

Draft minutes of Forest Grove Committee for Community Involvement

Tuesday, October 5th, 2021

1. Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM.

Present: David Anderson (Chair), Lowell Greathouse, Hope Kramer, Tom Cook, Evelyn Orr, Stephanie Rose, Lucie Carriker, Councilor Malynda Wenzl, Bryan Pohl (staff), and Elizabeth Stover (staff). Absent: Fernando Lira.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were approved as written.

3. Community Communication Inbox:

It was announced that on Friday there would be a Memorial Vigil and March for James Marshall, who passed away one year ago as a result of a police taser-related event. The memorial will take place in Rogers Park 10/8 at 5PM.

4. Council Liaison Report (Malynda Wenzl)

Councilor Wenzl expressed appreciation for the recent QTM and said that Lucie did a great job as host/moderator. It was good to see a student serve in this capacity. She suggested that the content of the QTM should be shared as a part of the kind of information that new city councilors receive upon being elected to the city council.

There are two important workshops taking place in September related to the current levy, which expires in 2023. The options before the council are: (1) keep the taxed rate the same as the current amount, but the city would lose some current services, (2) increase the amount and maintain the services, or (3) increase the amount further and enhance current services (e.g. hire additional staff for parks and recreation, and hire a mental health specialist). When would the election be held? Options include May 2022, November 2022, or May 2023. There is a need to do a poll to determine what is the most advantageous approach, but the city's current pollster has retired. Question: Will the Forest Grove School District and Metro also seek new bonds within this timeframe? This entire process is currently under consideration, but needs more community input before proceeding.

When should CCI hold the next Annual Town Meeting (ATM)? What should the topic be? The City Council will be holding their retreat in January, so we should stay with the plan to hold the ATM in February.

Festival Street (21st). There is a desire to turn downtown into an event space. A consulting firm is working on this proposal. Question: Should this area become one-way partially or remain as a two-way street? The city still needs more business input on this.

5. CCI Discussion:

Debrief from Quarterly Town Meeting (QTM)

Comments from CCI members:

- Lucie and Hope did a great job as hosts/moderators
- Need to make sure connections are made with TVCTV prior to the event
- Dave Parker from the school district needed to be given clear information on what was being asked of him in advance of the meeting. He was excellent and well-prepared, but hadn't received clear guidance prior to the event, which is our responsibility as conveners.
- We need to have an opening slide to welcome participants and make the QTM look more professional from the beginning
- There was some discussion about tech issues related to the chat function, which was caught, but still needs to be worked on.
- The script that Lucie used was well done
- The Q and A was handled well. Thanks Stephanie, Hope and Lucie!
- We need to review our Google doc timeline in advance, so we make sure we have attended to everything in advance.
- All the presentations were well done. Thanks Bryan and all!
- We need to work with the City Council and staff regarding the communication of this event in advance. We had a small turnout (approximately 20-25). We can do better than that.
- Communications could be improved by using the city website more effectively and retaining the recorded QTMs so that they could be referenced and be made available in the future.

Communications Subcommittee Update—Evelyn

Evelyn reported that the subcommittee is still trying to work out a time to meet and that we want the CCI to be a part of the Communications Plan process before it is adopted by the city. We will work with Elizabeth Stover on this. The subcommittee meeting was set for 10/12/21 at 7PM. Members of the subcommittee are Evelyn, Stephanie and Lowell.

6. **Adjournment and Announcement of Next Meeting:** We adjourned at 6:30PM. The next CCI meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 2 at 5:30PM.