

Town Hall debrief meeting notes

Emily's report:

-Jennifer is unable to attend but will get us her notes and the forms she collected ASAP (Lyn also hopes it went well)

-There were 32 unique attendees on Zoom

-Emily has compiled the initial results of the Zoom surveys – takeaways:

-Folks all strongly agreed that participation and interaction were encouraged

-Folks all strongly agreed that their overall experience was good, and they would recommend attending a town hall to others

-Folks largely strongly agreed that the facilitators were well prepared

-Folks largely strongly agreed that the time allotted for the meeting was sufficient

-People heard about the event in a variety of ways (Friends, coworkers, invite letter, partners)

-1 person (Christie Buckley) is interested in getting info on how to become a member

-2 people (Michael Fox, Christie Buckley) are interested in continuing their involvement to help address the concerns we identified

-Emily has started compiling some of the resources that were shared, to include:

-Special Mobility Services

-Shaping Spokane Together Housing coalition

-Neighborhood councils

-Career expo

-EWU disability pride days

-Aging, Disability, and Housing panel

-DACNEW Disability pride event

-Special Olympics events

-Client Assistance program

-Housing Justice project

-Emily has received feedback that the meeting was fully accessible to the participant using ASL (may have to follow up on an additional piece of feedback that was received in response to the documents)

Present:

Staff: Emily Spears (Program Specialist); Elaine Stefanowicz (Program Coordinator); Elizabeth Gordon (Director)

Members: Dave Carl (Member), Damiana Harper (Emeritus), Daniel Ledgett (Member), Marsha Cutting (Chair), Resa Hayes (Partner), Michelle Pappas (Partner), Ivy Anne Van Der Peet (Member), Patti Dailey Shives (Member); Yunus Butt (Partner)

We have not heard from Patti – Marsha emailed and is coming from another meeting (cameras off – if comfortable). Elaine will contact Bill (we should thank him).

Getting started with those present at 11:05 (no response from Patti). Agreed. Thank you to all who could participate and help despite all of the challenges. It was a team effort and worked out.

Marsha is curious about the relative lack of comments (as opposed to Vancouver – not so much here). She has limited experience in-person to compare to. Elaine is sending Patti the link.

It may have been the same number of attendees. Did we get more Zoom attendance? What was the count (over 20+). Dave can't remember how many spoke from Zoom last time (seemed more this time).

How many were in the room? We couldn't see. It ebbed. Some folks had to leave early. Less than 20 (including volunteers). Damiana surprised by the low turnout (only thing that strikes her...)

Could be wrong...when we've done events in the past, usually in rural areas, not as much as a voice. Larger communities, there are other opportunities to do that (not as much of a need or desire, maybe).

We did do a lot of reaching out. Some folks said they were planning to attend but didn't. Same for Vancouver. What does Ivy Anne feel about the email outreach? Follow up was important.

Originally, not much follow up, minimal registration (after she sent a more personalized email – more responses and registration increase). Instead of just the original mass email.

In other situations, we've done phone calls to at least some who didn't respond. Patti and then Dave. Spokane is larger than Vancouver (not really a part of Portland – outlying smaller cities - infrastructure).

Spokane is much larger. Could have been drawing more locally (as opposed to Colville). Different demographics. Agrees with Ivy Anne about personal follow up to help.

In addition to emailing, Dave noticed some people from reaching out, he reached out the other boards he's on – they helped spread the word, too, in a different way (on his behalf).

Damiana – agrees with Dave. Receiving the same message from someone you know may help. Personal contacts, as well. Phone calls, scouting happened in days past – face-to-face buy-in.

There are different restrictions now post-pandemic, but personal connections help. Michelle. She concurs with Damiana (Aging, Disability, Housing panel – 4 months of meeting with council members).

Even 15 minutes of face time may help – they know who the invites are coming from – more elected input. Marsha likes that idea.

Dave – in Clark County, we targeted the underserved and surrounding areas. Marsha has some thoughts. She needs to apologize – she was really caught up in working on Right to Repair during this time (leg.).

It passed about a week ago, but she would get caught up in it for a week at a time. She's not sure what else could have been done about that, unfortunately, it just wasn't helpful.

