

Information Item

Public Comment and Engagement Pilot Update for the Draft Amendment to the *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*

November 5, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Agenda

- Public Comment Log
- Public Comment Summary
- Demographic Analysis
- Public Engagement Pilot



Public Engagement Timeline

Invite

August - September

Engage

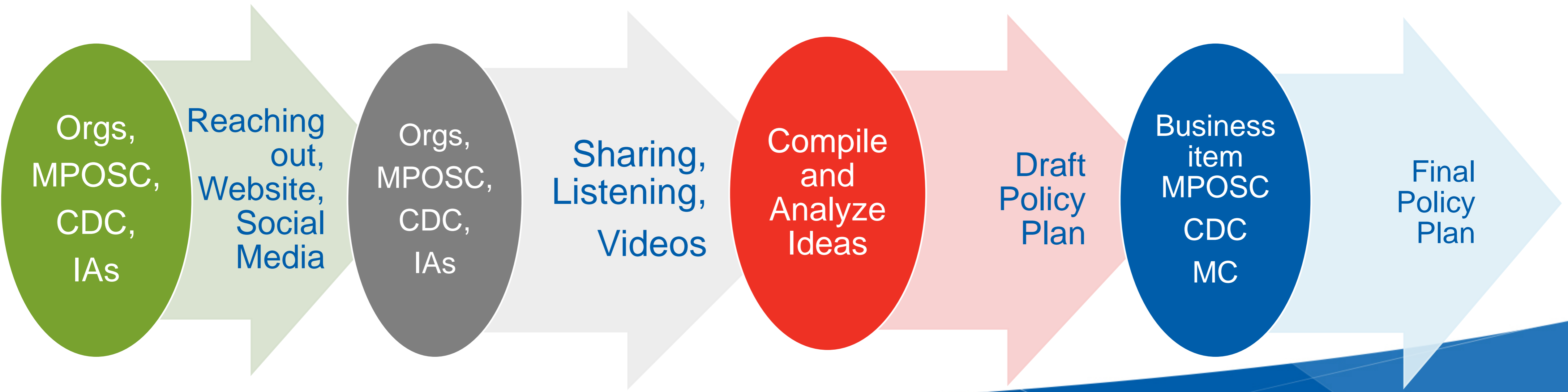
September - October

Refine

November

Approvals

December



Public Comment Log Report

Overall Counts:

190 comments submittals
180 commenters

Commenters:

- 2 Implementing Agencies
- 4 Cities
- 28 Organizations - 34 submittals
- 145 Residents - 148 submittals
- 1 Council Staff - 2 comments

Public Hearing:

1 Implementing Agency
1 Organization



Comment Summary

Comments with Majority Support

- Scott County's Proposed Cedar Lake to New Prague Regional Trail Search Corridor – 50 comments
- Support of system additions – 20 comments
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Proposed Midtown Greenway Regional Trail Search Corridor – 17 comments
- Support for climate resilience and natural resources – 17 comments
- Support for water trails – 14 comments
- Support for reconnecting regional trails to regional parks – 13 comments
- Support for Reconsidering history – 12 comments
- A future Regional Parks System that is easy to use, accessible, and maintained – 11
- Support for equity initiatives for a more welcoming experience for all visitors – 10



Public Comment Highlights

"Currently access to our parks seems to favor people with resources and plenty of free time. Boat ramps and bicycle trails being prime examples. Yet many people without those privileges go to parks to fish from shore hoping to catch dinner. Shore based anglers are treated like second class citizens in most parks."

—*Resident*

"Telling histories is meaningful. Then when visitors come, they know what land they're standing on, what it means to stand there, and who is connected to the land. When we visit a park, we want to know about all the events that happened there and how the land has changed."

—*Urban Roots*



Public Comment Highlights



We don't just want a pretty place, but one that feeds our soul, mind, body, and stomachs. We need to shift to regenerative practices with water, soil, and air mitigation, moving towards fruit bearing trees, spaces for gardens and harvesting, and canning and preserving classes in our regional parks.

—*Cycle Sisters*

“Community food has a place in parks! Food can play an important part to help us heal our relationships with the land and each other.”

—*Community Agricultural Land Trust*

Public Comment Highlights

“With the Greenway extending into St. Paul and potentially all the way down the Ayd Mill corridor and eventually to downtown St. Paul, bicyclists and pedestrians would have a truly world-class connection for both recreation and commuting; the extension would tie together downtown St. Paul and the regional trails that converge near there to the far western reaches of Minneapolis near Bde Maka Ska and the other regional trails that come together there. Extending the Greenway is truly a special, generational opportunity.

