

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
SISTERS CITY COUNCIL
520 E. CASCADE AVENUE
MARCH 10, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Frye Mayor
Nancy Connolly Council President
Amy Burgstahler Councilor
Andrea Blum Councilor

STAFF PRESENT:

Paul Bertagna PW Director
Patrick Davenport CD Director
Joe O'Neill Finance Officer
Kathy Nelson City Recorder

ABSENT:

David Asson Councilor

ABSENT:

Andrew Gorayeb City Manager

GUESTS:

Roque Barrios Ford Family Foundation Director
Carrie Thompson Ford Family Foundation Board Member
Jeff Campbell Board Chair Sisters Park and Recreation District
Sharlene Weed Executive Director Habitat for Humanity
Steve McGhehey Sisters Developer

The workshop was called to order by Mayor Frye at 6:02 p.m.

1. Ford Family Foundation "Listen and Learn" Discussion

Director of the Institute of Community Building for the Ford Family Foundation Roque Barrios introduced himself and Foundation Board Member Carrie Thompson. He explained that for the past 13 years the foundation had provided leadership development in over 80 hubs and provided leadership development to over 6,000 individuals. He stated that program had been successfully completed and the foundation was transitioning into community development. He reported foundations members were revisiting all the community where the leadership development had occurred. He explained community based change was based on the principles of having the residents lead the process, starting where the community was since communities were in various stages of development, using what the community had, promoting inclusivity in order to get participation from the unheard voices and hard to reach and to have it all centered around the community. He stated the foundation was interested in seeing where it might be supportive and see what role it might have. He stated he was in Sisters to meet with a variety of groups and organizations to hear what they have to say.

Mayor Frye asked if the foundation was focused on any particular aspect of community needs. **Mr. Barrios** explained the foundations used the *Vital Rule Communities* principle as it was known that community building and economic development went hand in hand. **Ms. Thompson** stated successful citizenry was also focused on early childhood and youth development and the approach in working with communities was more holistic then in the past. **Mr. Barrios** stated the foundation listens, designs and then implements a project

Councilor Burgstahler asked if Mr. Barrios and Ms. Thompson had any impressions of Sisters. **Mr. Barrios** replied he enjoyed the diversity of people as he had met with business owners, people from the arts community and public agencies and boards. **Councilor Burgstahler** asked what “listen and learn” would look like. **Mr. Barrios** replied it looked different depending on the project. He stated it was purposefully flexible with were no firm timelines that needed to be followed. He commented projects were most often related to economic development, but the foundation would support any project to the levels of its ability. **Councilor Burgstahler** asked how Sisters should come together as a community. **Mr. Barrios** stated typically a collaborative group comes together as a result of the process. He provided examples of projects from other communities.

Councilor Burgstahler asked how events were promoted and Mr. Barrios replied there was a concerted effort to reach the unheard voices and hard to reach. He stated this was accomplished by looking for strategies to engage these people. **Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Sharlene Weed** stated it was important to share goals, challenges, opportunities and obstacles in order to move any project forward. The **Council** agreed it was difficult to engage citizens prior to decisions being made and were looking for methods to do so citing the creation of an upcoming City newsletter as one means to promote communication. **Mayor Frye** explained the community had gone through a lengthy process to identify some potential community asset projects the citizens would support, had identified two potential ideas and were now trying to move those projects forward to determine feasibility. He stated the city also had challenges related to affordable housing and economic development.

Local developer **Steve McGhehey** asked if the foundation ever participated in public/private joint ventures and **Mr. Barrios** replied he had with a previous foundation but not with Ford Family Foundation. He stated it had been quite successful and was certainly something to consider.

Mayor Frye thanked Mr. Barrios and Ms. Thompson for attending.

2. Other Business

Speak Your Peace Tenents

Sisters Park and Recreation District (SPRD) Board Chair Jeff Campbell stated he was in attendance at the request of Councilor Burgstahler to tell the Council how SPRD had gone about incorporating the tenents of Speak Your Peace (SYP) into its board operations, procedure training and orientation processes. He stated the values of SYP had been widely embraced by the board. He reported that at the beginning of each meeting, he reminded everyone of the principles and requested they take time to reflect on their meaning. He stated the SPRD Board discussed what each of the nine principles meant to them as a group and included that language with each principle. He recommended the Council also take that approach if they chose to incorporate the tenents into a document. **Mayor Frye** stated he felt the principles could easily dovetail into the Council Rules and Orientation Procedures for Council members. **Councilor Burgstahler** reported several local boards and agencies that had also incorporated the principles into their

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proceedings and in some cases had added a tenth tenet that was specific to their organization. She provided the example of the Folk Festival that chose the tenet “*let it go*” as its tenth principle.

Mr. Campbell stated the SPRD Board unanimously accepted the principles and reported the local Citizens4Community committee had created a packet for agencies on how to implement SYP and incorporate its tenets into an organization. He noted individual buy-in from board members and employees was necessary to be successful.

Agenda Calendar

The **Council** discussed their agenda calendar and informed staff of their priorities.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.


Kathy Nelson, City Recorder


Chris Frye, Mayor