



CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: May 16, 2022		Subject: Wilsonville Framework for Inclusive Engagement	
		Staff Member: Daniel Pauly, Planning Manager	
		Department: Community Development	
Action Required		Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 st Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 nd Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	
		Comments: N/A	
Staff Recommendation: Provide requested feedback regarding draft Framework and outline of draft Barriers and Actions.			
Recommended Language for Motion: N/A			
Project / Issue Relates To:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities: Diversity, Equity + Inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Provide feedback on the draft Wilsonville Framework for Inclusive Engagement (Attachment 1) which will be an important resource for the City's future public engagement efforts. Also provide feedback on the draft outline for the associated Barriers and Actions document (Attachment 2), which looks at current barriers to participation of individuals historically underrepresented in public engagement efforts and actions to address the barriers. Feedback will be used along with input from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Planning Commission, and City staff to further refine the documents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City has long valued public input and included public engagement as a key part of its work, especially for legislative and policy items. Policy 1.1.1 of the Comprehensive Plan states “The City of Wilsonville shall provide opportunities for a wide range of public involvement in City planning programs and processes.”

Recent projects, exemplified by the Town Center Plan, have made substantial efforts to hear a wide range of voices using a variety of public engagement methods. Currently, efforts are being redoubled to make sure historically underrepresented groups have meaningful impact on City decision making. This is driven locally by Council and others, exemplified by the efforts to set up and support the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. It is also driven by requirements of grant funding agencies including Metro and the State of Oregon. Strong momentum exists to do the best ever on public engagement to understand historic inequities, address them, and remove barriers historically faced by different minority groups.

Demonstrating local and regional alignment on the issue of broader and more meaningful public engagement, the City applied for and received grant funding from Metro for Latinx-specific public engagement during the Middle Housing in Wilsonville project during 2021. The funding helped broaden the public engagement and bring a perspective from the Latinx community that influenced decisions such as how to address parking and whether to allow certain types of detached middle housing. Once the middle housing project was complete, a portion of the Metro grant funding remained, and the City desired to further develop the ideas from that project beyond Latinx engagement into a framework for broad, inclusive public engagement that could be applied by various City departments and initiatives.

The intent of this current project is to provide a strong foundation on which City public engagement efforts can be based across a variety of projects to substantially increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in decisions by bringing meaningful engagement to all members of the community, particularly members of the community historically marginalized and underrepresented in public engagement efforts.

Bill de la Cruz and Pat Noyes are providing technical assistance and support to City staff for the completion of the framework. Mr. de la Cruz has worked with the City and the school district on DEI efforts over the last year plus, including facilitating much of the work of the City’s DEI Committee. Mr. de la Cruz is joined by Ms. Noyes who has extensive public engagement experience on a variety of public projects.

Since beginning work in February, Mr. de la Cruz and Ms. Noyes reviewed the City’s past public engagement efforts including the Town Center and Middle Housing projects, coordinated with and advised the team working on Frog Pond East and South public engagement, and drafted the attached drafts of a Framework for Inclusive Engagement (Attachment 1) and a document discussing barriers to involvement paired with actions to address them (Attachment 2).

The Framework document (Attachment 1) intends to provide resources, steps, and questions to consider to answer how to do improved public engagement. The Barriers and Actions document (Attachment 2) intends to raise awareness of prior or existing barriers to involvement of underrepresented groups and offer specific actions the City can take to remove or minimize those barriers. With awareness of the barriers, the City can more readily identify where they exist and have clear actions to address.

The attached are early drafts of the documents. In addition to the City Council discussion, the public engagement consultant team gathered input from the DEI committee on May 10 and Planning Commission on May 11. Following the feedback period, the project team will pilot a number of the framework principles in the Frog Pond East and South public engagement efforts. After which, a refined version of the framework as well as the Barriers and Actions document will come back to City Council and others for a report out and to gather final input. Future projects are then anticipated to reference these documents to plan and conduct public engagement.

Discussion Questions:

Framework for Inclusive Engagement (Attachment 1):

1. Is there any portion of the framework you feel is incorrect or missing?
2. What specific aspects of the framework could use further detail, guidance, and/or clarification?

Barriers and Actions (Attachment 2):

1. Are there any other barriers you would suggest adding to the Barriers and Actions outline?
2. What additional ideas might you have to address listed barriers?

EXPECTED RESULTS:

Feedback from the City Council to improve future drafts of the Wilsonville Framework for Inclusive Engagement and the Barriers and Actions document.

TIMELINE:

The project is scheduled to conclude by the end of June.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

The total consultant contract for the work is \$28,800. The majority of the cost, approximately \$27,000 is funded through a Metro grant, with the remainder funded by Planning Division professional services budget.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

The intent of the work is to improve the community involvement process. The project team plans interviews with select participants in prior and current public engagement efforts to gain their insights.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

A strong foundation on which City public engagement efforts can be based across a variety of projects to substantially increase diversity, equity and inclusion in decisions by bringing meaningful engagement to all members of the community, particularly members of the community historically underrepresented in public engagement efforts. This work can help the City further its values of equity and inclusion through the reversal and establishment of policies and programs that enable, support, and celebrate diversity.

ALTERNATIVES:

At this early point in the project, the City Council may provide a range of suggestions and alternatives to the project team to consider.

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Wilsonville Framework for Inclusive Engagement Draft (dated April 28, 2022)
2. Draft Outline for Inclusive Public Engagement: Barriers and Actions memo (dated April 22, 2022)