

Phill – 4th-12th grades running club, Fri-Mon on Labor Day Weekend. Basketball still going, into September.

Caleb – information hand-out on Safe Place: Homework Help program, grades K-12, 3-6pm starting September 14th, at Trinity Lutheran Congregation 2001 Riverside.

Jo – there's been a request for an article about Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative, to post in the weekly E-News for Youth Work Professionals. Anyone interested in putting together an article?

Rachel – Common Table Mentorships – Augsburg students – Tuesdays 4-6pm.

Rachel – Daily Planet holds regular meetings with youth/young adults interested in developing stories, if anyone wants to connect with this opportunity.

Steering Committee meeting - Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative

Present: Rachel, Abdi, Phill, Burhan, Mahdi, Caleb, Linda, Yasameen, Jo.

We need to do more job training in Cedar Riverside – and give enough time in advance to advertise it.

Burhan – like the EMT training that was held.

Do Job Fairs at Cedar Cultural Center and Mixed Blood Theater.

Linda – Emerge and PUC should meet specifically with LSS - re: next steps to develop Employment and Training Stakeholders group.

Phill – we could use a catalogue for youth employment and training opportunities. Add this to agenda for next meeting.

Phill - how to develop and keep the vision re: what should be happening for youth - whole youth ecosystem.

Mahdi – larger organizations with funding and resources have a role; need to evaluate youth programs re: strategy, vision for where things should be happening; look at duplication of programs; look at how to take programs to a new level.

Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative
Action Working Group: Employment and Training Stakeholders Group
9-1-15 meeting notes

Present: Mohamed Ali (Emerge); Regina Pekarek (Fairview); MarLynn Schleeter, Linda Tkaczik (MPRB); Caleb Rollins (Trinity Lutheran); Amano Dube, Yasameen Sajady (PUC – Brian Coyle Center); Rich Thomasgard (ADC); Eva Margolis (LSS); Marcela Sotela (CM Warsame Office); Jo Haberman (YCB).

Guest speakers: Mike Christenson, Associate VP of Workforce Development and Aaron Corcoran, Pathways Program (Minneapolis Community and Technical College).

DECISIONS from this meeting:

1. **Employment and Training Stakeholders Group of CRYWC decided to find a new monthly meeting pattern**, so a poll will go out to find a meeting pattern that works for all/most people who have expressed interest in this group.
2. **Employment and Training Stakeholders Group of CRYWC (...and allies...) should collaborate on a Job Hiring Fair.** A planning committee will be set up. See notes on this topic at the bottom of meeting notes.
3. **Agreement among those present on the purpose statement:**
This stakeholders group is being formed through the Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative – a new effort to bring together people working with and for youth and young adults on a range of issues, concerns, and efforts.

Monthly meetings will focus on these and related items the group will determine:

- What are the employment and training programs and activities for 16-25 year olds?
- Updates from everyone - how are things going & what can we do to support and strengthen each other's work?
- What is everyone planning or hoping to do – connections around building capacity.
- How to increase communications about employment and training opportunities for 16-25 year olds - can we create a partnership with a more open channel of information sharing?
- Opportunity Hub updates.
- Other updates.

Meeting notes:

Mike Christenson presented information about MCTC and the Pathways Program.

MCTC, along with St. Paul College, is part of Power of YOU program that provides free college tuition to students from many high schools around the metro area:

<http://www.minneapolis.edu/Admissions/Power-of-YOU>

A two-year Associate of Arts Degree can mean \$16,000 more annual income than a high school diploma alone.

Associate of Arts Degrees are being recognized more and accepted by employers for more positions.

MCTC annual tuition is only \$5200.

MCTC would like to be in the Cedar Riverside community, with the permission of the people of the community. Mike would like to see MCTC have a weekly presence in the community.

Councilmember Warsame and Marcela Sotela have started a conversation with Mike and MCTC.

Mike and others have been thinking a lot about how to help more people get through college -- because training-plus-college is the answer to many of the employment barriers faced by community members. MCTC needs to make a simple, straightforward case to many more people about this.

Aaron introduced the Pathways Program - based on real-time information about real jobs and job markets. Aaron uses software program, enters students' information, helps students look at employers and jobs and pathways to their goals - and does a lot of follow-up, which is critical to success.

Mike reviewed several Pathways – some up and working now, others in process.

Example from Hennepin County – 250,000 people on public assistance – if many/most can be connected to the training-plus-college approach of Pathways, there are jobs open now in health care, IT, etc.

Helping young people take college classes in high school is part of the success formula - these are Career and Technical pathways. College classes should be started as early as possible during high school years – so by the time students are juniors and seniors in high school, they are ready.

Discussion:

Marcela – cultural pieces need to permeate all services; ex: whole-family outreach and engagement. Word of mouth is more powerful than handing out flyers, etc. - a good word from friends about their experience, or conversations at Mosques, etc.

Sending messages via elders to whole families. People ask: why should I trust that this is going to be beneficial to me or my family?

