

MEETING SUMMARY

City of Boulder

Public Participation Working Group

Monday, February 13, 2017

4:00 pm – 7: 00 pm

East Boulder Community Center, 5660 Sioux Dr., Flagstaff room

Agenda

Meeting Purpose: Debrief on City Council Retreat. Determine purpose, process and selection criteria for City Council interview questions. Review recommendation examples. Subcommittee report outs. Review PPWG process and timeline.

Time	Agenda Topic
4:00 pm – 4:10 pm	Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review
4:10 pm – 4:20 pm	Public Comment
4:20 pm – 4:40 pm	Debrief and Discussion: Staff and PPWG members debrief the group on Council Retreat discussions concerning public participation Desired Outcome: PPWG is informed and understands the City Council Retreat discussions concerning PPWG.
4:40 pm – 5:00 pm	Review and Agreement: Determine (a) purpose and need for questions, (b) process for delivering questions to Council, (c) criteria for selecting questions. Desired Outcome: PPWG determines the need for questions, process and venue for delivery of questions, and question selection criteria.
5:00 pm – 5:10 pm	BREAK
5:10 pm – 5:20 pm	Presentation and Discussion: CDR provides examples of Recommendations to spur discussion. Desired Outcome: PPWG discusses level of recommendations, how to integrate data, case-studies/issues into recommendations and format for recommendations.
5:20 pm - 5:25 pm	Jean Gatza gives context and purpose for materials sent to group
5:25 pm – 6:25 pm	Report out and check in: Subcommittees Report Out Desired Outcome: Subcommittees report-out on key themes, ideas, level of recommendations, and next steps.
6:25 pm – 6:45pm	Discussion and Agreement: PPWG reviews and discusses process timeline and milestones. Desired Outcome: PPWG reviews what has been accomplished so far and what still needs to be done by June. PPWG identifies data gaps and action needed to get to Recommendations.
6:45 pm - 6:50 pm	Next Steps and March Agenda Items
6:50 pm - 7:00 pm	Public Comment

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome, Introductions and Agenda Review

PPWG Attendees: Darwin Ayre, DeAnne Butterfield, Carol Cogswell, Sean Collins, Lisa Harris, Marjorie Lerner, Claire Riley, Brady Robinson, Kristi Russell, Bill Shrum, Seth Spielman

City Staff: Jean Gatza and Patrick Von Keyserling

City Council: Lisa Morzel

Facilitators: Taber Ward and Jonathan Bartsch

Members of the Public: Lydia Reinig, Lynn Segal, Susan Balint, Mike Marsh

Public Comment

Susan Balint

- Take a look at the key themes for Council retreat, these reveal potential and unintentional consequences. Need to evaluate what is not working and do a pre-investigation of cumulative impacts.
- Need to direct staff to engage the public early.
- Database of ideas – adding new electronic options; trying to build general e-mail data base; survey monkey – simple questions; outreach through the newspaper.
- Would like to see public comments accessible in some way.
- Would also like to see some type of summary of why Council members voted a certain way.
- Reduced the amount of time for people to speak in the meetings, subcommittees take in new ideas.

Mike Marsh

- General comments from 20,000 foot view.
- Concerned about disaffected alienated voter/residents in Boulder. What happens when you have millions of disaffected people? This causes major dysfunction.
- Go with proportional representation. If convening conference on schools, and put 60% of homeschoolers -- we would have push back.
- Boulder is not made up of country bumpkins. Residents get angry. Others are frustrated, not reported and feels like Boulder is cooking the books.
- Go with proportional representation. Look at the book *Team of Rivals* – Lincoln was in a deeply divided country and needed to preserve the Union. He made up a cabinet of his opponents, that is what Boulder should be doing. Give a representative seat at the table to diverse set of views.
- If he was an astrophysicist – he would want a folks from the flat earth society in his group.

Lynn Seigal

- 310 Mapleton, Nablus Sister City, long gone, solution to Washington school, active thing at 311 Mapleton, two full days listening to get quotes.
- Working Group could impact this decision. Looking for a solution to a preserved problem. 17 people in my house at the same time, not a problem. Empty bedrooms and can't pay rent

Goodbye from Amanda Nagl

Amanda is leaving the City. She said a few words to the group: She is proud of the group and excited to be a part of it. This will be the first time in 15 years that she hasn't worked for the government. Her new job will have specialization in community engagement.

