



Community Involvement Committee Workshop Subcommittee

February 17, 2010

Committee Members Present: Paula Amato, Jason Long, Linda Nettekoven, Liz Gatti, Stan Penkin

Others: David Brandt (ONI)

BPS Staff: Tom Armstrong, Marty Stockton

Agenda

- Round 2 (April-May) Workshops Format and Content

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Tom explained the proposed format for the Round 2 workshops (attachment). The challenge is to combine the best elements of the Round 1 workshops (instant polling) with a desire to provide for a more in-depth discussion of the issues. Format features an overview presentation, small group discussions for individual action areas, and instant polling on all of the action areas. Each participant would have an opportunity to participate in two in-depth discussions for Action Areas of their choice, followed by instant polling for the large group.

There are concerns about the overall length of the workshop. 6:30-9:30pm on a weeknight is too long, especially if we want to attract new people to the workshops. We need to find ways to cut down the length. Shorten the introduction, shorten the presentation, fewer polling questions at the end.

There are concerns about the logistics of the small group discussions – staffing facilitators and note takers/experts, making sure there are enough seats at the discussion groups. We should follow-up on Commissioner Fritz’s suggestion that we tap Resolutions Northwest for additional facilitators. Also, the discussion purpose needs to be focused if we are going to get value out of 15 minutes of discussion. There is a strongly feeling that we should consider only 1 round of discussion groups to allow for a longer discussion (and a shorter meeting). Note takers and facilitators need to be on their game to keep the discussion moving and making sure 1 or 2 people do not dominate the conversation. Some kind of dot ranking exercise to wrap up might be helpful. Is there a way to continue the discussion online with a blog comments that can be more of an exchange of ideas that filling out a survey. Does the City have more flexibility on Facebook?

With regards to the instant polling, if we are asking for agree/disagree on a set of objectives, then it might work better to have it follow the presentation and before the group discussions. There is a concern that the agree/disagree type questions will be too simple – very few people will disagree with more job growth. If the polling questions stay at the end of the workshop, then they need to be more of a continuation of the discussion with more provocative or ranking priorities type questions and to help set up Phase III.

Other issues:

“Business” workshop – advertising needs to be clear – are we discussing business issues or is it just a business friendly format?

Test drive the format with some groups, like the SE Uplift Land Use and Sustainability Committee.