Amano – hundreds of young people in afterschool programs, their parents come to structured events - outreach to families and events for families are important - need to work “on the ground” with people who can benefit, with the people students live with.

In East African communities, mothers are powerful – when going to Mosques and other places, important to be mindful of this. East Africans need to hear from someone they can trust to give the message.

Mohamed A. – young people who have graduated from programs can tell important stories to other young people - need their voices as well as elders.

Eva – community engagement and relationship-building are key; also critical to look at systems and systemic change; systems of oppression operate - people of color get locked out of employment and career promotions, etc. How does follow-up happen within systems, to sustain employment and careers?

Mike – Twin Cities Leadership Roundtable is a group of human resource executives - they are working on issues re: sustaining employees of color – it's not all figured out - Mike has talked with Hennepin County about replicating this approach to the ongoing work...some non-profit partners include Fairview, U of M, HCMC, Regions, etc.

Some important things are not happening enough: financial literacy, FAFSA help, pre-application help, etc.

Amano – how flexible is MCTC re: coming to the Coyle Center building – re: 9th – 12th grade outreach, scholarships, college credits, etc?

Mike – very flexible.

Aaron – at MCTC, there is “One Stop” on Wednesdays, 1-3pm; can this happen at Coyle Center?

Marcela – Opportunity Hub is creating pathways to opportunities in the system – Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, MCTC, Emerge, LSS, others..... For now, doing outreach in Mosques.

Discussion about action that can be taken in collaboration, by Employment and Training Stakeholders Group of CRYWC (...and allies...)

Can we work together on a Job Hiring Fair?

Amano - immigrants need jobs now, they are eager to work – getting an Association of Arts or credential can be seen as taking too much time. What is available now?

Mike and Aaron - need to talk about both – people can get jobs now, the pay is \$12 -14/hr.

Pathways can sometimes be financed by employers, people can study at night, online, etc.

Then completed credential or Associate of Arts degree can get people \$16 – 24/hr.

Eva – ex: event held on Eastside of St. Paul; door-knocking; employers doing outreach (Mississippi Market Co-op); one-day Hiring Fair – focused on local people being hired.

Marcela – social media would be very important, to reach young people.

MarLynn – let's work on common messages – work on avoiding contradictory messages.

(Note: suggestion from MarLynn: **Global Career Development Facilitator** – excellent training offered at Normandale Community College; wide range of people can get certified, not just workforce professionals.)

Cedar Riverside Youth Workers Collaborative
Action Working Group – Currie Park and other practice fields
7-31-15 meeting notes

Present: Mohamed Mohamed (West Bank Community Council), Zahra Muse (West Bank Business Association), Asma Haidara (Mixed Blood Theater); Marcela Sotela (CM Warsame office); Amano Dube, Mahdi Abdi, Abdi Mukhtar, Mama Shug (Brian Coyle Center); Abdirizak Bihi (Somali Education and Social Advocacy Center); Coach Ahmed, Phill Kelly (West Bank Athletic Association); Matt Bell (MPRB); Jo Haberman (YCB).

Guests: City Councilmember Cam Gordon; Minneapolis Parks Commissioner Scott Vreeland; Minneapolis Parks Service Area Manager Paul Jaeger, Minneapolis Parks Intern Matt Her.

Meeting agenda: discussion about the following points -

Problems:

- Youth in the neighborhood very often cannot use Currie Park soccer field because adult teams and leagues either have returning-use agreements, or get on the schedule ahead of youth programs.
- Adult teams on the field all-day Saturday and Sunday.
- Youth programs do not get organized about scheduling.
- Currie soccer field is extremely popular because it is a good quality field – other fields, like Riverside Park, which used to be the most popular practice field, is not used by adult teams because it is in bad condition - needs to be re-planed and re-seeded.
- Community opposition to youth using different practice fields.
- Basketball court at Brian Coyle Center.
- Tennis court at Brian Coyle Center.
- Meeting needed for Cedar-Riverside community re: Close the Gap.
- Meeting needed for Cedar-Riverside community re: RecQuest.

Solutions:

- This working group can be used to get ahead of the curve about being more informed and organized, educating youth-serving organizations about the sign-up system, etc. Everyone agrees that collaboration and partnership is the best way to solve the issues.
- Mohamed Mohamed has started compiling a community calendar re: Currie and other practice fields, in order to communicate better.
- Matt has already started working with a couple of groups about changing their reservation patterns for next year, so Currie is more available for youth programs.
- Discuss current policy & any policy changes that might work better.

Discussion

Phill – we need a regular advisory committee on the issues around parks, practice fields, etc.

Matt and Amano have been talking about this.

Scott – Supreme Court ruling re: parks, who can use them, park permits, etc.
Policy needs to be legally defensible.

Need help letting the community know more about the process of signing up for parks programs, spaces.

Park Board provides open time – so kids can show up and use the space for a variety of activities.

