

Climate Action Plan Community Advisory Committee – Q2 Meeting

April 30, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Results: CAC Members

- Continue getting to know each other
- Connect and share experiences in reaction to COVID-19 and Stay-at-home orders
- Explore and provide feedback on what staff are working on related to the Our Climate Future process as we adapt to COVID-19
- Brainstorm ideas for what new possibilities might be opening up related to climate action in response to COVID-19

Attendees:

CAC Members (attendees in bold):

- **Stacey Baumgarn**, Colorado State University
- Evelyn Carpenter, Solas Energy Consulting
- **Todd Dangerfield**, Downtown Development Authority
- **Javier Echeverria Diaz** –Motherlove Herbal Company and farmer
- **Ann Hutchison**, Fort Collins Area Chamber
- **Fred Kirsch**, Community for Sustainable Energy
- **Steve Kuehneman**, CARE Housing
- **Lisa Leveillee**, Wells Fargo
- **Rose Lew**, Fort Collins Sustainability Group
- **Ben Lucas** – Learfield/Colorado State University
- **Sheble McConnellogue**, Northern Colorado Clean Cities
- **JD Murphy**, veteran and retired biz owner
- Ehret Nottingham, CSU student, Northern Colorado Climate Strike leader
- **Dawn Paepke**, Kaiser Permanente
- Todd Parker, Brinkman Development
- Amanda Probst – Community member
- **Jean Runyon**, Front Range Community College
- Patrick Shyvers – Advanced Micro Devices
- **Bruno Sobral**, One Health Institute, CSU
- **Dimitris Stevis** – Colorado State University
- Roberto Torres, Hewlett Packard (Hispanic/African-American community liaison)
- **Trudy Trimbath**, Poudre School District
- **Dana Villeneuve**, New Belgium Brewing
- Micah (Big Wind), Northern Arapaho Tribe

Staff Members: **Lindsay Ex, Jensen Morgan, John Phelan, DeAngelo Bowden, Katy McLaren, Jackie Kozak-Thiel, Molly Saylor, Lucinda Smith, Carolyn Conant, Pete Iengo**

Facilitators: **Chris Hutchinson, Diana Hutchinson**

Community members: (none)

Notes

Introductions and Updates (Inform)

- Observations around climate action work during COVID-19 and the Stay-at-Home Order: themes included equity in-balances becoming more visible; interconnectedness of health, environment, and economy; improvements in environment are only 4% impact; new possibilities and questions about

what we really need for businesses and at home; importance of getting economy going again; political concerns; hopefulness of how people are working together

- Jacqueline Kozak-Thiel updated on the City's budget process – priority right now is to balance the budget, have some reserves to pull from. Many unknowns right now including shape of the recovery. Budget process will be shortened with core functions being prioritized.
- Announced that Lindsay will be moving to Housing Manager role for the next year.
- Our Climate Future – impacted by Stay-at-home Order and strategies using Safer at Home.
 - o Watch the phase one themes video here: <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/ourclimatefuture/>
 - o Focus areas are equity, virtual engagement strategies, and embedding climate resilience in Our Climate Future.

How are we doing? (Consult)

- Most are still able to be part of the CAC, some even have more capacity to support.
- High level of needs right now – especially economic, safety
- Pride in how organizations are able to pivot and take community leadership.
- Silver linings and opportunities among the uncertainty and heaviness.
- Many expressed pride in their staff and organization's response and resilience
- Time to slow down and think differently about pace, lifestyle, global patterns and global community
- Impacts on climate, telemedicine, to the way we act individually (awakening)
- Supply chains – PPE versus food/cleaning supplies
- Barrier removal, e.g., removal of regulations around health care providers

Pivoting Our Climate Future with COVID-19 (Involve)

