

Committee for Community Involvement

OCTOBER 15, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.
Held via Zoom

CCI Attendees: Karen Bjorklund (Chair), Pat Erdenberger, Marrion Kaufman, Bill Merchant, Amy Nichols, Brent Parries (Co-Chair), Gordon Slatford

CCI Members Not Present: Danielle Weber

Attending PGA Liaison to the CCI: Tonia Holowetzki

Public Attendees: None

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome, Introductions

No new attendees: no welcome or introductions necessary.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

August 2024 minutes. Gordon Slatford motioned to approve. Amy Nichols seconded the motion. CCI members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

September 2024 minutes. The draft minutes for September are still pending. Tonia will check with Ed on their status.

3. Public Comment

No public attendance. Michael Barnes, new code enforcement supervisor, sent an email to CCI regarding concerns passed along during last meeting’s discussion with DTD leadership about code enforcement. [See next section for follow up that occurred before the October CCI meeting.]

4. Follow up on CPO issues regarding code enforcement

a. Michael Barnes outreach

Following Michael Barnes’ outreach to the Hoodland CPO and to the CCI, Chair Bjorklund and Pat Erdenberger reported that they each spoke with Michael and discussed CCI’s role with CPOs.

Michael Barnes discussed issues he may be able to address at his level as supervisor. Possibilities include:

- Adjusting the five code enforcement district boundaries so that all of each CPO or Hamlet is within the same code enforcement district – currently some code enforcement boundaries go through the middle of CPOs, meaning those CPOs need to deal with a code enforcement specialist for each code enforcement district. His goal is to have each CPO only need to work with one code enforcement specialist.
- Building relationships between each code enforcement specialist and their respective CPOs, and potentially helping CPOs become the primary channel through which code enforcement

issues could funnel. This may help facilitate the ability to better manage confidential or potentially dangerous situations and track the complaints submitted. In addition, code enforcement specialists could relay all information to the CPO which could then provide it to concerned community members – there are currently not enough code enforcement specialists to follow up with every individual who makes a complaint.

- Initially communicating with leaders from each CPO to learn and better understand their unique code enforcement issues.

Michael will present these ideas to DTD leadership to ensure his actions are within his purview.

Marrion Kaufman noted that Metro already has a system in place that tracks complaints submitted. She also mentioned DTD already has a similar system in place for tracking permits. Perhaps this same system can be used for tracking complaints submitted.

b. Comments on anonymous complaints

CCI members discussed the requirement for complainants to provide their name in lieu of remaining anonymous when submitting a code violation. Code enforcement does not act on an anonymous complaint but will do so on a confidential complaint (name submitted but held in confidence). Members suggested the reason for this might be to minimize malicious and frivolous complaints, and to discourage code enforcement from being used as a weapon among neighbors.

c. Discussion of conversation with Department of Transportation at September meeting

Members agreed they expected a different outcome from the conversation with DTD, especially since CCI came from a position of assistance to and partnership with code enforcement. Members also agreed CCI did make progress because of the conversation, DTD Director Dan Johnson’s invitation to provide specific examples of code enforcement issues, and the code enforcement supervisor follow up; and should continue to leverage the gained momentum.

Members offered various ideas on how to support the code enforcement supervisor’s intention to contact individual CPOs. Ideas included having CCI members who are also in CPO leadership positions facilitate CPO contact with Michael Barnes to help set up initial meetings to get CPO contacts started.

Ideas for higher-level action included:

- Bringing recommendations to the BCC on proposed action steps to take, being mindful of the appropriate time to deliver this information to the BCC.
- Submitting a report to the BCC early next year and incorporate this information into that report.

d. Next steps

- To support code enforcement supervisor contacts with CPOs, CCI members in CPO leadership positions will talk to their Boards about facilitating CPO contact with him to help set up initial meetings, and provide any feedback that would be helpful for future meetings.
- Put this topic on the agenda for the next CCI meeting to discuss higher-level action steps.

5. Develop list of underlying issues common to top four CPO concerns to go with report of feedback from CPO listening session and survey

CCI discussed the list of possible underlying issues and Chair Bjorklund identified three themes in members' comments:

1. Lack of two-way communication. Currently one-way communication from BCC to CPOs.
2. Lack of meaningful relationships between the county and CPOs.
3. CPOs not being or feeling heard. One reason brought up for that was many of their comments had to do with community livability, an element often crucial to communities which is not recognized or defined in the zoning ordinance, so is ignored by county staff, hearings officers and commissioners. Chair Bjorklund said the CCI could talk at a later meeting about other reasons CPOs are not being heard.

Chair Bjorklund also asked Tonia Holowetzki what would help her in carrying forward a CCI report with CPO feedback. Tonia said State Goal 1 is an important tool for the CCI, and something to which the BCC needs to pay attention. She also suggested the CCI needs to focus on what in particular to take forward, out of all its many interests.

There was some discussion on planning for ways CCI and CPOs can work together in coordination on issues that would benefit from higher level CCI letters, reports and presentations, together with CPO relationship-building with individual commissioners and staff.

A side issue came up during the conversation regarding the public engagement framework developed by PGA. The framework was shared originally with CCI and then pulled back internally. CCI members asked if the document can be made available again. Tonia said the request will be reviewed by PGA, and a decision forthcoming soon.

6. Planning the next community leaders' meeting

CCI members discussed approaches to the next community leaders' meeting to ensure two-way communication between the commissioners and community leaders. The following different format ideas were brought up:

- Each commissioner has one minute to give prepared remarks, then it opens up to a facilitated Q&A session.
- As with a previous meeting, have five roundtables, one per commissioner, and commissioners switch tables every 15 minutes for Q&A while other participants stay seated – speed dating format (moving the few rather than the many).
- Topics assigned to each table and commissioners discuss the subject matter at their table. Participants move at intervals. Topics announced in advance of the meeting. Send a list of topics to commissioners so they can choose which ones they would like to cover.
- Each commissioner gets two minutes to talk about their interests, then they go to the tables for Q&A. Either commissioners or other participants move at intervals.
- Don't have topics but let the meeting flow based on unscripted or predetermined questions.
- Everyone sits at a table with people they don't know, with a commissioner at each table. Each participant can ask a question, but once that question has been asked, a similar

question can't be asked again so more topics get covered. Participants or commissioners move at intervals.

- After commissioners give opening 2 minute remarks, they go to tables, where they can only ask questions – the community leaders drive the topics and conversation. Participants or commissioners move at intervals.
- Provide food at the meeting.

7. Possible new business to consider for future CCI agendas

Agenda item not discussed due to time constraints.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 6 – 8 p.m. via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.