Neighborhood Association Engagement Model

Neighborhood Services and Education Committee

April 11, 2024

Jon Cicirelli, Director, PRNS Olympia Williams, Division Manager, PRNS Erik Chiarella Jensen, Assistant to the City Manager, CMO Nicola Clifford, Associate Director, Guidehouse

Project Overview

Project Purpose: Develop a Neighborhood Association Engagement Model that facilitates City outreach to Neighborhoods and provides neighborhoods the opportunity to engage with the City.

Project Goal: Develop a Neighborhood Association Engagement Model that increases access, communication, and understanding of City services and ties into the City's Customer C understanding of City services and ties into the City's Customer Service Vision and Standards.

Project Timeline:





Project Approach and Inputs

We engaged 238* stakeholders over 4 engagement methods over the course of the project.

Project Approach: Facilitate and collect City **staff and community feedback** through four engagement methods. Leverage input to **synthesize findings** into recommendations in collaboration and iteration with City staff.





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** Approximate estimate based on survey analysis.

^{*}Approximate estimate based on activity results.

Engagement Findings – Model Themes

The project inputs revealed 5 themes for the new Neighborhood Association (NA) Model.

Engagement Finding

Stakeholders expressed that neighborhood associations need more City resources so that they have the training, tools, and knowledge they need to lead their associations effectively.

Stakeholders indicated that community members often struggle to navigate various City services and get their issues resolved in a timely manner.

Stakeholders cited that neighborhood associations lack avenues to connect with other associations. When opportunities to connect are created, neighborhood association leaders benefit greatly from shared knowledge and resources.

Stakeholders expressed that neighborhood associations lack formalized venues for information-sharing and feedback. Additionally, individuals expressed concern that they rarely hear back or receive follow-up when they do engage with the City.

Stakeholders expressed that the mandate of the former Commission was confusing but felt that there should still be a forum or channel through which community perspectives can be elevated on key issues.







Model Themes



Capacity Building

Providing support to enable all neighborhoods to create self-sufficient Associations (e.g., grants support, administrative support, leadership training).

Issue Support

Providing information and resources to enable neighborhood associations to navigate City services (e.g., ad hoc training on how to report graffiti).

Connectivity

Connecting neighborhood associations to one another to build community, learn from one another, and strengthen self-sufficiency (e.g., mentorship).

Two-Way Communication

Ġì Providing information to and soliciting information from neighborhood associations so they are well-informed, and the City understands needs.

Advising

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Facilitating processes for neighborhood associations to make recommendations to City leadership on decisions (e.g., services, processes).





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Next Steps for Implementation

- Move forward a budget proposal for FY 2024-2025
- Launch the Neighborhood Association Forum at the fall 2024 Neighborhoods Conference
- Assess expansion of the model to a neighborhood services strategy to reach neighborhoods more broadly, including those that do not have robust associations
- Evaluate the outcomes of the model for needed changes or scaling in the future

Recommendation

a) Accept the status report on the Neighborhood Association Engagement Model;

b) Approve the direction to pursue a budget proposal for resources needed to implement the foundational Neighborhood Association Engagement Model.

c) Direct the City Manager or her designee to sunset the Neighborhoods Commission; and

d) Cross-reference this action to the April 30, 2024, City Council meeting.

Expected Outcomes

- Capacity Building: Leading to an improved ability for community leaders to champion their associations effectively and sustainably.
- Issue Support: Leading to more effective customer service for accessing and navigating City services and solving real-time issues.
- Connectivity: Leading to deeper sense of community purpose and belonging between neighbors and neighborhoods.

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