- Virtual engagement - How do we engage with compassion?
 - o Important to connect with people where they already are through their already trusted groups, such as Facebook groups and What's App. Look at outdoors large circles as another way to connect going forward. CAC members could help identify trusted leaders from various communities to ask the question about how to engage
 - o Creative ideas like drive in theater
 - o FRCC/Co-working parking lots/buses to provide wifi internet access
- Reflecting in this time of change – What have we learned that we want to take with us?
 - o Slowing down, seeing impact of our lives on the climate.
 - o New things like telemedicine we would like to keep.
 - o Digital divide; infrastructure can be seen as a public good
 - o Almost everyone has seen large shifts in their work focus
 - o Financial impacts, now and future are uncertain
 - o Tension between supporting those most impacted in the community while also managing their own business or institution's needs

Reflection

- Breakout rooms were helpful
- Figure out how to do shared snacks and coffee :o)
- Would like follow up about budget, include this in offline communications
- Sheble shared: Intro to TechEquity Webinar - May 8th <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/intro-to-techequity-webinar-tickets-103157665354>

CAP CAC Breakout Groups Notes

4.30.2020

Group A (First Discussion)

Has COVID-19 and things shifting as a result changed folk's capacity to participate in the CAC for the foreseeable future? How are

- Todd wants to stay
 - o We need to make it more convenient downtown for businesses to make purchases and for people to stay safe – more drive through/bike through options
- Javier
 - o Wants to stay
- Bruno
 - o Has a lot going and wants to stay engaged
- Ann
 - o Focused on supporting business and holding onto vibrant economy in NoCo. May have to make some hard decisions as a community if we aren't able to open up soon. Food vs. flowers.
- Rose
 - o Still able to participate
 - We need to reopen the economy while keeping people safe
- Sheble
 - o Will still be able to participate
 - A lot of rethinking, can we get by without a car going forward?
- Jean
 - o Still able to participate
 - Equity minded, need to not lose sight of this
- Katy McLaren
 - Lots to unpack in this situation. Resilience has become front and center during this time when it may have been less at the front of people's minds before

Themes:

- A need to support economic recovery and our local businesses.
- What behaviors have changed that we should hold onto?
- The need for equity work has only increased in this time, but we need to not lose sight of this amongst many competing messages.
- Overall members would like to stay engaged and part of the CAC.

Group A (Second Discussion – Virtual Engagement)

Virtual engagement – how can we be successful with equity and engagement in this time?

- Bruno – experience with Latinx and Somali community. Use existing platforms. What's app, facebook group, internet is cell phone, when kids need bandwidth for school that is a priority,

joining existing groups through trusted partners (not starting a new group). Meet outdoors in a circle with distancing (concept)

- Jean – virtual instruction and working remotely. How long will this last? Future opportunities
- Ann – tried to do things “old school” e.g. town hall phone calls with 1000 participants.
- John – using chat windows at the same time as presentations or meetings, increases participation and connections
- Diana – how do we reach out and invite individually?
- Jean – using community college parking lots to provide internet access
- Ann – similar for co-working spaces, push out wifi beyond the walls of the building, community hot spots for access
- Diana, school bus could do the same thing. Provide wifi access in neighborhood
- Ann – drive in theater, CAP night at the drive in!!
- Katy – we have to understand when and how people will feel safe
- Diana – faith communities create circles based on geography, smaller group conversations
- Bruno – remember that the best ideas come from our communities, not from us, who better to know how to engage than those we’re trying to engage, just ask them
- John – let’s not succumb to the temptation to “just go back to the way it was”

Themes:

- Different parts of the community are using different platforms, we need to go to the platforms people are using.
- Don’t assume which platforms people are using, go ask communities which virtual platforms they prefer.
- Digital equity is a real barrier, can we get creative? (e.g. bike-in/Drive-in engagement where people are physically present but distanced for safety)

Group B (First Discussion)

- Lisa
 - o More time to be intentional about climate action, collecting rainwater, gardening
 - o No need to travel as much as I travel - be more agile
 - o Using technology
 - o Time to be more thoughtful and intentional with her family
- Dana
 - o Different groups are comfortable with different platforms
 - o Professionally –
 - o How to talk about climate change in a way that doesn’t come off as being tone deaf
 - o Awakening that is happening – light bulbs around food waste and cooking at home all day long
- Dimitris

