

**CITY OF FORT COLLINS
FUTURES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: April 10, 2023

Location: Zoom

Time: 04:00pm-06:00pm

Committee Members present:

Councilmember Tricia Canonico

Councilmember Susan Gutowsky

Additional Council members present:

City Staff:

Caryn Champine

Presenters:

Caryn Champine

Additional Staff present:

Kelly DiMartino, City Manager's Office

Megan DeMasters, Environmental Services

Melina Dempsey, FC Moves

Ginny Sawyer, City Manager's Office

Carrie Daggett City Attorney's Office

Claudia Menendez, City Manager's Office

Tyler Marr, City Manager's Office

Terri Runyan, City Manager's Office

Teresa Roche, Human Resource

Meaghan Overton, Social Sustainability

Amanda King, CPIO

Claudia Menendez, Equity Office

Dean Klingner, CDNS

Greg Yeager, Police Services

Kelley Vodden, Human Resources

Kristina Vencill, Human Resources

Sarah Meline, CPIO

Sue Beck-Ferkiss, Social Sustainability

Others present:

Kevin Jones, Fort Collins Chamber

Lucy Brady

Meeting called to order at 4:03pm

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Francis moved to approve the November 14 minutes. Councilmember Gutowsky seconded. Motion passed 3-0-0

Chairperson Comments:

N/A

Selection of chair

Council member Canonico was selected as the new chair for the Futures committee.

Summary

Think Tank Item 1-2023: Reimagining Public Engagement: Building Capacity for the Conversations our Communities Need, Dr. Martin Carcasson, *founder and director of the CSU Center for Public Deliberation (CPD)*

Section 1: Polarization

- How Polarized Are We?
 - Polarization is our number 1 concern right now- it erodes trust in people, institutions and facts
- Two types of polarization
 - Ideological – more divided by political party than by any other thing
 - Affective
- Is polarization real- perception of polarization is more important than reality- people react to perception
 - A lot of polarization is exaggerated- false polarization and assuming the worst of the other side
- 6 reasons why we are polarized
 - Human nature – people are wired for adversary
 - Political System- polarization is a useful political tactic
 - Media
 - Internet/social media
 - Bad faith actors “conflict entrepreneurs”
 - The limits of our conventional engagement processes
- Consider what we can do as individuals and as a community to move past polarization

Is there evidence that what is happening nationally affects us locally?

- There is more polarization at the national level- we do see this happening more in school boards than in Cities
 - Consider what identities are most important- consider if Fort Collins is tapping more of the “us” side of this- identity to bring people together will impact types of conversations we have.

Section 2: Kaner’s model

- Capacity we need to have different conversations.
- 3 stages for decision-making
 - Divergent thinking
 - False consensus when you don’t have enough divergent thinking
 - Groan zone – listening to each other and engaging tensions
 - Lots of resources and time
 - To move past false polarization, need to provide lots of opportunities for meaningful engagement
 - Convergent thinking- prioritizing things
 - To avoid paralysis by analysis....

Q&A/Discussion

- It is important to keep national politics out of local politics
- Shouldn’t focus so much on winning, rather focus on improving conversations
 - Look at communities as a system

- Re-vitalizing local journalism
- Tips for improving Civic Capacity
 - Consider what kind of leadership we have and how they are framing issues
 - Think about how the City can serve as a bridging institution- local organizations that bring people together – we have lost a lot of bridging social capital
 - Create and sustain public spaces for people to come together to engage on issues
- Many issues span council terms (such as Climate, Housing, etc.), the more we reimagine how to build capacity and continue to work on it the easier it may get
- Continue shifting to more collaborative model N/A

Additional Items

Meeting adjourned by Councilmember Canonico at 5:12pm

