

Youth Community Constituent Meeting

Public Involvement Task Force

June 11, 2003, City Hall, Lovejoy Room

MEETING NOTES

Attendees: Taylor White (Urban Hope International), Miranda Luna (Urban Hope International), Angelina Ariola (Urban Hope International), Ken Ray (Multnomah Co. Citizen Involvement Committee), Rion Lyle, Sebastian Wetzel (New Progressive Network), Tyler Rudisel (Urban Hope International), Jan Anderson (OTCT N.A. and Humboldt), Jake Oken-Berg, Justin Gottlieb, Caitlin Baggott (New Progressive Network), Anne Martens (New Progressive Network), Michelle Uchiyama (Urban Hope International), Matthew Criss (Urban Hope International), Miyaka Taylor (Urban Hope Project), Gloria Pinzon (Urban Hope Project), Khalid Galant (Clackamas Parks and Recreation), Heather Kmetz (West Moreland), Melanie Davis (El Hispanic News), Marti Frank (Portland Energy Conservation, Inc. (PECI))

Facilitator: Jake Oken-Berg

Note Taker: Brian Hoop

Host: City Club, New Leaders Group

Summary of brainstorm ideas

Comments are organized into categories of themes that mirror the workgroup topics the Public Involvement Taskforce will be working on.

Process note: Listings are not in order of priority.

Process design and implementation:

- Require youth involvement in project planning.
- Requiring youth on task forces and boards (under 25). And not just straight A students.
- Make sure major projects have outreach that is targeted and culturally appropriate to youth.
- Remember youth as a stakeholder category when developing outreach strategy.
- Use forums that allow for two-way dialogue since youth want to be able to voice their opinion.
- Provide lots of maps and graphics at open houses.

Diverse and accessible public involvement strategies:

- Take city council meetings out of downtown and into neighborhoods and schools.

- ❑ Practice more tolerance of youth by Councilors. Limit stereotyping.
- ❑ Provide events where people come together in informal/casual format.
- ❑ Public meetings notices in ethnic newspapers. Mainstream newspapers don't reach people of color.
- ❑ Organize big events where lots of people can participate. Youth like to be with groups of other youth.

Accountability & transparency of process:

- ❑ Better information to citizens (e.g. the school cuts). Need to explain how decisions will affect peoples' lives, information may be too boring by itself.
- ❑ Need to have quantifiable, objective benchmarks to know which bureaus doing good job at public involvement.
- ❑ Follow-through to know how feedback was implemented.
- ❑ Having adequate opportunities for public involvement, but know losing side can't automatically complain it was a bad process.
- ❑ Have Councilors required to say why they voted a certain way.

Education and skills training for staff and public:

- ❑ Build coalitions between cities and schools to help students know how decisions are made.
- ❑ Training with youth on how to get political. Educating young people will help balance between radical and responsible input.
- ❑ Provide speakers in schools on how city government works and how to get involved.
- ❑ Have elected officials go to civics/government classes.
- ❑ Inspiring students to get involved will inspire parents to get involved with neighborhood associations and City issues.

Communication and access to information:

- ❑ Comprehensive web sites, getting peoples' opinions through online polling.
- ❑ Provide voting kiosks in malls and other high traffic areas.
- ❑ Advertise events/meetings through fliers handed out by students at school.
- ❑ Door to door outreach best. One on one communication is always best.
- ❑ Get news items out using multimedia strategies, TV, radio, web, banner-ads.
- ❑ Utilize phone calls and emailing to reach young people who may not read junk mail or move too often to have stable mailing addresses.
- ❑ Utilize cable access.
- ❑ Web forwarding from easy to remember website.
- ❑ Encourage people who cannot afford internet access to go to library for free access.

Other comments:

- ❑ Research Aspen Institute – research on measurement tools.

BRAINSTORM: GOOD EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- ❑ Notification of road closings. Tyson Creek example.
- ❑ Far in advance.
- ❑ BES – Big Pipe – Changed mind on locating pipe based on Neighborhood Association (Old Town/Skidmore).
- ❑ Schools – People coming together for tax measure. People going door to door, voter registration.
- ❑ Notification by mail of decisions to have hearings.
- ❑ Neighborhood Association Involvement.
- ❑ Organizing to help save Portland sports.
- ❑ Outdoor school as well.
- ❑ Door-to-door efforts for school support.
- ❑ Assembly with speaker.
- ❑ Speaker came to choir.
- ❑ Personal interaction.
- ❑ Groups engaging with the city.
- ❑ Urban Hope: Youth coalition, drug and alcohol free – music project and program to build entrepreneur/business skills.

BRAINSTORM: BAD EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- ❑ Less money for schools.
- ❑ Holding meeting/activities during school/work hours. Council meets during work hours.
- ❑ Police going through red lights. Called police and received a “stealth mode” explanation (for running reds). Bad manners over the phone when called to complain about safety concerns.
- ❑ Debate in city hall controlled by minority with access to money, city council only meets during the day.
- ❑ Distinction between involvement and involvement and not winning the argument.
- ❑ City Council not listening to those (citizens) who testify – “pre-made” decisions.