

Notes from meeting with Rep. Ellison

2/8/16

Purpose of meeting: Apprise Rep. Ellison of our new North Mpls connections work, get his feedback and commitment to work with us on it moving forward.

Rep. Ellison's Ideas for improving connections:

- Walkways
- Lighting
- Signage/wayfinding
- Utilize artists
- Traffic calming
- Create a destination
- Cook out space
- Wind cover for pedestrians on the bridges
- Bike facilities
- Plants/landscaping
- Transit, circulator, transit stops within walking distance to the river

Possible sources of funding for creating the connections:

- HUD
- Department of the Interior – Urban parks funding
- Promise Zone

Hot things to fund:

- Fitness & Walkability
- Obesity, diabetes, other chronic condition prevention
- Gun violence prevention
- Eyes on the street
- Affordable/workforce housing

People to connect with:

- Yellow shirt ladies who walk to the river on Saturdays
- Stella – President/ED at NorthPoint
- Equity in Place Coalition – Owen Duckworth and Russ Adams at Alliance for Metro Stability
- Mayor Hodges & Craig Taylor, Head of CPED (Ellison will attend this meeting)
- Lisa Goodman (loop her in early – Ellison will attend meeting with her)
- Gov. Dayton
- NOC and their environmental justice organizer
- Juxtaposition Arts
- His gf Karen re: environmental justice

A few Ellison quotes from the meeting:

- “We need to be as responsible as Theodore Wirth was to us.” –He was talking about needing to have the vision as those before us to value our natural resources and make them parkland so they are accessible to those who come after us.
- “We need to make Mpls cool all the time.” –He was talking about the One Minneapolis campaign and how other parts of the city have so many amenities including park and how that needs to be true throughout the city.

Next steps:

- Ultimately, create a spreadsheet with our connection ideas and the associated funding sources so he can help us go after them and move the connections forward.
- Possibly work with the city of Mpls to create a small area plan for the I-94 to river portion of North Mpls focused on bettering connections.
- Keep those we do outreach to close. We’ll need them to get funding later.
- Star Tribune Op-ed (Ellison is drafting)
- Ellison quote in FMR spring e-news (Whitney is drafting)
- Set-up meeting with Craig Taylor
- Set-up meeting with Owen Duckworth & Russ Adams (include possible tour?)
- Set-up meeting with CM Goodman (after Craig Taylor mtg.)