

Aurora Civic Engagement Commission Meeting – February 1, 2023 (6pm – 8pm) Final

Attendees:

- Commissioners: Chair Sean Moore, Vice Chair Amma Hapke Rosen, Debbie Hunter Holen, David Corbari, Kelli Kelly
- Staff: Jonathan Harris, Andrew Rael Trujillo

Discussion Notes:

- Approval of minutes. Chair moves to approve minutes for regular Jan 4 study session. Second by Comm Hunter Holen. No discussion. Motion passes.
- Public Comments.
 - Commissioner Moore has received emails.
 - Commissioner Hunter Holen open to receiving and reading comments during commission meetings to prepare response.
 - Need plan to engage citizens to submit comments.
 - Jonathan Harris suggested that City Manager of Communications may be a resource to encourage citizens to participate. Suggests that as commission grows and after first academy, commission visibility will likely grow.
 - Question from Comm Hunter Holen on how Chair Moore is managing current inquiries. Comm Moore has mostly encountered inquiries when speaking with community members about civic engagement, has directed individuals to public comment process.
 - Comm Corbari – CE Commission should set gold standard for what process should look like. Tough now because of lack of public awareness. As we reach out to community groups, we may be able to determine how to make process more accessible. We have to seek comments – not likely to receive unprompted at this point.
 - Comm Hunter Holen – what is current public comment process? Jonathan responded direct email or via EngageAurora. City has an existing process for managing inquiries. Does Commission prefer that civic engagement matters be routed to commission?
 - Comm Hunter Holen suggests incorporating a Public Comment link that goes directly to staff. Suggests comments be routed to Commission Chair and Vice Chair within 48 hours.
- Civic Engagement Academy
 - Chair Moore would like to advance this initiative and formalize a committee and chair.
 - As founding commission members, academy is an opportunity to make a mark, leave a legacy.
 - Comm Moore provided brief overview of vision and purpose of academy
 - Discussion of vision and suggested additions of specific language to speak to the academy's objective to inform citizens on opportunities to engage
 - Comm Corbari observed that mission speaks to how citizens should fit into City framework
 - Comm Moore would like to see commission build upon vision and mission to be more reflective of the commission
 - Comm Hapke Rosen suggests a "what's next" component be added. *Now that you know this, what do you do with the info – and how?*

- Discussion of making sessions independent, more modular, so participants can focus on topics of interest
- Comm Kelly agrees, but also sees value of completing the program in its entirety (with adjustments to curriculum)
- Comm Hapke Rosen shared a link to demonstrate individual course selection process: <https://cityofaurora.perfectmind.com/Contacts/BookMe4BookingPages/BookingCoursePage?calendarId=b8215e0e-443a-4efe-bdba-7860ebbf4b01&widgetId=15f6af07-39c5-473e-b053-96653f77a406&embed=False>
- Commission to table the academy discussion for now – to be resumed during special study session
- Commission Discussion - Candidate interviews
 - Chair Moore has reviewed resumes, looking at balanced representation by Ward
 - Jonathan advises that he has reviewed the 8 applications received and believes candidates are strong and represent broad diversity. Questions have already been finalized by commission, just need to nail down interview dates.
 - Discussion of candidate mix and desired attributes
 - Proposed interview date of Feb 16. Jonathan will send invites. Commissioners can join those that fit their respective schedules.
 - Discussion of how to incorporate new members into committees
 - Selected committee members have to be approved by council (they meet every 2 weeks)
- Question regarding Commission meeting with new Aurora Fire Chief and interim Police Chief in the future (after appointment of new commissioners).
 - Jonathan will reach out. Chief Ocevedo is fairly accessible
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- Discussion of definition of Committees (Chair Moore)
 - Outreach
 - CE Academy
- Open discussion – Old and New Business
 - Discussion of fact sheet by Chair Moore. Expectation that Commissioners be knowledgeable and aware of general city information. Would like to implement fact sheets around civic engagement with regular updates to make info more approachable. Marginalized community members often feel overwhelmed by overbearing city processes.
 - Comm Hapke Rosen supportive of facts sheets that showcase positive things happening in the city\diversity
 - Comm Hunter Holen suggested a focus on identifying barriers faced by citizens. Could be a committee. Examples of accessibility issues: Physical (ie. Wheelchair access to public building, literacy, technology...)
 - Question to group from Chair Moore: What should our Commission’s first recommendation be to council?
 - Discussion of topics/issues within Commission’s scope
 - Potential recommendations: Expansion of Academy, Increase outreach for board recruitment

- Reminder from Vice Chair Hapke Rosen that bylaws have not yet been finalized. Recommendation Commissioner Hunter Holen to add to next meeting agenda
 - Note from Hunter Holen that Ward 3 meets during our schedule meeting, which prevents commissioners from joining.
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- Meeting adjourned: 8:00pm