

Minutes of the Metro Committee for Citizen Involvement
Regular Committee
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Room 270

Members present: Gerritt Rosenthal, Judy Andreen, Hal Ballard, Ben Dupree, JC Kizak
Also present: David Brandt
Members excused: Segeni Mungai
Guests: Norm Andreen, Ninette Jones, Brendon Supplee

Call to order, review of agenda, approval of December 2, 2009 meeting notes, introductions, announcements

Chair Dupree called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

The minutes for the February 2009 meeting were approved with clarification of one presenter.

Motion: Gerritt Rosenthal moved, with a second by Hal Ballard, to approve the minutes of the February meeting as amended.

Vote: The vote was 4 aye/0 nay. The motion carried.

Portland Public Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC)

Afifa Ahmen-Shafi from the Portland Public Involvement Advisory Council talked about the work PIAC has been doing at the City of Portland. Their charge is to develop and advocate for policy and best practices related to improving public involvement across all City of Portland bureaus.

Mandy Putney discussed the committee make-up and reported that they are currently recruiting for 6 community spots including an at-large member, an elder, a person with disability, youth and a business person. They have 35 seats on their council.

There was group discussion of the structure of both committees and how each worked. Norm Andreen provided historical information of the MCCI. Afifa and Mandy offered assistance to MCCI regarding reorganization of the committee.

Evaluation of past MCCI successes/Involving traditionally-under-represented communities and youth in the planning process

From the whiteboard:
Metro Councilors
County CCIs

- Judy will contact Clackamas County and Hal will contact Washington County

Have actual projects
Establish staff liaisons
Work session?

New members
Communications staff
Liaisons with Counties
Relationships with “interest groups”
Less reliance on staff
Get county staff after projects
Buy-in from Council leadership
“Assign” staffers to MCCI

Ben asked Norm Andreen to comment on thoughts listed on the whiteboard (above).

Norm said new members are critical. He said originally it was the responsibility of the Councilors to keep their district’s seats filled and it had always been a struggle. Ben said he had been talking to Jim Middaugh about councilors getting back into the committee.

Norm continued that a few Councilors had been strong advocates of the MCCI in the past while others had not. Hal suggested talking with the Councilors soon to let them know of the membership issues and try to get them involved. Norm said if the Councilors weren't reporting to the committee, nobody else in the organization would view MCCI with any relevance either.

A discussion of MCCI successes included the award-winning Coffee Talks from a few years previous, the 2003 document "Citizen involvement opportunities - a step by step guide" produced as an aid for the public to understand the process during the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan Compliance Review work, and having a staff member from the Office of Citizen involvement go to the schools to educate students on various topics. More recent successes included having an additional Urban and Rural Reserves hearing added to the schedule in an area of the region that had not been included in the original planning.

Brochure review and approval

The Chair distributed the mock-ups of the brochure and asked for any comments to be brought to the work session on March 17th.

Roundtable

JC Kizak said she is on the mailing list of a previous MCCI member, Karen Wolfgang's natural gardening and chicken raising business.

Norm Andreen said he was glad to see the committee was ready to stand up for themselves and demand something. He agreed with David Brandt that everyone quitting should definitely be the last straw, but if the committee isn't serious about stating their needs, nothing will change.

Judy Andreen added that the Clackamas County CCI had been having recruitment problems but recently had seven applicants to fill two seats on their committee. She said it is important that applicants know MCCI's mission when they interview for a position on the committee.

Ninette Jones agreed that citizen involvement is very important and the committee should put heat to the Council and get response to these problems.

Brendon Supplee thought it seemed like a good time to actively recruit members because of the restructuring of the committee.

Hal Ballard said he had had to have a serious talk with his bicycle board about participating and his threat to quit had worked. He asked that Jim attend the next meeting.

Gerritt Rosenthal did not want to give the impression that Metro staff takes citizen involvement lightly because they don't. He said the Reserves involvement went pretty well. It didn't in Stafford, however. They didn't have the resources there and ended up not getting everything they wanted. He said he is running for State Representative in House District 37.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the committee, Chair Dupree adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.