—*Resident*

A trail that would accommodate bikes, ebikes, walkers, runners, skateboards, so we can safely get more exercise while appreciating nature.

—*Resident*



Demographic Analysis

Survey Response Demographics

Disability:
92% No
8% Yes

Age:
20% 18-34
56% 35-54
24% 55+
(6% current students)

Race:
<1% Black
<1% Indigenous
<1% Multiracial
97% White

Gender:
71% Women
29% Men
1% Non-binary
(1% transgender)

Engagement Process

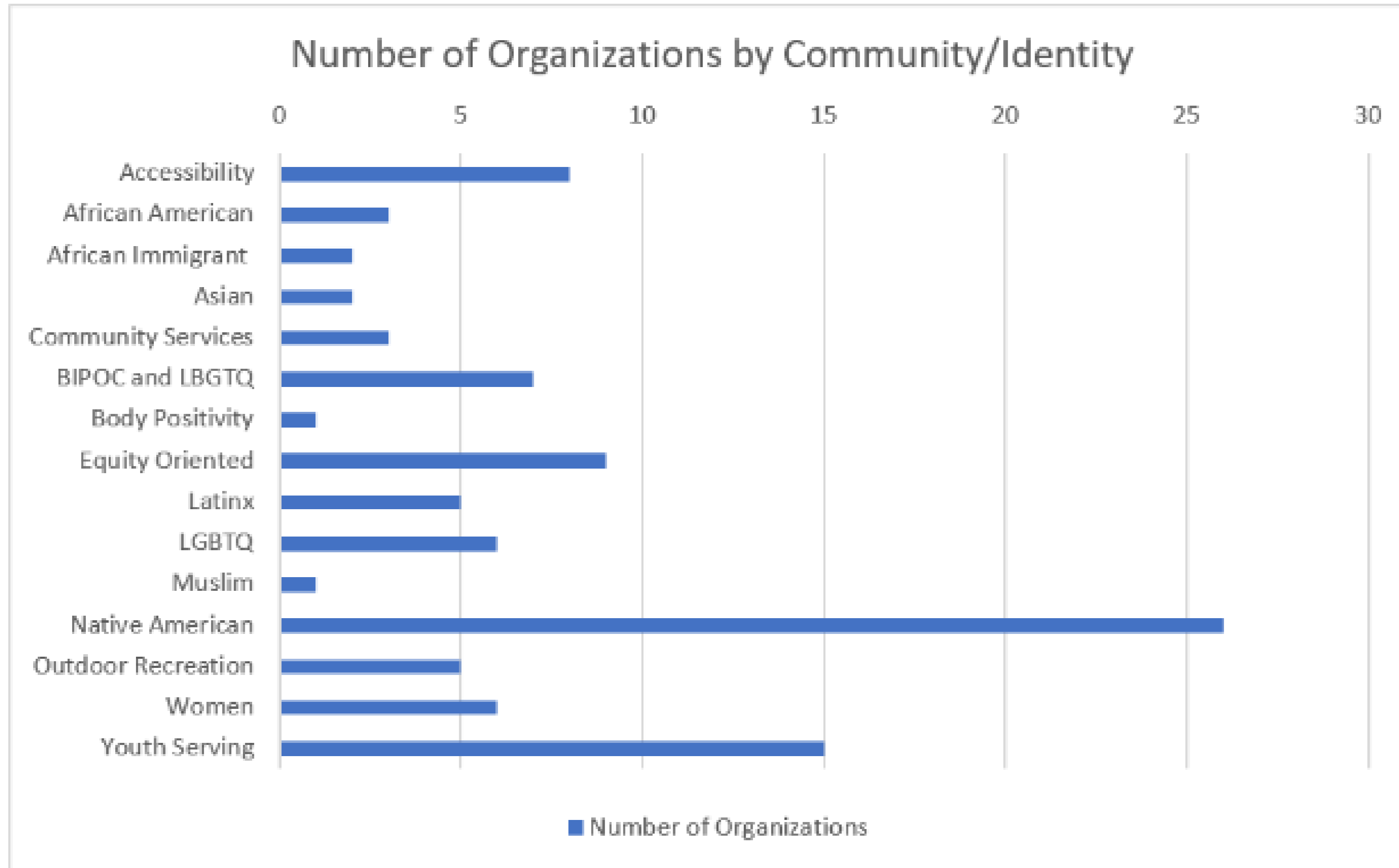
Prioritizing underserved populations of the Regional Parks System