- Depend so much on supply chains, and who produces those goods
- Construction has not stopped
- Part of a larger whole
- Dawn
 - Kaiser did a lot of virtual/tele-medicine anyway prior to this - incorporating virtual first into visits and care, reduces time and has an impact on climate
 - PPE – still a struggle
- JD
 - Reduction of regulations, allowing licenses and certifications to travel across state lines
- Steve
 - Communicating with residents – a part of this has been identifying what is the best strategy – vast majority responded that email and e-newsletters were prioritized, taking a multifaceted approach
 - May get more engagement and how do we so sensitively navigating the stress and trauma of this time?
- Fred
 - Is anyone working with folks who do not have access to internet
 - 22% of PSD students do not have internet

Themes:

- Reflections
 - Time to slow down – think differently about my pace, lifestyle, and global patterns and global community
 - Impacts on climate – telemedicine to the way we act individually (awakening)
 - Supply chains – PPE versus food/cleaning supplies
 - Barrier removal, e.g., removal of regulations around health care providers
- Engagement
 - Multi-faceted – people have preferences and we need to try everything
 - Digital divide is real- infrastructure as a public good, need to consider how we connect with folks who don't have internet

Group B (Second Discussion – Reflecting in this...)

- Trudy
 - Good days and bad days. Not easy to work from home, social interaction is so key.
 - Can learn more technology than thought.
 - Meeting needs to students (education and beyond, food and housing for example)
 - Utility use is down – good and bad aspects of that
 - Trying to continue paying vendors to lessen the local economic impact
 - How to continue providing enrichment programs
 - Priorities have changed, focused on sustainability projects but not as high priority as basic needs
- Steve

- Proud of CARE Housing team and residents, great resiliency.
- Contacted each resident (76%) half had been economically impacted (job loss or hour reduction, daycare, etc.)
- Look how CARE Housing can help bridge gaps.
- Residents made it a priority to pay rent, recognizing importance of home. Higher than in normal times.
- This will likely become more challenging as time goes on.
- Internet access is another gap. Looking to expand internet access where possible.
- Silver lining is increase in information flow
- PSD mobile internet units is helping
- Dawn
 - Personally fine, appreciates some things opening back up
 - Work – Kaiser is on frontlines. NoCo is a little different. Most offices closed.
 - Doing whatever she can to support frontline staff.
 - Job evolving to include more public health in community engagement.
 - Housing and homelessness, food for life, looking for opportunities in crisis – vast for health sector. Can accelerate.
 - Health care is also in peril financially. Not charging members for COVID treatment – wonderful for members but challenging financially.
- Lisa
 - Printing way less! Great progress on that front.
 - Proud of First National for their efforts to move people to work from home while also taking on more work due to need. Meeting their business needs and those of community.
- Dimitris
 - Importance of social safety nets. Safety of last resort resources. Need to build robust and successful private sector to guard if this happens again (or more frequently in future).
- Dana
 - Drastically altering strategies for the year.
 - Shifting timeline for advancing CAP.
 - Reallocating philanthropy funds to people in service industry.
 - Thinking about how to engage voters in election.
 - Financial gaps that need to be filled.
- JD
 - Doing well but also shifting work
- Fred
 - Large impact to business. Had to furlough employees.
 - In long-run the issues he works on will have higher sense of urgency (making homes more efficient, green jobs, resilient local economy, etc.)
 - Waiting for day when he can get out and talk to people face to face, drop in engagement
 - Working more on state level issues

Themes:

- Pride in their orgs and gratitude
- Financial impacts, now and future are uncertain
- Tension between supporting those most impacted in the community while also managing their own business or institution's needs
- Seeing silver lining and opportunities, while also recognizing shifting priorities and timelines