

Cully Community-Led Development District

Community Engagement Report: 2022 Meetings #3, March/April

Topic: Governance

Eight groups convened, 59 total participants

- American Indian/Alaska Native community, 12 participants - NAYA
- Black community, 8 participants - Living Cully
- Houseless community, 2 participants - Living Cully
- Latinx community, 9 participants - Verde
- Low-income homeowners, 8 participants - Habitat for Humanity Portland Region
- Mobile home park residents, 10 participants - Living Cully
- Small business community, 7 participants - Our 42nd Avenue and Cully Boulevard Alliance
- Somali community, 3 participants - Hacienda

Themes and priorities from each group

American Indian/Alaska Native Community

- Representation: The focus group wanted the BIPOC community represented, and a strong indigenous committee member who is personally invested in the community, willing to learn, and a good communicator.
- Time on Committee: 2-3 year terms were suggested for committee members, with staggered starts to help onboard new people.
- Advisory Positions: There was agreement that there should be advisory positions, but the group wanted to be mindful of what organizations/entities hold those positions.
- Community Involvement: There was a good discussion about intergenerational wealth building. Youth should be involved in the process and they should have a voice. The community in general should be involved/networked and have a voice.
- Support, compensation and resources: Compensation for committee members is important. Training should be provided and compensated as well. The needs of committee members can be met in other ways other than a stipend (transportation and groceries, for example) for folks who are on social security or can't go over an income threshold.

Black Community

- Representation: Community members wanted to ensure the size of the committee represented most identities, demographics, and affinity groups. There should be intersectionality with representatives.
- Time on Committee: 2 - 3 years was the general consensus for time to be served. Most agreed that serving time should be staggered to avoid disruptions and confusion in the committee's process.
- Advisory Positions: Responses to this question were varied. Some community members expressed a desire to have accomplices with the City or other groups/organizations who

may not live in the community (specifically accomplices, not just allies). Others wanted advisors to have lived experience in the Cully community if possible.

- Community Involvement: Surveys, emails and letters were suggested as communication methods to the community. Community members wanted to have follow up on what is needed for the community and accountability to represent community interests, not personal interests
- Support, compensation and resources: Suggestions for support included training to help people understand how systems and biases work, a knowledge base to help make informed decisions, technical expertise, orientation/peer support for new committee members, and wifi/communication devices.

Houseless Community

- Representation: The ideal candidate to represent their population would know everyone and be able to articulate the community's needs. The example given was of someone with a lot of junk - this meant they talked/traded with a lot of people and were trusted.
- Time on Committee: Community members supported 1 year terms specifically for houseless folks, due to the likelihood that they might get swept, housed or otherwise not be able to represent the houseless community.
- Advisory Positions: Interviewees strongly supported the idea of governmental and/or nonprofit entities providing expertise to the committee.
- Community Involvement: They wanted to stay informed on TIF project progress even if not directly involved. Due to access limitations, they thought news being posted at a bulletin board or by email were the best solutions.
- Support, compensation and resources: Interviewees suggested nontraditional forms of compensation for any houseless committee members, such as bulk orders of useful items like 70% isopropyl alcohol that could be shared or bartered with others. Other suggested material compensation included tents, blankets, shoes and water-resistant jackets.

Latinx Community

- Representation: The ideal candidate would be humble and able to help the community. They would be latinx, and at least bilingual (speaking Spanish, English and other languages like the Somali community).
- Time on Committee: Community members suggested a year as the ideal amount of time to be on the committee. It was also proposed that members take a questionnaire/survey somewhere between 1 - 3 months to prove their competence.
- Advisory Positions: The group supported advisory roles from nonprofits, as organizational and technical support to the committee would be beneficial.
- Community Involvement: Community members should be invited to a meeting (or meetings) to be briefed on a project and provide feedback before any major decision.
- Support, compensation and resources: Compensation, training, interpretation and avenues to get to know the greater community were all mentioned as resources that should all be made available to committee members.

Low-Income Homeowners

- Representation: Low-Income Homeowners wanted representation to be diverse as possible, including cultural backgrounds, race and age.
- Time on Committee: The group believed committee membership should be 2 - 3 years, with the potential of adding additional time or being able to return to the committee later.
- Advisory Positions: The group emphatically supported the inclusion of advisors from nonprofits and government agencies.
- Community Involvement: Those surveyed wanted to be able to see meeting agendas and minutes, and have some venue for providing feedback, such as a returnable comment card or online portal. They also expressed the desire to attend committee meetings or public forums.
- Support, compensation and resources: Training, technical assistance, monetary compensation and guaranteed childcare were all noted as incentives for committee participation.

