

IDEA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 18, 2024



Present: BJ Park, Chris Paul, Destini Barajas, Erinn Stimson, Gerry Preston, Rebekah Morgan, Winnie Lo (virtual), Councilor Christen Sacco

Absent: Angelica Butler, Jasmine Wilder, Kolini Fusitua, Valerie Holt

Public: None

Staff: Jerianne Thompson, Library Director
Betsy Rodriguez Ruef, Community Engagement Coordinator
Megan George, Deputy City Manager

Consultant: Amber Coleman and Matt Jones of Paradigm Public Affairs

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chris Paul called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Chris also welcomed the committee and reviewed the agenda.

Concerning the community agreement, Jerianne Thompson mentioned that following the March committee meeting, staff suggested simplifying the wording of 10th agreement while keeping the same meaning, by rephrasing 'Strive for unity, not unanimity.' to 'Strive for understanding, not complete agreement.' The adjustment was adopted with no objection.

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

BJ Park called for any corrections to the meeting minutes. Destini Barajas moved to accept the minutes. Erinn Stimson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. Co-Chairs: Chris Paul reminded the committee that the youth position is still open and in recruitment. If any committee members know of anyone who might be interested in applying, please connect with Jerianne or Betsy Rodriguez Ruef.

2. Council Liaison: Councilor Christen Sacco shared two updates. First, one of the City's grant recipient, Neighbors Nourishing Communities, came to the last Council meeting. Their mission is to provide fresh, locally grown produce to residents that lack access due to their economic circumstances. They provide free plants, seeds, and education to support home gardeners.

Home gardeners donate at least 20% of their produce back to Neighbors Nourishing Communities while low-income participants can keep 100% of their produce. They have donated over 30,000 pounds of fresh organic produce since 2014. More information available at <https://neighborsnc.org>.

Second, Tualatin's Pride Stride celebration will be held on June 22, 2024. Anyone interested in helping plan the event, or in getting involved in any capacity, should connect with Councilor Sacco.

3. Staff: Jerianne shared the locations of upcoming meetings. She asked if the committee would be ok with meeting at Juanita Pohl Center, as the New Horizons Big Band will be practicing in the dining room while the Committee meets in the classroom. The Committee agree to give it a try. The next meeting will be held at Tualatin Heritage Center.

As discussed in the initial meeting, some meeting locations are not accessible by public transit, and it may be a concern for some Committee members. Chris volunteered to offer help with transportation. Jerianne also updated that the Staff are working on getting an account set up with Uber or Lyft, so to provide that as an option in the future at some point.

Betsy welcomed Winnie Lo as she will be attending meetings virtually for a while. Then, Betsy updated on the City's meeting with Las Casitas community as mentioned in last Committee meeting. It went very well. There was a translator to ensure language was not an issue. Attendees shared with the Chief on the community's need, and there are ongoing follow up actions between them. Over the last two weeks, Betsy participated in two community events to network and promote student volunteering.

4 Public: None.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community Survey: Megan George, Deputy City Manager, introduced her job duties and made a presentation on the 2023 Tualatin Community Survey results. It is the fifth survey since 2010, a survey on the livability of Tualatin. This survey is limited to adults (age 18 or older) residing in Tualatin. Megan explained the method of survey sampling and that everybody in the community was able to participate in the survey through an open participation link. To ensure that the results were representative of the Tualatin community, demographic targets were set, determined by the 2020 Census and 2022 American Community Survey estimates. The results are weighted by a variety of factors, including age, race, Hispanic origin, housing type, housing tenure and area. Full report and a 2-page summary are available for download on the City's website.

Regarding the quality of life in Tualatin, in the last 13 years, it is agreed by most respondents that the quality of life in Tualatin is high. There is one interesting observation: 92% of respondents rated Tualatin as an

excellent/good place to raise children, but only 62% indicated it as an excellent/good for retirement. There is a huge difference between responses on these two statements but the numbers are similar to the national benchmark, i.e. within $\pm 10\%$ of difference.

Megan mentioned that the scores on trust in Tualatin government, overall customer service by Tualatin government employees, overall quality of utility infrastructure, and inclusivity ratings are high. Concerning inclusivity ratings, Megan pointed out that there is a 10% increase in the rating on 'Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds' from 61% in 2020 to 71% in 2023. Meanwhile, the rating on 'Residents' connection and engagement to their community' decreases from 62% in 2020 to 52% in 2023. More data is required to show whether it is a trend.

There were also various aspects receiving relatively low ratings. Similar to residents in cities across the nation, Tualatin residents are concerned about both residential growth and commercial growth. Residents also perceive Tualatin to be less affordable than it used to be. Megan also responded to a few questions from the Committee about utilities, the survey, and community demographics.

2. Committee Vision & Mission Statement:

Matt Jones led the discussion on developing a mission statement for the committee. Members discussed wording choices, the definition of community, the importance of keeping it simple (easy to communicate and understand), and keeping it broad and classic (the scene is ever-changing, and maybe the composition of the committee as well). The current draft statement: We engage with the community by promoting inclusion, celebrating diversity, pursuing equity, and championing access.

The committee then discussed potential wording to include in a vision statement. The discussion on mission statement, vision statement, and values will be continued in a future meeting.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Next meeting date April 15, location: Heritage Center**
- 2. Vision Statement, Values Alignment**
- 3. Learning about City services / priorities**

F. COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gerry Preston shared a library joke. Jerianne shared that in the recent library user survey, library's customer service rating is 4.6 out of 5 stars.

Chris shared that his church is LGBT-affirming and everybody is invited to attend and celebrate Easter.

G. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

_____, Winnie Lo, Recording Secretary