

Westminster Inclusivity Board

6:00-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 18, 2024, Hybrid Meeting

MISSION: The mission of the Inclusivity Board is to work with City Council to advocate for all voices within our community and to ensure everyone is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

VISION: The Inclusivity Board envisions a diverse community where everyone understands the city belongs to them and their participation matters.

Meeting Minutes

- Welcome (5 Minutes)
- Old Business (45 Minutes)
 - Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
 - 2024 goal setting – finish
 - **Explore Obstacles to Digital Connectivity**
 - Broadband/Internet
 - Michelle asked if there has been any City movement towards a City provided internet service
 - Councillor DeMott recalled that this issue has come up to Council before about five years ago. Council received this report, associated costs, and at that time made a decision not to move forward with city provided fiber/internet.
 - There are currently vendors installing fiber across the city.
 - While private vendors are covering the city, questions were raised about costs.
 - Councillor DeMott noted that Comcast does have an income-based subsidy/discount for internet services
 - Cellular Coverage
 - Michelle stated that there is movement at the state level to ensure adequate coverage.
 - **Changes to Code to Encourage Xeriscaping**
 - Michelle – question to board members is this goal relevant to this group? This is perhaps more of an issue related to the work of the Environmental Resources Board and the Parks and Rec Board
 - The piece that does align with the goals of the Inclusivity Board is around the costs associated with participating in these programs.
 - Identify ways to advocate for the broader availability of these programs to low-income residents.
 - Steve Brachman – work with water utility
 - Jillian – volunteer groups. Is there a way to connect with these groups and have these people install or maintain xeriscaping.
 - Could a program of this nature be aligned with the City's snow-busters program?
 - Take out language related to changes to code and covenants.
 - Change the goal to supporting those who want to decrease water use and support those who are low income with subsidies
 - Councillor DeMott suggested that staff reach out to PWU staff regarding the status of this type of a program.

- Councillor DeMott suggested having staff from PWU or CS to talk about how current development standards support lower water use and an increase in xeriscaping.
- Councillor DeMott stated that there is a need to find balance between xeriscaping, high traffic sod areas (athletic fields), and pollinator areas. City has been in discussions with the Butterfly Pavilion.
- Michelle noted that a lot is being done at the State level with respect to HOA regulations. Most notably, for new developments with HOAs no decorative water sod areas e.g., planting strips, etc. Can have sod in play areas.
- Donna's housing development has a Sustainability Committee and their residents have been advocating for more xeric plantings. They have been able to connect with the City's Sustainability Committee.
- Staff to reach out to Sustainability Committee staff liaison and also staff from Community Services about current programs.
- **Organizational Vitality – City and City Employees**
- Language Learning Opportunities for Staff
 - Board is still interested in this goal
- **Advocate for Exploration of Technology for Hearing and Visual impairments in city facilities**
 - Staff to provide the Board with the current Language Access Plan
 - Amy stated that the big push by the City is to bring the city's website up to accessibility up to date.
 - Steve asked if the libraries have assistive hearing devices.
- **Advocate for Consideration of Unhoused for City Services such as an additional housing navigator and more safe outdoor spaces**
 - Michelle noted that Arvada has purchased an unused church space to create a service center for unhoused
 - Move this goal to Community Health and Safety
- This discussion concluded the development of goals for 2025.
- **Budget for Inclusivity Board**
 - Ask Council to reinstate a budget for the Inclusivity Board and use this funding to subsidize different fee-based programs such as Art a la Carte and other city arts and culture programs.
- **Council District Process – Amy Rodda**
 - Amy provided a brief overview of the current Council District Process.
 - On the November ballot, there will be a question asking the community to vote on the creation of council districts.
 - The City's website has a page that provides a history of the Wards Initiative.
 - Voters asked to create three wards, with two councillors each, with staggered terms.
 - If passed, the process to create the wards must be identified by 2027.
 - If this doesn't pass, then the city will need to go back to the drawing board.
 - The actual drawing of the boundaries will be handled by a consultant and will follow federal guidelines/requirements. At that point, community members and boards and commissions could provide input in the process of drawing the ward boundaries.
 - Council asked for an additional ballot issue for 2025 to add two at-large council positions.
- Food Resources Follow Up – Kate Cooke

- **Future Meeting topics**
 - October 9, 2024: Chris Chovan, Senior Transportation and Mobility Planner
 - November 13, 2024: Election of Officers
 - January 9, 2025: City Special Events Presentation

- **Community Event Calendar**
 - October 19, 2024 – Westy Fest
 - Kate to send out a sign up sheet for the booth
 - 2 hour shifts
 - Bin of things – Kate to check with Kodi – banner, table cloth, need handout, can they hand out candy? Other handouts.
 - Do they get a tent? What about a table?
 - November 11, 2024 – Veterans’ Day Celebration
 - December 7, 2024 – Holiday Lighting Celebration

- **Closure/Reflection** (3 minutes)

Reminder: Complete Boards & Commissions Annual Onboarding by email if you have not already. Michelle may need to complete this. Amy to follow up.

No further business. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM