

# Northside-Southside Joint Green Zone Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting

May 8, 2024 - 05:30 PM

Phillips Community Center

**Northside Members Present:** Joanne Goddard, Leslee Jackson, Terinda Love, Jayda Pounds, Michelle Shaw, Hillary Thomas, and Georgianna Yantos (Quorum - 8)

**Northside Members Absent:** Michael Chaney, Markeeta Keyes, Lars Morris, Roxanne O'Brien, Audua Pugh, Anthony Taylor, Akia Vang

**Southside Members Present:** Samara Adam, Jennifer Davis, Rob Hendrickson, Megan Kuhl-Stennes, Joel McReynolds, Spencer Polk, and José Luis Villaseñor (Quorum - 9)

**Southside Members Absent:** Karen Clark (phone), Cassandra Holmes, Kowsar Mohamed

**Guests:** Damon Chaplin, Tashawna Williams, Kennedy Pounds, Mohamud Roble, Council President Payne, Liam Davis Temple, Council Member Chavez, Council Member Ellison, Bethany Turnwall, Sean Gosiewski

**Staff:** Alice Froehlich, Megan Greenberg, Kelly Muellman, Lucy Shapiro, Peter Bennett

## Call To Order

Georgianna opened the meeting and asked Kelly to call roll. There was not a quorum for Northside or Southside so adoption of the agenda and acceptance of [Apr 3, 2024 Northside Green Zone Task Force](#) minutes and [Apr 17, 2024 Southside Green Zone Council](#) minutes were skipped.

## Introductions

Members introduced themselves and what their role is within the Green Zones.

## Brief background on enabling legislation

Alice gave a brief background. Both Green Zone (GZ) bodies need to write new enabling legislation. This is an opportunity to discuss, learn and make a tier recommendation.

## Review tier 2 and tier 3

Alice went over a table document comparing Tier 2 and Tier 3 differences. Members had a chance to ask questions and discuss.

Clarification was provided by council members that tiers do not denote importance. Alice added that member requirements can be written into the legislation to maintain Green Zone representation and community expertise.

It was brought up multiple times that Tier 2 bodies have a narrow scope they must operate in. Members need to consider how Green Zone work can be narrow and what the decision-making authority would be.

## **Review Green Zones purpose**

Members looked back on where they came from by reviewing the statements from Northside and Southside workplans. They also reviewed the strengths, barriers and recommendations that came out of the Green Zones Evaluation.

## **Council Member statements**

Bethany led the discussion, proposing some questions about tiering that GZ members brought up for council members to answer.

How will the tier ranking change the relationship with the council members?

- CM Ellison explained that the tiers themselves don't inherently change the relationship. Either tier, we need to figure out how to strengthen the relationship.
- CP Payne responded that they want to tie in boards and commission more with the legislative process as a whole.
- It was reiterated that a tier 2 limits the topics Green Zones could look at. For example, the Community Commission on Police Oversight (CCPO) reviews cases and determines was this misconduct or not, yes or no. Can environmental justice topics be boiled down to yes/no questions?
  - Some members think yes. Could ask is this justice or injustice.
  - City Council can still disagree with commissions

One member expressed the need to expand the Green Zone boundaries. It would be a complex, resource intensive process that could be part of the work for the new Green Zone group. The current boundaries used research and combined over 20 data sets in GIS to find where the highest environmental injustices and health disparities existed.

If Green Zones stay tier 3, what would look different going forward to feel more listened to?

- CM Ellison said standardizing frequency of meetings and making sure council members are more active at them. A separate conversation for council is what is our standard for compensation.
- CM Chavez is using this tier recommendation process as a reset in how he can be better engaged with the GZ. It's also a reset for this body and getting more people in attendance.
- A GZ member explained we need to make GZ simpler and more fun so people can understand it and be a part of something.
- It would be great to hear what work GZ are doing at the Public Health & Safety Committee.

## **Green Zone member discussion**

Each Green Zone member had a chance to speak and say where they were at.

Points brought up by members include:

- You can do a lot of things not well or focus your energy on one thing and do it well
- How do Green Zone members stretch the box to have the impact they desire?
- What does it mean to have a more structured relationship with council?
- GZ could have more say in projects that claim GZ in their funding, does it actually go to GZ?

- What happens outside of the tier, like the recommendation says – resources, staff, budget and support – can help build the group up
- Having a broad scope is important but so is decision making authority
- Every year GZs look at different priorities, would be hard to fit a narrow scope
- The City Council should already be listening to the GZs and members should be compensated.
- Green Zones need teeth

CP Payne explained the main difference between tiers is whether it's created by resolution or ordinance which would impact the steps needed to change the body of work of this committee. Resolution goes through council but could be considered tomorrow whereas an ordinance change has more steps required (notice, public hearing etc.)

Bethany added the purpose of the ABC reform ordinance is to standardize all boards and commissions and would bring updates to Council more regularly.

Alice reminded everyone that GZ members are in a position to make a recommendation.

- GZ members make a recommendation → Decisions go to Clerk → Council → Mayor

Members requested another joint meeting in June.

#### **Announcements**

- Minneapolis Edible Boulevards first cooking class June 1. Lachelle Cunningham, smoked mushroom flatbread.
- Air Toxics Reporting Rule (MPCA) has a concept document out looking for community feedback.

#### **Adjournment**

**Next Northside-Southside Joint Green Zone meeting:** *Tentatively* June 12, 2024