She has other thoughts – 1: in the last 2 years chairing the subcommittee, we've been trying a new way (involving local partners). She'd like to leave behind a basis for coordination. It worked in Vancouver.

She's not sure how well it worked here, but there may have been some. One of her struggles of this – there's a load on local partners (grateful). Hard to involve the subcommittee (people volunteered).

We lost Marsha. She is back. What occurs to her is that emails and phone calls, plus possibly a Zoom, is something the subcommittee could help with and would make a difference (planning as we go here).

Elizabeth. If we consider pushing our event a little further into the year (in May), it avoids session. She usually outreaches thru directors and her contacts, but can't do that during session. Time during session.

We can engage more deeply with the community and advocates outside of session, perhaps. May have been missing this year in terms of engaging partners. Marsha's concern is running into graduations, etc.

She wonders about Thurs/Fri. On purpose? Should we consider doing it on a different day of the week. Something to consider. Dave thought it was for a reason (people who travel to return to work, etc.)

Marsha doesn't remember discussing it, just how it was (same for Dave). We've talked about the time of day (get it out of the way early). Something to consider. Damiana, then Patti.

Historically, the events were Thurs/Fri. so when all in-person, it was overnight. At the time, Fri. was a day that more people in leadership were able to get away (could be different now). First thing. Original.

Is there a reason why we do it in the spring during session? Patti thinks it would make sense to do it in the fall (ahead of session, legislators would be free/open to hearing things to introduce, school, etc.)

That could help with participation. The Vancouver one was in the fall, it got switched to spring due to Awards. Possibly something else. Staff considerations - request. Problem is, no offense...

Have to look at what's best with the community engagement. Keep running into situations where we don't get lawmakers during session. We all have limits.

Dave, then Elizabeth. Dave thought we decided not to do it in the fall because of the elections. Vancouver was in the fall with good turnout and engagement. Not seen in Spokane. Timing ideas.

Break, vacations, graduations – lots of conflicts not there elsewhere. Elizabeth, then Damiana. Elizabeth to say – you have to consider staff bandwidth. There are only 3 of us (other items to do).

Majority of pulling things together and making sure it's executed well is on staff. You can't make plans without it. Unfortunately, we have to consider it. We have YEP in the summer (students out of school).

Avoiding doing things in the summer because of that. GM take a chunk of time. Spring isn't the best (need to make sure we're engaging legislators). There's a sweet spot somewhere, not during session.

Disability advocates are caught up in legislation, as are leaders, and legislators. Understand the spirit behind supporting the community, we do need to take staffing into account, down for right now.

Damiana, Resa. Damiana suggests...good conversation...not going to change the LAP forthcoming. Makes sense to move onto either topics or planning to the LAP (timeline). Thanks.

Resa wanted to find out what good things came out of last night, and what didn't. Is that the plan for today? Yes. Same as Damiana. To finish this up, we got bumped to spring due to awards (reassess that).

There would good things – people did say some things that worked. We surfaced a # of issues (housing). Transportation. We didn't hear much on employment (usually comes up). We did a good job of housing.

Thank you to Michelle. Need to figure out a date for the LAP. Need to do a separate round of inviting. Hopefully we can pull together a summary of what we heard, then we can take it to the local leaders.

Should we move away from Friday given graduation season? Damiana doesn't have strong feelings one way or another. Maybe we should find 3-4 dates that work for staff, members, do some research calls.

We want to reschedule for this day, is there a conflict. Marsha likes that idea. Should we look at calendars? Marsha isn't opposed to Friday. Any other thoughts? GM is Fri. 5/16 (can't move).

Resa piggybacking on Marsha – we need to get in touch with officials. Friday's work for Michelle with notice. Resa volunteers to get local officials there. Thank you.

16th is out. 23rd likely also (day before Memorial Day). 30th is Coordinating Committee – but that could be moved – given proximity to GM (could ask Yvonne). We will put the 30th into consideration.

Could we try a Wednesday (the 14th)? Works for Dave. Looks open to Elizabeth. Difficult for Patti (in office). Nor Resa. We need some Spokane presence (Bill's schedule TBD).