Mobile Home Park Residents

- Representation: Their ideal candidate would be an individual who is close to the community, knows their needs and listens to them. They would need to be a strong advocate with a good reputation. It was suggested that they would need to be nominated, not self-selected. The process was likened to picking a judge for the community. The committee itself should represent all groups, including local business owners, houseless folks and members of the disabled community.
- Time on Committee: Responses were varied, with some suggesting 2 years and others suggesting 3 - 5 years. 2 years with the option to renew was also suggested. There should be a process to remove members who are not acting in the community's best interests.
- Advisory Positions: The group was supportive of assistance, noting that the community should be able to know that TIF money is being spent correctly. TIF spending should be audited by experts. A trusted community representative should hold folks accountable and ensure goals are met. Important characteristics of the role would include strong advocacy knowledge, institutional and structural power, and the ability to get government officials to listen.
- Community Involvement: The community should be involved in the process before decision points. Community members should be able to attend and listen like at the County, with designated space for public comment. Email and text updates would also keep the community updated.
- Support, compensation and resources: The focus group were not necessarily interested in financial compensation, but wanted to see the benefits of TIF and experience housing stability. Training and technological support, such as smartphones and laptops, would be appreciated.

Small Business Community

- Representation: Small Business owners believe committee members should live, work, or have strong connections to Cully. They want diverse ages, genders, race, and

housing statuses to be represented, including potentially displaced residents with long term roots looking to return to the area.

- Time on Committee: A 2 year term was suggested to be a good commitment that is long enough to be effective but not burdensome. 5 years was said to be ideal, as it would align with action planning.
- Advisory Positions: The group liked the idea of finding outside expertise when local residents may not have said knowledge. A potential ombudsman or moderator to ensure limited community stress was proposed. A need for equal access/communication allowing the neighborhood to provide feedback prior to decision making was identified, such as quarterly town hall meetings.
- Community Involvement: Action plans should be based on community feedback.
- Support, compensation and resources: Support should include communication tools to ensure timely decision making, and “not be bogged down”. Reimbursement for their time might draw in community members who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Somali Community

- Representation: The focus group wanted the committee to have representatives from each specific community. Each should know how to deliver messages to their community and incorporate the feedback they receive into their decision making.
- Time on Committee: 2-3 years was suggested as a happy medium, so that no one committee member overstays their welcome and new representatives can join with relative ease. The need for a process to remove committee members who aren't serving their communities well was also stated.
- Advisory Positions: The support of nonprofit and governmental advisors was welcome. It was also suggested there be an advisory group that evaluated the community leaders and assessed their work.
- Community Involvement: The need for community feedback and buy-in was stressed, with communication through forums, emails or texts.
- Support, compensation and resources: Training, whether at the start of the committee or continuing through the duration of a term, was considered important to a committee member's ability to represent their community.

Community input on the Community Leadership Committee – drawing on input from 8 constituencies

Representation

Common themes and priorities: Groups surveyed wanted their own interests to be represented, but wanted to make sure that all underrepresented communities had a seat at the table.

“It's important to remember that the folks we want to have on the committee are most likely the ones that have the greatest barriers to serving.” *Black Community Member*

“It's hard [to get houseless folks to volunteer for the committee] because they're doing what they can to survive.” *Houseless Community Member*

“Many don’t know our lives/needs, as we don’t know theirs. [We need] folks in mobile homes, renters, and by race and ethnicity.” *Mobile Home Park Resident*

Time on committee

Common themes and priorities: Answers to the ideal time served on the Community Leadership Committee ran the gamut from 1 year to 5 years. Most were comfortable with 2 to 3 years with a staggered service approach.

Advisory Positions

Common themes and priorities: Additional expertise from nonprofits and government agencies was overwhelmingly supported.

Community involvement

Common themes and priorities: All groups surveyed wanted community members to have the opportunity to influence the committee’s decision-making process.

Support, compensation and resources

Common themes and priorities: Support envisioned by focus groups varied somewhat, ranging from material goods and gift cards, to technical support and training. The throughline was that committee members should be incentivized for their involvement.