The Neighborhood Liaison position will be refined and posted to understand what makes the most sense and could be better.

City Council Retreat Debrief

The Council had a rich and productive discussion. It was noted that there are challenges and a number of things discussed related to the scope for the PPWG and paralleled the themes discussed by PPWG.

Lisa Morzel's debrief: Happy about the agreement and execution of shorter meeting schedules. Committed to being done with Study Sessions by 9 pm, or rare circumstances, at 10 pm. Reducing City Council business meeting to be out by 11 pm – ensuring that everyone gets to go home at a reasonable time.

Public participation at Council Meetings: 45 minutes – end of Applebaum tenure. When it hits 45 minutes, we stop public participation and may go back afterward if there is more time. 15 on-line and 5 in-person comments at the meeting.

Increasingly encourage the public to e-mail and reach out to Council in different ways. We want to depend more on our Boards as extension of Council, they are important group of people who spend more time on a particular topic. We need to use Boards more to engage the public.

The Council is looking forward to PPWG input and recommendations, some board members are frustrated that PPWG isn't already finished.

We had a lot of discussion about the challenges with the engagement. PPWG is on the right track; i.e. re-imagining the system so it is more responsive.

Take a close look at Jean's Key Themes and Board Documents. These will give the group a really good summary of the Council and Board concerns and thoughts on public participation.

An official Board Retreat summary is forthcoming.

City Council Questions- Determine (a) purpose and need for questions, (b) process for delivering questions to Council, (c) criteria for selecting questions.

The Systems and Culture subcommittee talked about posing questions to City Council and asked themselves "To what degree does asking questions to City Council help make recommendations?" and "How would this questions help us make a recommendation if we had input on this?"

There is a need to include Council's ideas early in the process, however, we need to assess:

- Whether any of the questions have been addressed at this point?
- What are we going to do with all of this data that we have from questions?

The Culture and Systems Subcommittee had a sense that after the Retreat, it seems that "We are on the

right track. Time spent in our meetings should be working toward recommendations, not perfecting questions and organizing data.”

Other members thought that this would be a great chance to catch consensus of City Council opinion, but the chance was lost and it is too late for timely feedback (at the retreat).

Another suggestion, in lieu of questions, is to draft a Memo to City Council from PPWG:

1. **Status update**
2. **Plan for June**
3. **Open ended questions, we would love to hear if you have any requests or advice for us?**

Don't want to show up on June 13 and our recommendations are not on track and out of step with Council.

Lisa Morzel - Council wants a general recommendation, not super specific. Would be a good idea to check in with Council sooner rather than later and summarize what the group has done so far. She recommended that the PPWG check in with Council re: a memo or questions.

A proposal was put forth that a select number of folks in a subcommittee can vet questions and move forward. Or, the PPWG could suggest 1-2 Recommendations to the Council and get initial feedback.

The group did not come to a consensus on this topic at this time. It was decided to push the issue of City Council Questions/Memo to the next meeting (March) and focus on coming up with problems, themes and a “brian dump” of information at this time. If questions arose out of this process, the group can split into a smaller subcommittee to come up with and vet questions.

Sub-Committee Reports

Issues and Case Study Sub-Committee:

- Working on identifying the issues with public engagement and when they have shown up in varying degrees in certain case studies. Looking forward to the marriage of this research with Culture and Systems work.
- Affordable housing linkage fees – Council packet and newspaper – addendum national election that affordable housing fees would be cut, numbers presented again, this time recommendation made that adopt \$15 per square foot – staff recommended; 139 per square foot; 25%.
- Outline of N. Trail Area Study. Note at the beginning, there is a plan for public engagement in the process. Timeline and demands on staff timelines. Feeling not being done perfectly and concern at the end not done perfectly. Sideboards etc... where city engages it is thorough rewarding public process.
- Also had input from Kathleen Bracke on the timeline for Living Lab. Everything that happens during a contentious process came out of the TMP, Advisory Board weighs in on recommendations in GoBoulder. We don't understand why 1 part of the Living Lab was so controversial. When do we know when do we know to give it more public process? Bracke was surprised at how controversial it was. This brings up the question of how myths and misinformation get created around City process (i.e. there was a “myth” that the City's intent was to have a negative impact on cars that would lead to driving less). There was also a lot of misinformation – e.g. the project was removed, it wasn't removed it was modified.

