Raleigh

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY FORUM SUMMARY

Friday, October 25, 2019 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm | Walnut Creek Wetlands Center

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OVERVIEW

Raleigh City Planning conducted a Community Forum at the Walnut Creek Wetlands Center on Friday, October 25, 2019 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm. The forum kicked off the first in a series of public meetings for the Community Engagement Process Development (CEPD) project.
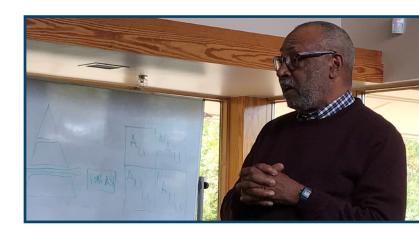
Representatives from community agencies, groups and associations (Appendix I) were invited to participate in the forum to provide their expertise, knowledge, and insights from their roles within the community in order to help the City Planning Department develop a standardized, consistent, and inclusive Public Engagement process.

ATTENDANCE

There were twenty-two persons (22) in attendance from fifteen (15) agencies (Appendix II-III). There was an opportunity for the attendees to sign up for project updates and information at the sign-in table before and after the meeting.

MEETING LOGISTICS

Simone Robinson, Principal of Public Participation Partners (P3), facilitated the meeting and gave a brief overview of the project and the agenda for the Community Forum. Kristin Williams, Project Manager for the City of Raleigh, was introduced and gave an overview of how and why the project was created and what her goals and objectives were.

Mickey Fearn, Professor of the Practice at North Carolina State University gave a presentation entitled "The Current State of Municipal Public Engagement." Following the presentation, the audience gathered in small groups to discuss how the City can engage with the community in a more equitable way.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The questions posed were:

1. What factors discourage your constituents from engaging?

2. How do race, cultural, ethnic, socio-economic status and other factors impact resident's inclination to engage?

3. What actions should the City of Raleigh take to ensure inclusionary engagement, inspire residents to engage, and to encourage residents to become civic stewards?

The following is a summary of the responses received to the questions.

1. **What factors discourage your constituents from engaging?**

- Lack of awareness/knowledge of meetings

- Transportation

- Childcare

- Promotion of meeting

- Time of meeting

- Lack of belonging (feeling of belonging)

- Location

- Lack of understanding of culture or unrealistic expectations that you expect to achieve of both the project managers and the attendees

- Not on the same page

- Language barrier

- Accessibility & technology – a way for people to learn without necessarily going to a meeting (i.e. livestream)

- Want to contribute to meeting without going to meeting (like email or social media)

- Meetings can be confrontational

- The people holding the meeting doesn't look/talk like you

- Feeling like they are not a part of the process

- Don't want to be involved – apathy

- Feel stonewalled; nothing comes from effort

- No real accountability – agency

- Only see politicians when they need a vote

- Poor representation on Council

- The City isn't straight forward with their approach. They come to meetings with their own agenda and don't allow participants to speak openly or challenge their agenda

- Diversity of City staff needs to change – doesn't represent who they are engaging

- Document comments verbatim to ensure their comments aren't reinterpreted by City staff

- Lack of trust

- Things never get done

- I don't look like the people I am trying to engage

- Language and structure (local government)

- Poor marketing (lack of technical services)

- Lack of info-not sure where to obtain info

- Poor marketing (lack of technical services)

- Competing priorities (work, children, etc.)

- Timing of meetings

- Logistics (location, transportation, parking)

- What do I have to gain? What's in it for me? Don't see the end result is actually for them

- Fragmented information

- Where do you spend your resources?

- City leadership does not encourage open exchange of information either within City departments or the community at large

3. What actions should the City of Raleigh take to ensure inclusionary engagement, inspire residents to engage and to encourage residents to become civic stewards?

- Not asking the right questions "what would you like to see different in your community"?
- What are the assets of each individual community?
- Engage people where they are (locations & events)
- Inclusion of the black church
- Don't want the things said at the meeting to be translated or misinterpreted
- Rebuild communities of color
- Contact these groups – go through leadership to reach them but involve the group members individually
- Large enough venue for a crowd
- Lack of trust
- Diversion workforce
- Intentional engagement/planning
- Consult with other municipalities on success (what worked for them)
- Spanish media liaison
- Intentional inclusion
- Effective partnerships
- Marketing
- Messaging (consistent)

2. How do race, cultural, ethnic, socio-economic status and other factors impact resident's inclination to engage?

- Some people are historically listened to and others are not
- The struggle of life itself and just making it through the day
- Lack of trust
- Process is fake - outcome is pre-determined
- Don't have 5pm meetings
- Bring the meeting to where the people are
- Young black people don't seem interested in politics
- More immigrant welcoming
- Basic understanding and knowledge
- City should address current immigration issues (haven't heard anything yet)
- Bad perceptions amongst different demographics
- City expenses or lack of per department (i.e. translation)

The groups did not get a chance to report out the findings of their discussion due to a lack of time, but the project team stated they would summarize the discussions and report back to the attendees via email.

