

TRIB TALKS FORUMS – COMMUNITY COMMONS
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016
Summary of Notes Taken

CITIZEN-CENTERED PLANNING

Moderator Notes – (Planning)

Ideas:

Experts and their roles. We have a lot of educated citizens, e.g. civil engineer vs. blogger.

Governance is “off.”. Ex.: Transmission line. Statesman vs “politician.”

We cannot ignore complex issues:

Council members have to understand them or trust staff to understand them.

Citizens have to recognize they have only one piece of the problem.

Values + facts or vs?

Unintended consequences

Core values of our community—what are they? How can we elevate the issues to the public good

Council- look at all dimensions, all people affected. What is a fair compromise? How could those “harmed” or having a loss be compensated?

Questions:

How can we do better to involve citizens at the appropriate best time, not at the last minute?

Do citizens want to look at complex big picture or just their own situation?

How do citizens become “civic minded?”

Can the council say, “The train has left the station?”

Who does council talk to? Just loudest, self-interested voices? Experts available to them?
Staff?

What are leaders doing to solve this problem of “being off?”

Quotes and Themes:

The Council needs to stop being politicians and say, “The train has left the station.” Sorry, majority rules, and we had involvement.

How can we make boards and commissions more accountable?

Other:

EMF--”threats” to children's health (even if little evidence) trumps other interests.

Unintended consequences—how can you be ready for them?

What can we do with this knowledge?

How can it be not just frustrating but productive?

Let's have consequences for politicians who don't face hard issues.

Respecting process

Respecting Staff

Being accountable.

Table Cards – (Planning)

Our government is “off” in their direction. 68% approved (bond issue), yet council didn't follow.

How could it have been prevented? Statesman vs politician. Community good—self good.

How to elect more statesmen? Ask more (better) questions? Give advance notice in blog.

How does a small group? Council doesn't approach in a consistent way.

Communication, understanding.

Could ask a candidate; hold accountable.

Citizens not involved on regular basis. Express opinions.

Majority rules. Some people bear an undue burden. WIN/LOSE dynamic.

Process should stay steady.

Council chambers—packed but becomes small group influence.

Accountability—system and review needed.

Need sunset rules. Assign time lines. Facilitation.

W & Light Commission does due diligence on lines being safe.

- Example of “bad governance” and things to be learned from it.
- Council needs to talk to those who are informed.
- Ignoring staff--Listening to self-interested property owners
- Ignoring vote
- Bad business practices (unintended consequences).
- Power quality in data bank center/impacts on rates.

How to get past frustration and to action?

Statesman politician.

- honest about hard issues
- respecting process
- respecting staff.
- [if not] Makes hard to attract good staff.

Citizens

- trade offs
- beliefs

Like fact checkers?

Ask candidates “wicked problem” questions. (LWV)

Grid of expectations

“Black Swan” events

Monitor as you go along.

ID who is on the team for a project.

What is fair balance?

Fund to help compensate?

Should not allow misconceptions.

Hinkson Creek

- source of pollution was known
- fines are scare tactics

Sewer infrastructure

How do we make people accountable?

Look for pattern.

-Roundabouts vs light.

What did we talk about?

-Can't ignore complexity.

-Pattern identification

Elevate problem solving

-Respecting facts

-Plan your work and work your plan.

-Stories being missed

-Unintended consequences?

Avenues of action exist.

-Find root cause

- provide info

- educate to [those who] want to be informed

1. Core value of serving others. How does a city pass on core values?

2. Doing right even when difficult.

-Modeling behavior

-Ask why we are allowing boards to exist.

-Procedure to elevate issues.

-Plethora of unintended consequences.

ADDRESSING INEQUITIES

Moderator Notes -- (Inequities)

Ideas:

People need to talk together, i.e. dialogue (honest)--face-to-face.

Creating opportunities for different people to come together, e.g. face-based community (churches), BUT this falls off. How do we sustain this?

Libertarian idea of churches serving as the "fabric of society" in the past—no longer.

Drug Wars source of great inequity.

The more things change, the more they stay the same "US and THEM" mentality.

Change zoning ordinances.

What needs to happen? Tribune="Hub of communication" for the community.

Questions:

How do we create a climate in CoMo where people want to "buy in", i.e. recognize they have a stake in our community? e.g. what is seen in the media, etc.

How do we sustain this (arrow connecting to "face-based" community

Role of students?!

Who are we? Is Columbia part of MU or vice-versa? Where is the pride in being from Columbia?

What will it take to get us out of our comfort zone?

Quotes and Themes

Citizens need to have a stake in our community.

Stated that it's media's fault that they do not feature real organizations; "They tell us (black community) who our leaders are."

Seek the engagement of minorities in finding the leaders who could help build "buy-in."

[Looking to be more inclusive.]

Inequity/inequality is very difficult to change.

Priority One is living, earning the rent, etc.

How to MARKET and DIVERSIFY the businesses in town (i.e. minorities).

Other:

Working w/ students is a process of renewal daily (each day is a new day).

Campus vs. City, Townie vs. University

"Geographical taboos," e.g. Douglass Park, Missouri Theater, Mizzou football stadium. *

Works both ways!!

Getting minorities into the communities in positions of influence.

Attractions for minorities in Columbia (populations and activities)

Lack of Black press...

Leadership & communication are critical.

Table Cards -- (Inequities)

What could we offer now so our children and grandchildren especially aren't sitting around talking about this?

- special zoning to facilitate gathering places
- more information in the PRESS about black activities
- need to create COMMUNITY among ourselves; something to feature our accomplishments and connect.

* Perhaps the BLACK PRESS has a role in improving the community thru VISUALIZATION of minority activities—marketing & diversification.

What does it take to get us out of our comfort zone?!

- Money & food
- "Everyone reach one"
- Music (e.g., festivals)
- Columbia Cup Soccer Tournament
- Creating and generation of ATRACTIONS for minorities—catering to minorities!
- Can we attract a big event?!

* Plan events that work to break down "taboo" things and locations.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Questions to Ask:

What are you doing to solve the problem? (ask politicians)

How are you respecting facts/ acknowledging consequences?

Stories Being Missed:

- Unintended consequences—failure to follow through on suggestions, e.g., "maybe we could" drop entire issue.

- Boards/Commissions/Vacancies