- What is the appropriate relationship between Boards and Commissions and Council? The Right Sizing project led to a fractured relationships.
- **Q:** Is there a code of conduct for those on Boards and Commissions? **A:** Yes, there is a “Welcome to Boards and Commission Event” which goes through protocols and ethics and expectations.
 - Many had never seen such rudeness and inconsideration between government and the public before.
- The Issues and Case Study sub-committee asks: “Do you want additional case studies?”
 - **Answer:** Would any more exploration give us more information? Is it worth your time to develop additional case studies? The group agrees that case study approach could bring actionable items to Council -- tease out a assumed application, how it might apply. It would be good.

Next Steps: Put the case study chronology items in a narrative. Make a business case for these – explore why is this important to do. Connect Case Studies/Issue examples to Culture and Systems.

Cultures and Systems Subcommittee:

Intent of titles on document. These are from an earlier PPWG visioning exercise. At the last PPWG meeting, we took 7 principles from IAP2 and NCCD and others, along with individual ideas and grouped them and focused on Boulder. The titles and categories are a culmination of group and public input and research.

The group wanted to make sure the PPWG is making suggestions actionable to Council – Boards, Commissions and public; what have we learned about the good/bad/ugly about public communication.

As we generalize from the specific case studies, how do these match larger principles. – Actionable things.

How do we align around the most important places for change? Pushing the boundaries and Culture is one of those.

Overlap in some categories -- #2/#3 and #4 provide open exchange; case for why this changes and pull strategies out of this. Case for change.

This is an emerging structure - Information or collaboration or spectrum – of how these pieces fit together.

Next Steps: Do not refine this document. Use it as a jumping off point to refine, prioritize and organize Recommendations. This document is NOT recommendations, it is an organizational tool.

Examples of Public Engagement Recommendations

CDR provided examples of Public Engagement Recommendations to the PPWG from: Sydney, Australia; United Nations and Austin, TX.

These recommendations represent a variety of recommendation options – from broad to specific. Encourages the group to look at the recommendations to get some ideas on the themes, level of detail

and organization of recommendations.

Timeline and Next Steps

March/April

- Drafting of recommendations; assign two or three people to work on this
- Identify problems; meet in pairs/triads and try to problems that would lead to recommendations.
- Create a Problems/Themes document.
- Prioritize problems
- Create a Googledoc – list of themes, how to solve them (culture and systems) and an example (issues and case studies)
- Use the Boards and Commissions document from Jean to distill additional problems and themes
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Next Steps

- Themes/Problems document – by March 1 st (**CDR to draft**)
- Recommendation and case studies/examples - by March 7th
- Create a 1-page summary of potential recommendations to City Council and general questions

Kristi Russell Action Item: Create a document where our group can start ‘dumping’ ideas for recommendations. This is not intended to be any version of a formalized / official report, nor should these entries suggest official inclusion; rather, it’s simply a receptacle where we can share ideas/suggestions so that we can talk about them as a group.

Public Comment

Mike Marsh

- People respect data and Boulder has remarkable demographic data. Committees need to represent who Boulder is. Match the general populous with the make-up of committees. Proportional representation.
- Lisa mentioned the Housing Advisory Group being formed -- how are they going to determine who is on this group?
- Dysfunction is with staff. They are too activist. They are supposed to be neutral and impartial.

Susan Balint

- Issue is that PPWG is still trying to invent the wheel. Use Key Themes from Council Retreat. They are asking you – HOW? What are the points to solve the problems. Use these as an outline.
- Value what you want to leave in or out? Other issues not being discussed, i.e. code of ethics for the boards, staff and public – give suggestions as a group re: how to monitor these things.
- My suggestion – start out with saying, this is our task, Council has asked us to address these problems, here are the answers. The subcommittee spreadsheet is the WHY. Give a neutral range of solutions. Look at the board and commission sheets.

Lyn Segal

- Drained from trying to survive. Boulder is for the elite only. Very sad.