

Westminster Inclusivity Board

6:00-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2024, Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Seth McGinnis, Alan Farb, , Rich Chamberlain, Jillian Gibson, Michelle Zajic, Donna Johnson, Miguel Mendoza-Hall, Steve Brachman

Absent: Megan Peters, Doug Pfeiffer, Justin Davis

Staff / Guests: Amy Rodda

- **Welcome (5 Minutes)**
- **Old Business (15 Minutes)**
 - **Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**
 - Moved: Rich; 2nd Alan; passes unopposed
 - **Building Community/Outreach**
 - Alan – senior resources
 - Free electric bus service door-to-door in Coral Gables
 - FreeBee
 - 6 passengers, on-call, supported by advertising
 - Is that something Westminster could do?
 - Donna is 100% in support
 - Valuable for seniors who can't or shouldn't drive anymore
 - Miguel: SRC has pivoted away from transportation
 - But something specifically through the city itself
 - Definitely a good idea to share
 - Michelle: could fit under one of the city's strategic planning goals
 - Avenues for
 - A couple months ago city was soliciting citizen requests; submitting through budget process would be a good channel
 - Could also go through city depts – Community Services, has a transportation & mobility planner
 - Steve suggests he & Alan meet with that planner to discuss
 - Michelle – can/should we get a presentation from planner on current situation?
 - Steve – also interested from pedestrian perspective (street crossing for seniors can be difficult)
 - Amy will invite transportation planner to come talk to the Board
 - Donna offers Smith Hall meeting area at Covenant Living for a community presentation / listening session
 - Jillian: great idea, present as money saving / safety issue; helping seniors age in place can be a net boost for local economy & community
 - **Sign Up for Special Events**
 - Justin has started an email circulating
 - **Vary Meeting Locations**
 - Still need to figure out how to do hybrid in various locations
 - Off-site city halls are handled by city communications dept
 - Libraries has a mobile 360° camera
 - To be investigated further

- **City Council Report (10 Minutes)**

- **Councillor David DeMott**

- Dog park has consumed all oxygen in the room recently
 - Vote last night to keep park off-leash
 - Draft budget expected end of August
 - July 18th(?) policy & pilsner – good opportunity to talk to DeMott

- **New Business (20 Minutes)**

- Rich – request by Cardell Home to rezone former Zerger school area as low-density to put in 40 single-family homes
 - Low-density is most exclusionary zoning
 - Negative impact on lower-income families
 - If zoned as medium-density, developer could still develop single-family, maybe throw some duplexes in there
 - Concept plan review at city council
 - Amy will look into planning process
 - Steve: how can IBoard assist planning commission? Has to be incorporated into overall plan. Jeffco involvement makes that complicated.
 - Cardell Homes is a finalist for Jeffco RFP
 - Should we get a presentation from planning office?
 - Donna – these kinds of issues are things Board should be thinking about
 - Jillian – Westminster housing needs assessment says current stock is about half single family, 20% attached < 10, 20% attached 10+. Do we need more single-family housing?
 - Rich – different types of housing tend to be segregated from one another; studies show mixed density tends to be more successful economically & socially
 - Michelle – we can collect some data to present that as a recommendation to Council in favor of diverse housing choices
 - **2024 goal setting**
 - City's strategic priorities:
 - Access to Opportunity:
 - Mixed density & electric bus service recommendations
 - ambassador program, also?
 - Community Empowerment & Engagement: ambassador program
 - How much of a concern is accessibility?
 - Increased mobility is also (very) relevant here
 - E.g., senior bus service not available at night
 - How to encourage diversity on city boards & commissions?
 - Need to advertise openings on more channels
 - Community Health & Safety:
 - Supporting the unhoused is important
 - Point out success of first non-police responder program, suggest extending that approach to other areas?
 - Economic Vitality:
 - (Hard to think of much)
 - Resilient Infrastructure:
 - Addressing cellular dead zones & digital divide
 - Is digital access considered infrastructure?
 - Also touches on economic vitality
 - Longer library hours
 - (Work being done at state level)

- Suggest city opt out of law, allowing municipal broadband? (Step 1 to at least explore the question.)
 - Changes to code & covenants, etc., allowing more xeriscaping
 - Existing e.g. turf removal & garden in a box programs cost money & many people who would be good candidates can't afford it - programs to make them low-cost / no-cost.
 - Recommend making these kinds of programs more accessible
 - Require new development be water-wise?
 - Recommend that the city set the example as a component of educating people about how xeriscaping can be nice?
 - Grants still in the works for xeriscaping more areas around City Hall
 - (Note that you can do both)
 - Upcoming law (2026?) banning nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, & invasive species in public-ish spaces.
 - Organizational Vitality:
 - Language - has improved, but more improvement possible.
 - Could city swing e.g., free subscription to Duolingo for employees?
 - How well are we doing with access for people with sensory impairments?
 - Are there new technologies we should consider?
 - More homeless navigators, more safe outdoor spaces
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- Subcommittee Reports/Updates (20 minutes)
 - Senior Resources Center Subcommittee
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- Community Report
 - What's Happening in the Community?