

March 21, 2019

Neighborhood Engagement Process (NEP) Update

Since the first quarter of last year, the Albuquerque City Council and the Office of Neighborhood Coordination (ONC) have been engaged in the Neighborhood Engagement Process, or NEP. The purpose of the NEP is designed to: 1) identify community needs to inform updates to the Neighborhood Association Recognition Ordinance (NARO), and 2) initiate an ongoing dialogue and long – term, reciprocal relationship between the ONC and each of the 263 neighborhood associations

The City Council hired the Social Innovation Strategies Group, a local, minority – owned consultancy to accomplish both of these tasks through a 4-phase process that includes:

- Conducting background research on neighborhood association systems throughout the country,
- Conducting a series of preliminary interviews and surveys with city staff, neighborhood association representatives, and other local stakeholders,
- Tailoring appropriate outreach and engagement to all 263 neighborhood associations based upon each of their capacities and priorities for making recommendations to the NARO, and
- Synthesizing all data collected throughout the NEP/finalizing the report with recommendations for updates to the NARO

Phase I of the NEP was completed in the second quarter of 2018 and involved peer city review of NARO equivalents and conducting preliminary interviews with city staff from all departments whose work relates to the NARO.

Phase II of the NEP was completed at the end of 2018, and involved outreach through a capacity survey and stewardship interviews. The stewardship interviews ranged from neighborhood association presidents who have been involved with their associations for decades to local residents who are engaged in their community but who have had little or no involvement with their neighborhood associations.

As the calendar has turned to 2019, Phase III of the NEP has now officially begun with the hiring of Mr. Angelo Metzgar as the Manager of the ONC. Phase III will focus on tailored outreach and engagement sessions with all stakeholders, ranging from smaller tabletop discussions with individual neighborhood associations to larger neighborhood meetings and potentially meetings with multiple associations. Execution of Phase III tasks will vary, depending on the needs of individual neighborhood associations across the City. Outreach to neighborhood associations will commence in the coming weeks, and we anticipate the community dialogue and input sessions to be completed by Fall 2019.

For more information on the NEP, visit: <http://www.cabq.gov/office-of-neighborhood-coordination/neighborhood-engagement-process>