

Westminster Inclusivity Board

6:00-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 13, 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.

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

Absent: Seth McGinnis, Justin Davis, Doug Pfeiffer

Staff / Guests: Kate Cooke, Nora Kern

Meeting Minutes

- **Welcome** (5 Minutes)
 - 6:12 PM Quorum, Rich Chamberlain called the meeting to order.
- **Old Business** (45 Minutes)
 - Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Changes/corrections: Alan Farb – clarification regarding the Westminster Elks. For the next six months will be providing free laundry for the unhoused and economically challenged at two Westminster laundromats. Offering this at each laundry one day once a month. Up to 50 available.
 - Committee for Inclusive Housing – Justin, Rich, Steve. Kate to set up meeting. This should be entitled Inclusive Zoning.
 - Bolster not bolder in Arts Week
 - Steve move as corrected, Donna second, unanimously passed.
 - Building Community/Outreach
 - Arts Week – Community Engagement
 - Kate meeting schedule
 - Terms and Continuity of Inclusivity Board Members
 - Kathryn Schroder will be reaching out to board members regarding terms and continuation.
 - Proclamations/Recognitions for upcoming month(s)
 - Ideas: Eid al-Adha, Hispanic Heritage Month – broader more inclusive, Incorporation Date of City, World Religion Day, Veterans, Indigenous People’s day and month, Asian Pacific Heritage month, MLK, Black History Month, Pride month, Juneteenth, United Nations Day of the Child, Hmong/
 - Proclamations should be for groups of people that are part of the makeup Westminster
 - Concern – ensure that we have members and community members that can accept the proclamations
 - Discuss this more at the January meeting. Members to send information
 - Committee – Kate to send out a poll to the members to determine interest
 - Inclusive Zoning Committee – Identify membership
- **City Council Report** (10 Minutes)
 - Councillor David DeMott, not present to provide update

- **Break (5 Minutes)**
- **New Business (45 Minutes)**
 - **Nora Kern, DRCOG - Community Based Transit Study**
 - DRCOG is a Regional Planning Agency
 - North Federal Community Transit Plan partners include Growing Home, Adams County, Westminster
 - Closure of Walmart at 72nd and Federal has made it difficult to access groceries
 - Looking at a small, connector service that would operate within a small zone (1 - 2 miles) or to connect to regional transit service.
 - Focusing on historic Westminster and south Adams County including south Federal Heights and south Thornton- low income, those with mobility limitations.
 - Have done some engagements with different organizations to identify issues and needs
 - Examining different models - fixed schedule, on-demand, free/low cost, zone-based model, circulator model with deviations
 - Rich - what are the strengths and weaknesses of various models? Flexibility and affordability are key concerns.
 - Miguel - How will this be funded? The study is considering different funding models. Talking to Adams County and City of Westminster. DRCOG does have some funds through the TIP process. RTD has a partnership program that funds these type of services. Some CDOT funding may be an option. Will most likely need local funding to make this program work.
 - Steve - what do they hope to learn from the pilot program? Try to connect those in the most need with access to fresh food. Try to expand to
 - Alan - what do you estimate for cost? Nora - probably about \$1M per year. Staff are talking about feasibility from a funding standpoint.
 - Alan - Free B example in Florida. Uses local advertising on the vehicles to fund their service. Is DRCOG exploring this option? Nora will check with their consultant. There could also be a nominal fee. See businesses
 - Donna - What do you mean by no eligibility requirements? Nora - many times documentation reduces use.
 - Donna - Would residents in senior housing developments be eligible. Nora - yes they would be eligible within the identified zone.
 - Miguel - Serves on SRC Board. SRC has looked at expanding into Adams County and Westminster. They may be interested in looking at a facility within the transit zone.
 - Miguel - How long will the pilot program exist? Nora - working on recommendations
 - Steve - Has an Uber/Lyft model been considered? Nora - will do a cost comparison with a uber/lyft model. What about autonomous vehicles? Nora - probably not mostly because these vehicles are still struggling with snow and rain
 - Jillian - Clarify one person picks up, does the shuttle wait or will it be more like a bus with a general schedule. Nora - still looking at different models. The dial-a-ride model has a vehicle arriving between 20 - 40 minutes.
 - Alan - asked if the service can be app based. Nora said that it can.
 - Rich - how will be people learn about the service? Nora - best programs have nonprofits that can provide that reach in the community.
 - Rich - can service expand. Nora - this can be examined
 - Discussion:

- Larger area and longer wait time (up to 50 minutes or smaller area with shorter wait times (20 minutes).
- Donna – seniors generally have time flexibility
- Steve and Rich – shortest wait times possible
- \$1M budget – 2 drivers, 2 vehicles gives the 20 – 40 minute
- Rich – have you talked with Council? Nora – not yet.
- Miguel – more service, longer wait
- Alan – just talking about the pilot? Nora – yes just for the pilot
- Alan – Why did DRCOG chose this area. Nora – selection was based on need, demographics, income, housing burden, limited access to vehicles
- Nora – want to make sure that desired destinations are within the zone
- Rich – the IB has talked about food deserts here in Historic Westminster. Steve, Miguel, and Alan concur
- Nora – how important is weekend service and how important is 7a – 7p service. Rich – need to survey residents and possible users. Alan – maybe a Thursday – Sunday
- Miguel – early weekends included, middle of the week and avoid rush hours to avoid being stuck in traffic. Nora clarification 8a – noon or 1p. Miguel’s concern is that full day weekends might not be fully used.
- Alan – asked about door-to-door service within the zone. Nora – yes but can add key destinations. But too many out of zone destinations will negatively impact service.
- Nora asked the group - Are the right destinations included e.g., grocery stores, transit stations, health clinics. Board concurred. Miguel asked to include rec centers and libraries to provide access to internet.
- Nora asked the group – Are the right groups of people included e.g., older, people with disabilities, low income. Board concurred.
- Nora – closed her presentation noting that more data collection will take place. She will send a survey to this group and looks forward their input.
- Kate to provide Nora’s contact information
- Nora to send presentation and Kate to forward to Board.
- **Nomination of Officers – Election to take place at January meeting.**
 - Initial nominees were discussed.
 - Alan – nominate Justin for president, Steve second. Withdrawn – will ask at December meeting
 - Steve – nominate Michelle for President, Alan second. Withdrawn – will ask at December meeting
 - Alan – nominate Jillian for secretary, Steve second
 - Jillian – noted that she would like the Board to add additional nominees at the December meeting
 - Donna concern with seeming a little forced
- **Community Report**
 - What’s Happening in the Community?
 - No updates were provided.
- **Future Meeting topics**
 - January 8, 2025 – Election of Chairperson and Secretary
Per Bylaws: *“In order to provide for staggered terms of office, elections for Chairperson and Secretary will occur in January of odd years.”*
 - January 8, 2025 - City Special Events Presentation
 - Presentation at Youth Advisory Panel – Available Dates: 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9
Rich Chamberlan to meet with them in February

- Kate Skarbek to present at April 9th meeting
- Kate to reach out to Chris Chovan to present in 2025
- **Community Event Calendar**
 - December 7, 2024, 5:30 – 8:30 PM – Holiday Lighting Celebration
- **Closure/Reflection** (3 minutes)

Donna moved to adjourn the meeting.