

CDICR Community Engagement Committee
07/24/2020 Meeting Minutes

Attendees - members of the committee (Joan Lancourt, Kea van der Ziel, Malcolm Doldron, Jonathan Golden), Lloyd Gellineau, members of the public, Todd Kirrane (DPW), John Sullivan (Fire)

Dept Feedback

John Sullivan and Todd Kirrane both gave feedback on the CE Plan in the context of their depts. Both made it clear that lack of staff would make it very difficult to do much more than what they are already doing, and both certainly fall into the category of Depts. that are 'community facing'. Interestingly, both talked about the desirability to have someone who could coordinate various types of 'community facing' grants between depts. Lack of a town staff person to do that meant that some opportunities for increased CE were falling through the cracks. Kea noted the possibility that the CE specialist could play some of that role coordinating between depts. Todd also sketched out the # of boards, Task Forces, committees, etc. that his Dept supports (7, with 6 additional groups of various sorts that have somewhat informally been added over time) and he also mentioned their use of the Soofa signs and sending notices to the TMMa listserv about things his Dept is doing. Malcolm also noted that (once again) working with IT to get info broadly disseminated would increase CE, and Jonathan noted that working with TMMs directly would extend the CE reach.

John and Todd are looking at the goals and ideas in the plan as desirable, but as 'extra' or 'additional' work, rather than as a shift in 'how' they do the work they are already doing, or as a change in the 'culture' of the work they are doing. Something we might talk about at a future time - especially in terms of how they do their work in a way that is inclusive of the traditionally marginalized populations. It also occurs to me that with Todd, a SMART Outcome Goal might be working with the 13 boards, committees, etc. that his Dept. encompasses to get more diversity on those boards and committees would make a big difference in the 'what'/'how' of their work.

We also talked about the need and benefit of doing a round of this type of conversation with key community based groups and Malcolm suggested, and we all agreed, that each of us look at the Organization list we have put together and for next Fri. identify 3-4 key orgs. we think we should invite to give us feedback on the plan. The orgs. that turned up on more than one of our lists would be the ones we should invite initially. Jonathan also mentioned that he had spoken to one of his TMMs who was excited about sharing what we are learning through this process with people in his precinct and they will be planning some kind of precinct meeting or outreach to implement that idea. That led to our thinking that that could be a substantive topic at other precinct meetings and that we should touch base again with our SMART outcome goal to have had precinct meetings in (I don't recall the # we set) X # of the town precincts. These dialogues with the Dept. heads so far have been so informative that I think it makes a perfect topic for such meetings.