

Recap of BRCII Meeting – 11/20/08

BRC Members Present: Sue Graf, Tom Hagerty, Suzanne Jones, Dan King, Michelle Krezek, Michael Leccese, Beth Pommer, Dorothy Rupert, Jeffrey Wingert.

BRC Members Absent: Rich Wobbekind.

Public Participation

- None

Welcome by Deputy City Manager, Paul Fetherston

“Framing the Problem” Presentation by Finance Director, Bob Eichen

- Bob discussed the importance of defining the problem(s) on which BRC is working, i.e. closing the structural gap of revenue growth not keeping pace with expenditures.
- The context of BRC2 derives from:
 - how the work of BRC1 specifically led to BRC2
 - current economic conditions
- Committee members also emphasized:
 - how BRC2 can fill the need for citizen buy-in to reductions/prioritization in service delivery and/or increases/shifts in fee collection
 - it may be more important for the committee to develop a framework or process for financial decision-making than to trim the budget a set amount right now
 - the committee should examine both ‘structural efficiency’ (providing correct services) and ‘delivery efficiency’ (eliminate, reduce, defer, improve).
 - the community survey and recent voting trends might be places to start understanding overarching community goals.

“Basket of Services” Presentation by Budget Analysis Manager, Jim Reasor

- Jim presented updates to the “Basket of Services” spreadsheet.
- Committee members wanted to understand how different funds were designated or earmarked (by charter, ordinance, management or ballot), which of those could be changed and by whom.

Performance Measures Presentation by Bob Eichen

- Bob identified the City of Westminster as an early and active adopter of using performance measures in City management decisions.
- Bob shared sample reports and indicated that Westminster was beginning to develop its own reporting format, since following the ICMA standards was becoming too time consuming.
- The committee was informed that representatives from Westminster would be available to present at the December 11 BRC2 meeting.
- Committee members requested additional information regarding:
 - the status of performance measurement/management (PMM) within the city of Boulder
 - cost/benefit analysis on implementing PMM

- the value of PMM as a communications tool, as well as a management tool
- templates which exist or other work that can be re-used to ease any PMM implementation at the city of Boulder.
- Committee members are at different stages of exposure to/acceptance of PMM; some feel that the city should implement it without hesitation where others simply need to know more.
- Those who favored PMM still stressed that successful implementation requires buy-in from staff city-wide.

Departmental Master/Strategic Plans Presentation by Paul Fetherston

- Summaries of the master plans of the library and parks/recreation departments were reviewed. The summaries portray services planned for delivery by different departments as funding expands or contracts.
- The committee expressed interest in reviewing more summaries.

Revisiting the Two Guiding Questions

- Committee members examined previous responses to the two questions posed: what BRC2 outcomes might look like; and what tools/data the committee needs to deliver those results.
- In the short term, staff will re-compile the answers, incorporating this evening's discussion. It was noted that answers are intended to inform—and be shaped by—ongoing discussion.