Jennifer and Steve are busy in May (Damiana can be available the 9th, 14th, 30th – but can't do it by herself.) 9th is only 3 weeks away.

Elizabeth and Dave. She's wondering if we should take this work offline since we're missing some people from the discussion. Maybe staff can send dates/times on a poll (unsure we can figure it all out now).

Dave concurs. Send an email, since we're missing people. Elizabeth had hoped otherwise, but it's complicated. We don't usually separate it. We might have to pick the least objectionable/commit.

Other thing, people are stressed – lots is coming. Picking a date and having who we can in the room, committing to a good comms plan outbound might be the best way forward.

If we send an email, should we send it to elect officials? Did Damiana interact with Giacobbe? Damiana thought Bill was talking to someone else. If we include Giacobbe, he could help with that.

We need some, not all. We have his contact. What else should we discuss? Considering the fact that we're pushing out a few weeks, maybe we should recap the main issues again.

Homeless shelters and disability was an issue (large population). It could be addressed locally. Thanks. It doesn't come up often.

Dave took notes – it was top of his list too (housing – shelters/affordable). It seemed like a majority of them were religious based (yes). Questions – exempt from ADA – unsure if those are included.

Elizabeth and Damiana. This is happening across WA (issues – esp. w/ emergency shelters overnight). Not accessible or limited. Lots of PWD who have needs (she hears about it). May depend on funding.

Federal funds require compliance w/ fair housing (many rel. institutions don't accept them). The other issue that came up for her/hears a lot is the religious piece (expectation of participating in services).

Well intentioned but difficult. Damiana and Resa. Damiana thought was interesting is the need for giving back to the shelters (working, etc.) Seems like you need to be able to contribute in another way.

Damiana wonders...majority around housing...is there a way to partner with Michelle and their panel in our thoughts around housing. They have people in the room – if they're doing that, can we partner?

Marsha will reach out in the next day or two (would have to happen quickly if so). Has her email. Resa and Dave. City hall wasn't accessible (sloped, doors). Thanks to Ben and James from People First.

Let Resa know when we decide. She can talk to people to invite (possibly with a script). Marsa agrees. Dave said lack of accessibility came up (braille, sidewalks, parking lots). They have an ACAC? Inactive.

They could work on braille signage education (even without funding). One thing to get out of it – get it going. Damiana. The ACAC used to be strong, various factors (COVID) didn't help. Help get going.

Dave Reynolds (ADA compliance checked – not a legal entity – couldn't make any mandates). Would point out the issues and list possible improvements (helpful if receptive). ACAC could help w/ that.

Steven leading the charge on that. Marsha will catch up with him (to-do's). Anything else? We should help him. Agreed. We've done what we can do.

Adjourned at 12:06. See you a week from Monday. Thanks, and goodbye.

ACTIONS:

- We should thank Bill for all his help.

- Personal follow ups (emails/phone) may help with increased registration for the next event (LAP). Resa can help with a script.

- We may also consider having a meeting with the city council beforehand to encourage attendance. [The above two items are something the subcommittee could help with].

- Goal: leave behind a basis for coordination. Good follow up will be needed.

- Consider pushing the whole event (both meetings) farther out into May going fwd. to avoid session (staff bandwidth for outreach). We may be able to consider a different time of year, as well.

- We may consider doing it on a different day of the week, too. We need to consider Bill's/Damiana's schedule for Spokane presence. Jennifer and Steven may be out. We need some planning time.

- Housing (including shelters), transportation, and related issues (lack of accessibility) seemed to be the top issues. [Need to be summarized].

-We will send an email poll and work with Giacobbe (council) to select an LAP date (possibly >1 option) since folks are missing. 5/16 and 5/23 are likely out. We could move the May 30th Coordinating (talk to Yvonne) - consider. Find least objectionable option.

-We will consider partnering with Michelle's Housing event if possible. Marsha will reach out to her ASAP.

-The Spokane ACAC (if restarted) may be able to help with some of the accessibility issues. Marsha will catch up with Steven to follow up.

-We will mee again a week from Monday.