



Public Participation Plan Advisory Committee
Meeting # 7 – June 30, 2014, 5:00-7:00pm

Meeting Notes

Present: Infinite Culcleasure, Erik Filkorn, Sara Osaba, Isra Kassim, Diane Meyerhoff

Absent: Debbie Ingram, Sarah Sinnott, Isha Mohamed, Sarah Launderville, Amy Bell, Meredith Birkett, Kelly Stoddard-Poor

CCRPC Staff: Bryan Davis, Michele Boomhower, Charlie Baker, Emma Long

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5:00 (10 min) Welcome / socializing

5:10 (110 min) Review and discussion

- Emma and Bryan gave an overview of the final draft and walked through each stage, highlighting the major changes. Emma noted that this is a cleaned-up version – our best attempt yet – and that the CCRPC staff had reviewed it as well.
- Diane asked if the principles are reflected in the Spectrum levels; Bryan indicated we will make sure.
- The next step was described as submitting a polished draft to the CCRPC Board, and warning a public hearing.
- Sara indicated that a certain ‘public’ will show to the hearing – but will it be inclusive? Michele responded that that will be considered in the Spectrum, as well as the equity impact worksheet if applicable.
- Sara asked how we will reach our audiences? Michele responded that we will use the resources described in the various Spectrum levels.
- Erik noted that early engagement is very important, and that drama later is indicative of little or poor outreach.
- Michele noted that this is still a work in progress, and Charlie noted that it also comes down to the people and the relationships we have / don’t have with them.
- Infinite asked about the change in name from “Public Participation Plan” to “Public Engagement Plan”; Charlie noted that engagement seemed stronger, while participation seemed weaker; you can participate but it does not mean you are engaged. Infinite felt the opposite, and that engagement was weaker. Sara sided with engagement vs. participation. Charlie noted that we can change it back, and that it is not too late. It was not requested to be changed back to participation from engagement.
- The group had a discussion about stakeholders, and Infinite provided a definition pulled from the previous Public Participation Plan – Bryan indicated that we lost this definition from the original plan and that we will plug it back in.
- Infinite noted that the #8 title, “Evaluating the Public Engagement Plan” didn’t make much sense, as we are not evaluating the plan itself. Charlie suggested we will change it to “Evaluating the Public Engagement Process.” This will be changed in the next draft.
- Infinite indicated there are other things more important than just evaluating involvement as a percentage (ex: 60% showed up); Michele indicated we should put the questions from the worksheet INTO the evaluation sheets people fill out in order to really keep track of what and how we are doing.

- Sara suggested a survey incentive should be more general than a restaurant gift certificate because it won't mean much to those who don't go out to eat. Infinite suggested a gas card. Sara suggested a gift certificate to a grocery store. Charlie noted that we will change it to be more general in the next draft.
- The group walked through a list of area organizations that may/may not be involved in a regional equity network seminar. The group provided input on which area organizations would be good to reach out to, resulting in a final list.
- Charlie noted that this would likely be the last meeting of this particular committee regarding the plan itself, as we've agreed in this meeting that it's in good shape. He indicated we should get together again in late August or September.
- Next steps: warn a public hearing; public hearing; engagement with partners; engagement with towns (presentations to selectboards?); meet again in September.
- Michele and Charlie asked if anyone would be available for the next ECOS in Action TV slot to discuss this – Sara Osaba and Infinite Culcleasure indicated they would be. Emma will get back in touch with them to coordinate.

7:00pm - Adjournment