NEXT STEPS

After the small group discussions, Simone Robinson related the project's next steps including the community conversation events in November and the development of a Public Participation Playbook. Attendees were invited to contact the project team to request a community conversation for their constituents and were informed that they would receive a copy of the draft Playbook for their review and comments.

Before the meeting time ended, attendees were asked to take the online survey and to serve as ambassadors for the project by sharing project information with their groups.

Participants who were able to stay past the meeting end time then engaged in a group question and answer period where they had the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the discussions they had as well as the format of the forum. Upon request, paper surveys were given to Boys to Men and EAST CAC chairperson to be distributed among their groups.

CEPD Community Engagement Process Development
Planning for a More Equitable Raleigh

Raleigh

APPENDIX I

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS INVITED

UNC Rex Hospital
Wake Med Health System Raleigh
Evolve Mentoring, Inc
Raleigh Boys and Girls Club
YMCA of the Triangle
Wake County Public School District
NC State University
Meredith University
Shaw University
St. Augustine's University
William Peace University
Wake Tech Community College
Partners for Environmental Justice
WakeUp Wake County
Oaks and Spokes
Raleigh-Wake Citizens Association
Crosby- Garfield Community Advocacy Group
Southeast Raleigh Promise
Downtown Raleigh Alliance
The Rotary Club of Raleigh
Raleigh Citizens Advisory Council Chair
Black Raleigh / Launch Raleigh
African American Caucus of Wake County Democratic Party
Swedish American Chamber of Commerce
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
North Carolina Chinese Business Association
Islamic Association of Raleigh
Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh
The Jewish Federation of Raleigh-Cary
NC Council of Churches
African Methodist Episcopal Church
AME Zion Church
Church of God in Christ
General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
CASA
Habitat for Humanity Wake County
Downtown Housing Improvement Corp
The Raleigh/Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness

Tammy Lynn Center
National Alliance on Mental Illness Wake County
The Power of the Dream
LGBT Center of Raleigh
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh
D.E.A.R. Foundation Inc.
Council on Immigrant Relations
Centro Para Familias Hispanas (CPFH)
El Pueblo
ALPES Alianza Latina Pro-Educacion en Salud
The Vietnamese-American Association of Raleigh
AARP of North Carolina
Alliance of Disability Advocates
Raleigh CAC Chair
South CAC
Southwest CAC
North Central CAC
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Delta Sigma Theta - Social Action Committee M
Raleigh Organizing Against Racism (ROAR)
Glenwood CAC
Midtown CAC
Five Points CAC
Hillsborough CAC
Forestville CAC
Wade CAC
Mordecai CAC
Atlantic CAC
East CAC
West CAC
North CAC
Northwest CAC
Southeast CAC
South Central CAC
Northeast CAC
Boys to Men

APPENDIX II

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS IN ATTENDANCE

Alliance of Disability Advocates
Boys to Men
Centro Para Familias Hispanas (CPFH)
City of Raleigh
El Pueblo
North Central CAC
Partners for Environmental Justice
Shaw University
WakeUp Wake County
St. James City Church
North Carolina State University
Fair Housing Hearing Board
Evolve Mentoring, Inc.
East CAC
Piney Grove AME Church

COMMUNITY FORUM SIGN-IN SHEET

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RSVP List

Attended	Name	Organization
	Craig Brookings	
✓	Chris Rivera	Alliance of Disability Advocates
✓✓ ✓✓	John Goode (+5)	Boys to Men
✓	Maty Ferrer Hoppmann	Centro Para Familias Hispanas
✓	Stacie Hagwood	City of Raleigh
✓	Moises Serrano	El Pueblo
	Octavia Rainey	North Central CAC
✓	Amin Davis	Partners for Environmental Justice
	Carolyn Winters	Partners for Environmental Justice
✓	~~Michael West~~ Paula Dillard	Shaw University
✓ ✓	Heather Keefer Caylin Bullock	WakeUp Wake County
✓	Phyllis Royal	
✓	Perusi Benson	NCSU
✓	Sarah Duhard	NCSU
✓	Wanda Coker	FHHB
✓	Kristi Moyer	City of Raleigh, Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department
	Tolulope Omokaiye	Evolve
✓	Deborah Ford	ECAC
✓	Rev. Whitley	Piney Grove AME Church
	ANNE S. FRANKLIN	PEJ