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Minutes
City of Fort Collins
Futures Committee Meeting
Regular Meeting
300 LaPorte Ave
City Hall
June 10, 2013
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Wade Troxell - Chair
Gerry Horak
Gino Campana
Darin Atteberry
Bruce Hendee

Committee Members Absent:

City Staff:

Heather Greenacre

Guests:

Mayor Weitkunat, Diane Jones, Wanda Nelson, Molly Wendell, Ginny Sawyer, Rita Harris, Mike Beckstead, Kelly DiMartino, Lucinda Smith, Susie Gordon, Caroline Mitchell, Ana Arias and Zero Waste Associates

Community Members: Dale Adamy, Miles Crane

Chairman Comments:

Wade gave an update on the updating and formatting of the agenda. The thought behind this is: If it is in the paper, it is operational, not a Futures Committee agenda item. The Committee is tasked with the future, not current topics. How does it fit into the overall picture – City Plan? What is our overall objective? Re-evaluate the current upcoming agenda items list. Look out 50 years and then “brand” us according to that direction. How can we continue to be robust, preparing for 50 years out into the future? Future sessions should be what come to us in Council, example of Affordable Housing; it is zoning for trailer parks or should we be considering more affordable sustainable housing that we will be using/ building in the future. We could gain a much deeper knowledge, also the NZC conference, this is bringing in International CleanTech, can we feature what we are doing here - add to the Futures Committee.

Think Tank Item 1: Boards and Commissions Boards and Commissions – Strategies for More Comprehensive Citizen Engagement

From the last Futures Committee meeting regarding Boards and Commissions, Wanda was asked to make an inquiry of the Alliance for Innovation to ask how other municipalities are changing their boards and commissions models. The research for this project showed the following:

- What is the best way to gather ideas and information from our citizens? Look at what other models are being used in other communities. Communities such as San Jose, California and Marana, AZ. One community did away with all of the Boards and Commissions and established a town hall meeting. Others looked to the County to see if any overlapped and could be combined. There should be training provided for Boards and Commissions, and also a new member onboarding to align the Council work plan with Boards and Commissions.
- Background; lack of context, new members every year, as in the Youth Advisory Board. Part of alignment is with the Council cycle, outcome areas and helping Council.
- Community engagement – how do we want Boards and Commissions to fit into this context

Comments:

- We are currently using a model that is 50 years old and need to look forward into the next 50 years and create a structure to meet our future needs. The system was designed to be an advisory group to Council. Now what are they advising us on? We know that all Boards are not equal—some have different budget/financing needs, some require minimal staff time, while others require a lot, some focus on policy and others work to educate the public about issues and topics. The current structure does not align with our 7 key outcome areas.
- What is the goal/strategy and then proceed from there for direction.
- People want to have an active role. It would be more fulfilling if they were more actively involved in making a change.
- Tie into overall vision of the City, need to look to where we are headed.
- Challenge in getting Boards and Commissions work plan at the same time as Council work plan.
- Boards and Commissions work plan should be established after Council's work plan is established.
- Council finalizing work plan, dovetail boards agendas with Council work plan.
- Make up of a super board – is it expert-driven or citizen-driven?
- Are there topics in the past (Boards and Commissions) that were not being addressed properly?
- Outcomes were formed to be able to take care of these issues.
- Have to have certain boards: Landmark Preservation, CDBG, Planning and Zoning – (function is needed)
- Certain Boards do have a level of responsibility, how do we proceed?
- Look at goals of City of Fort Collins, goals for citizen engagement.

DO 1: Next Steps

Where do we go from here?

- Directly ask Boards and Commissions how do they see themselves?
 - How do they see themselves fitting in, can they be combined with another Board or Commission to achieve the same goal?
- Research which Boards and Commissions are tied to BFO offers, there might be some overlap, but it might be a good starting point
- Gain clarity in the purpose of “advise and consult.” There is a desire to be more collaborative, to “roll up their sleeves and be more involved”
- Advisory is an important word because Council is not obligated to act on the advice of boards or commissions.
- Look at which Boards and Commissions are quasi-judicial and go from there
- Identify and give a choice –
- Community Input:
 - Memo to Boards and Commissions, ask for input and tell them where we are headed. Then ask for their input in a brainstorming session.
- Ask a Councilmember to take an area of the 7 key outcome areas

The work will continue to proceed on operational pieces since there will be no immediate change. Will move forward on 1, 2, 3 from the memo. Council would prefer an email instead of memo, and align the six month planning calendar with public process. The email should be one page in length, reviewed at a high level to frame things around specific outcomes. Increase the value statements from the memo. Council liaison should meet with Boards and Commissions, will ask Sarah to schedule meetings, these would include; some systematic fashion, would tie to overall objective, then discuss.

Think Tank Item 2: Road to Zero Waste – Waste as a Resource - Industry Symbiosis

Background of Project:

Update to Council in November will be what we have learned from Community.

The City put out an RFP, and then contracted with Zero Waste Associates to help us talk about what may lie beyond once we’ve reached our goal for 50% reduction, which was adopted in 1999.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan for the City of Fort Collins began in May with a working group meeting. Today is the first visit from the Consultants and they will be touring existing facilities over the next two days.

They have begun by looking at existing reports, facilities, web site, and meeting with service providers. It is being built off of the City Plan pages 35-37) provides the Waste Resources linkages, this is included in the Plan. They have added other types of linkages that were not in City Plan, and coming up with actions that might arise and are looking how to move forward.

They will be holding public meetings:

- Reduce & Reuse and Recycling: June 11 and 12 meetings
- July 15-17 – focus on waste-to-clean-energy, and composting
- Looking at economics in August

- 43-57% waste diversion levels, looking at residential and commercial

Landfills are one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas – methane gas – it produces around 71 tons upstream for every 1 ton of municipal discards.

Benefits:

- Increase in jobs – between landfill, compost, recycle and reuse can add from 1 – 250 jobs.
- 80% is exported – need to reinvest resources to local businesses.
- Benefits to businesses: saves money, reduces liability, increases efficiency, emissions, marketing, clean energy and saves energy.
- Benefits in communities:
 - Nature: did nature create it? This question that can be used as a guideline.
- Not about the destination, look at journey – do not get hung up on zero.
- When zero is your goal everything is on the table.
- Businesses leading the way: HP, Avago, New Belgium, Miller/Coors, Intel, Woodward
- Adding new jobs and business opportunities
- Upstream – prevention
- Clean production, product redesign, product stewardship
- Downstream – recovery
- Reduce and reuse, recycle, compost, clean energy, resource recovery parks
- Diagram of basic concept – shows as a system in how the entire process works
- Chart of different categories for a Fort Collins draft commodity analysis
- Assumption in zero waste approach is that people will sort it for you.
- Is this more valuable – create a blend, yard and soil together –
- Examples:
 - 2 curbside sorts – reusables come to door to pick up, chemicals – special pick up, recycle (bottle, cans, paper) one every other week
- Council can help in the following ways:
 - Reaching out to all of our local companies during visits
 - Any cost to waste and recycling is the haul cost: if you can do on site it saves money

DO 2: Next Steps

Need to have energy meetings,

Liked flow analysis – needs more that become community benefits

More meetings to follow: this was the first trip of several, will focus on different topics per trip.