MPRB prioritizes Minneapolis Public Schools.
Youth activities - \$8/hr; Adult activities - \$30-50/hr.

Paul - MPRB teams vs. other teams; MPRB teams get free use - is it possible to fold other teams into MPRB teams more often – also would help to build the numbers on teams....? Youth teams could become MPRB teams; sometimes people just don't want to the paperwork associated with MPRB teams.

Trying not to get into “us” vs “them” dynamics.

Culturally Aligned teams: Hmong, Latino, Somali, ...others....

Riverside Park – could be used by adults, but practice fields are uneven; potholes.
Just mowed. But not mowed regularly enough.
Mowing happens on a rotation schedule.
Scott will work on getting potholes filled to make it flatter.
Paul is the contact for Riverside Park issues.

Scott and Peter McLaughlin have worked together to get more artificial turf practice fields.

Bihi – re: Riverside Park - some neighbors have attitudes that discourage users.

Cam - re: Riverside Park – there are neighbors who want it used more. They raise issues - ex: raised a question about the materials used in artificial turf practice fields – the materials are not biodegradable, so become part of solid waste stream. It's ground up rubber (sneakers, etc.).
People do use the park - informal activities; pool; full size (adult size) basketball court.
4th of July tournament held there.

Bihi - re: Currie - in past, planning documents have included improvements for the basketball court which is in very bad shape. Tennis courts should be taken out.

Scott – a plan has been to put in a green carpet for littler kids to kick a ball around.

Bihi – the fence near the train tracks is not tall enough to protect kids.

Abdi – as Youth Program Manager at Brian Coyle Center, thinks a lot about supervision and safety issues. There was a plan originally to replace the tennis court for multi-purpose green space.

Amano – tennis court is getting worse, a safety issue, need to move on and make the space usable. Fence by train tracks is very dangerous – needs to be 8 or 10 feet tall - need to figure this out.

Mahdi – basketball court is very bad, kids twist their ankles all the time. Tennis court is used by older residents – need a lot of different things for the different people in the community. Cedar Riverside Master Plan started to be discussed; Scott and Paul – this plan is hugely important.

Cam – need to find out who owns the fence and is responsible: Met Council? MNDoT? if no one else will, the city needs to build a new fence.

Phill – how to get the improvements made on tennis and basketball courts - how to work together? Cam – there may be some possibilities re: Twins stadium funding for improvements.

New downtown park near Vikings stadium - Armory might also be renovated.

Indoor soccer; tennis bubbles - other winter activity spaces being discussed re: future of parks.

Important to ask county commissioners again about sales tax revenues tied to Twins and Vikings stadiums.

Mohamed is on Citizen Advisory Committee – Southside Service Area Master Plan; the goal is to have a plan for every park by January. The purpose is to have county commissioners listen to community members.

Mohamed – we need more meetings, more outreach and opportunities for community member voice and engagement.

Bihi – need to integrate Somali and Latino teams. Isolation of Somali kids is a huge issue.

Matt – Moises' Latino league is open for Somali teams to join.

Amano – parking lot at Coyle Center needs to be re-stripped. Paul will look into this.

Scott – example of basketball court at Green Central - hoop house – new and working well.

Bihi – we need more park programming; ex: MPRB movie in the park was amazing - need more of this - people and whole families gathered, brought chairs, really enjoyed themselves.

Brian Coyle can't do everything.

Mama Shug should get more paid hours from MPRB - she does great work with the young people, many hours without pay.

Need more park police patrolling around the area - 7pm, 8pm, 9pm - tough kids from other areas come into this community.

Kids from all over the city come in to Cedar Riverside to hang out.

Not enough funding for park police – not enough cars patrolling around the city.

Coach Ahmed – population of kids growing larger in this community; there is a lack of facilities for all seasons; there are coaches under 18 years old working with younger kids - great needs in the community.

Discussion about other possible resources for youth:

- People's Center has a gym above the clinic – the city bought it for 1\$ - priority is neighborhood uses.
- Augsburg may be getting more open to neighborhood uses of their spaces.
- U of M – they have resources, volunteers, ROTC, etc. - need to pursue them and stick with it until the right people are found who can help the community have more access.

Phill – even when we are clear about what we need, there are delays.

How can the community have more voice re: these needs?

What is the process for community participation in decision-making?

Scott – there is a 6-year plan connected to city bonding commitments; annual budgets are determined by this.

Paul – capital improvements take longer. Some improvements can be made, ex: ledges that are dangerous next to train tracks.

Matt – will send MPRB flyer about August 19th community listening meeting in Cedar Riverside re: Close the Gap and RecQuest - 6pm food, 6:15 – 8pm, Brian Coyle Center. RecQuest is a 25-30 year planning discussion re: parks and park buildings.

Mahdi – we need all organizations in Cedar Riverside to pull together to prioritize kids - WBCDC, NRP....we need everyone.....

CRYWC Action Working Group re: Currie Park and other practice fields should keep inviting Paul Jaeger and others into further discussions.