

CDICR Community Engagement Committee 07/31/2020 Meeting Minutes

Attendees - all members of the committee (Joan Lancourt, Kea van der Ziel, Malcolm Doldron, Mariah Nobrega, Jonathan Golden), Lloyd Gellineau, Caitlin Starr, members of the public, Jeana Franconi (Finance), Kathy Bisbee (BIG), Leigh Jackson (Recreation)

Jeana Franconi (finance)

- Came from Cambridge where community engagement is very big
- Likes the idea of metrics (submitted metrics to Joan?)
- Finance is a mix of front- and back-facing: would like better conversations around taxes and other collections.
- In Cambridge ran the participatory budgeting program.

Leigh Jackson (recreation)

- Hasn't read the document yet but will read and come to a future meeting.
- Also sent in D&I (GARE) goals
- Very enthusiastic.

Kathy Bisbee (BIG)

- Professional community organizer for first 3rd of career
- BIG is independent non-profit that has contract with the town to provide TV and provide civic engagement.
- BIG also does education/training, advocacy.
- BIG is in danger of losing its funding from cable companies. Was 11 people, now down to 4 people.
- They consider themselves facilitator/mediator
- Previous experience in Gilroy CA: Can help community groups talk to each other? May include specific ways to address racial/ethnic divide. Community healing project: people had never been asked what they had wanted before.
- To what extent is BIG a mediating tool?
 - Community Listening Sessions
 - Perception/obstacle is the bureaucracy of government, or that you have to dress up to participate. How to overcome that to get people to participate in the listening sessions.
 - civicrookline.com, #iambrookline, reopening videos with different groups
 - More community-centric website: polls, calendar, discussion groups, etc
- If we're going to partner, we need to go after grants. Have covered 300+ meetings since the shutdown.
- Public VR lab: first public organization to provide community access to VR/AR. New and innovative ways to tell stories