Enlisting the help of Council Members and MPOSC Commissioners

Using Parks Unit and Implementing Agency staff to reach out to youth oriented and outdoor recreation organizations



Prioritized Organizations



90 Organizations

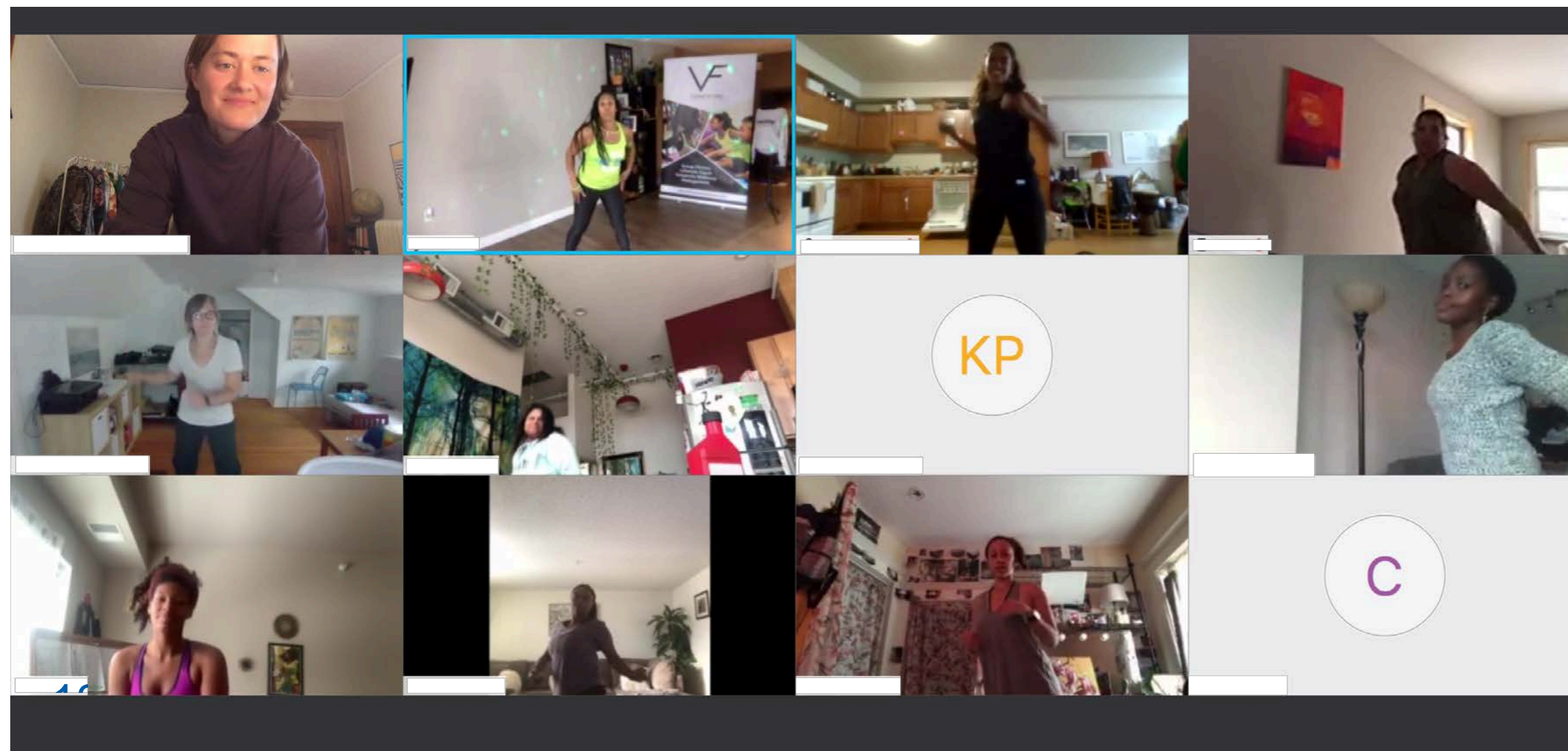
- 24 Beginning Relationships
- 66 New Opportunities

Engagement Update



Successful Conversations:

- Urban Roots
- Cycle Sisters
- Outdoor Latino Minnesota
- Saint Paul Indians in Action
- South Eastsiders Community Organization
- League of Women Voters of Minnesota



Video Challenge



Next Steps

November 16: Joint meeting of CDC and MPOSC

Public
Comment
Report

Proposed
Changes

December Business Item

- MPOSC: 12/03
- CDC: 12/07
- MC: 12/16

Thank you

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