

Civic Engagement Commission Study Session Notes

10/19/2022

Attendees: Mattye Sisk, Ama Hapke Rosen, Kelli Kelly, Sean Moore, Scott Campbell, David Corbari, Debra (Debi) J Hunter Holen

Meeting Purpose and Objectives: Provide recommendations to Council and City management regarding the development and implementation of civic engagement programs, which may include recommendations regarding best practices for outreach and education. Recommend to Council new initiatives to support and partner with community –based organizations, institutions and civic leaders in the public and private sectors in their civic engagement efforts. Coordinate with Council Members, community boards, and other City agencies in the development and implantation of civic engagement programs. Work with City staff and Council to plan and implement a Civic Engagement Academy.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (6:04pm)

2. **ROLL CALL/ICE BREAKER**

All commissioners present (Moore, Kelli, Hapke, Holden, Corbari)

Discussion of Notable Civic Engagement

Hapke Rosen: discussed Greensburg Greentown and rebuilding

Holden: Started a Flag Crew in Middle School and it really sparked her interest in community service

Kelly: During the day she works with diverse businesses and helping to make connections, understanding their needs, engaging stakeholders... that might be more economic development than civic engagement, but it has sparked my interest

Corbari: Grew up in a military family, moved often into my adult life. Once we got into aurora, wanted to put down roots and really got interested in the community I lived in and saw some things that frustrated me and got interested in how the city works and how it operates. I wanted to speak up for other members of our community and make sure their needs are met. Council Member Marcano posted the opening and I thought it would be the best place to jump in and help to meet the needs of the community.

Moore: when you grow up in a certain zip code there are certain problems that are waiting to happen and I wanted to face that head on. I started young and

when the opportunity arrived it was a no brainer. I think once we finish out our team we will have a great balance and be able to make a difference in our community.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments from the Public, but there was a discussion on Protocol

4. BYLAW DRAFTING / FINALIZATION

Holden, motion to present the bylaws to staff as they are draft

Hapke Rosen, second

All in favor: everyone, no najs, no withhold

Motion Moves Forward

5. EXECUTIVE TEAM APPOINTMENTS

Moore - Suggested Roles: Parliamentarian, Treasurer, Secretary

Moore appointed (6:53) Holden, all in favor

Moore appointed, Kelli as second vice chair (secretary): Work the 1st vice chair cannot do and assigns -

Moore appoints Corbari to the position of treasure

Hapke Rosen – Suggests commission develop specific suggestions for each role, present at next meeting

6. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ACADEMY GENERAL DISCUSSION

Holden - suggests we come together with Council members Lawson and Combs

Hapke Rosen – agrees, bring specific ideas to council members with our specific ideas

Corbari - come with milestones and bring these to the council members

Moore - Are there successful academies that you have seen

Hapke Rosen, I feel that there are many that are very successful, including the city of auroras, but there are often a limitation due to the diversity of the attendees

Moore – Goal is to allow people to be informed and to ultimately evolve into the academy. What kind of options do we have to share things, ex fb and a website

Holden - We are limited with people and time, so I would caution against putting too much on us

Cambell - What i am hearing is that we want to increase our outreach. We really need to identify and have open lines of communication with the “message multiplies” and maybe it would be a good approach to share out message with these people. This may be something that we can look into.

Moore - reach out to the council members

Kelly - echo the thought to move forward on this piece, it is critical that we have diverse representation and that it in a format that is bring other people to the table

Moore thank you for centering this Kelli

Moore - Appoint a committee to move this forward:

Campbell - craft the language for this and add it to the bylaws

Corbori - need to be clear on when we want people to engage with us and when we want them to engage directly with the City

Hapke Rosen - Suggests committee for this

Holden – Agree, define a couple people to begin on the next steps

Corbari - I think we should only engage with those that set this up (Lawson and Combs)

Hapke Rosen and Corbari agreed to spearhead this. Set up meeting, get prior feedback on the academy

7. GROUP DISCUSSION

a. Police Chief Search, Engaging the Community

- i. Cambell, create a list of questions that you have and staff will bring it to HR.

Cambell - would like to have some kind of open conversation, but are unsure of if we want to be in the direct line of fire.

Holden - Were there meetings prior that occurred

Cambell - yes, i can ask for what happened and when

Holden, we can bring a list of suggestions forward once we have more information

Moore - in preparation of, we can have a plan for how we are going to address it after the decision has been made

Holden - How do we get those concern out in relation to what the community wants to hear

Moore - Do we have a timeframe for this

Corbari - two different actions. We can make recommendations to hr and city council of how we want to move forward. A good immediate step would be to get the info out and share so they know who the stakeholders and the council members are and the hr meeting will be, what the next steps will be

Kelli - Echo Holden, need to give the opportunity for our citizens to be engaged. Its not out job to solve the problem, but we should facilitate access and the conversations. I like the idea of providing input and forums. The external communication should be " his is what has been set forth and the structure to ensure your voice is heard.

Moore are we making these recommendations simultaneously?

Campbell - when i say hr I mean the human resources department, there are other people in play. We would be starting with your suggestions and hr would be making some of the broad stroke decisions. There is no hard deadline I know, but I would suggest as soon as we could. This could be ex: "put a drop box at king soopers or there should be at least X number public meetings, define those."

Campbell: to me I would suggest that we would provide recommendations to hr directly, as they have the most interactions with the firm. A formal letter from our commission would be a good approach.

Holden: I just reached out and the response I was given was "there is no timeline at the moment, there is an important executive session this monday" I think we should get out representative voice out there as soon as possible.

Cambell: work on a teams meeting, with the laundry list of what we want; it could be as simple as bullet points

Corbari: there are a couple reporters at the sentinel that have been following this pretty closely. I could reach out on our behalf and share contacts and ways to engage. List council member contacts and hr info. The intent would be to let people know the way to engage in this

Holden - we could provide an email address to reach out to

Cambell - my guess is that the city is going to try to be even better to increase participation. We have a platform Engageaurora.org on this. And we add all projects on here. My suspicion is that this will be added.

Kelli - there is a little something about the search for the next fire chief:
<https://engageaurora.org/firechiefsearch> talking about the consultant and the survey with response due by friday the 21st - maybe we could review this and give our thoughts on this and how to improve

Hapke Rosen will start the documents stated above

b. Ideas for Focus Areas, New Initiatives, and Next Meeting

Parks and rec is moving into phase two and they gave a letter with more detail and its going to be more engagement and that is in out engagement and outreach materials. Please give this a look.

8. ADJOURNMENT (8:11 adjourned)