

Citizen Forum on Public Information and Community Engagement

Forum #1

Salida SteamPlant Annex

August 28, 2014, 6:00-7:30pm

NOTES

1. Welcome

a. Introductions

Forum participants present:

- 1) Cynda Green
- 2) Mary Hay
- 3) Gayle Davis
- 4) Dan Smith
- 5) Mike Rosso
- 6) Holly Russel
- 7) Sandy Farrell
- 8) Lezlie Burkley
- 9) Tom DeYoung
- 10) Lee Hart
- 11) Monika Griesenbeck
- 12) Forrest Whitman
- 13) Lisa Marvel
- 14) Forum facilitator Jere Thomas
- 15) City of Salida staff: Emily Katsimpalis, Special Projects Coordinator
- 16) and Christian Samora, Deputy City Clerk & PIO

b. Overview of forums

i. Outcomes

Gayle Davis mentioned goals and defining those.

Monika Griesenbeck asked for clarification on what the problem is and why this group was called together.

Jere said that this is a dialogue between the citizens and the city—talked about community engagement.

Discussion of what the Forum's responsibility and role will be followed.

Lezlie mentioned the possibility of doing a community assessment in the future.

Forum issues that will be addressed:

Problem identification and solution identification

PR/Communication

Community Engagement

Lee Hart said there is a sentiment out there that the decisions that are made by the City are made in the correct format –are they being made in secret? In private?

There is a lack of trust in communication and how decisions are made— Mary Hay echoed this sentiment.

ii. Agendas

2. Working together as a citizen group

a. Group agreements

b. Decision-making process

-Group agreed to treating each other with respect during the four meetings. Full group agreements and a decision-making process will be addressed as the first items at the next meeting.

3. Current situation

a. City's current communication outlets and efforts

b. What is and isn't working

Elements of good communication—group came up with the below list:

-Understanding citizen needs/expectations

-Honesty/Integrity

-Public Engagement

-Frequency

-Audience

-Timeliness

-Listening pathways

-Coordination of messaging

-Content Strategy

-Redundancy

After this list was created the group was asked to pick three positives and three negatives (three things the City is doing well and three things not doing well):

The top 5 negatives (which the group will address in future meetings)

-Understanding citizen needs/expectations

-Citizen/stakeholder input process + resulting actions

-Public/community engagement -Public/community engagement ***Public/Community engagement will serve as the overarching issue for the other four**

-Coordination of messaging

-Listening pathways (how the City is able to listen and hear issues and concerns of citizens)

Things the City is doing well:

-Frequency

-Timeliness

-Content

There was a mention that maybe there is too much info—information overload coming from the City? And a comment that more is not always better

4. Wrap Up

a. Confirm meeting dates

-Forum in agreement that staff will take notes/minutes for the four meetings and these will be presented to the Forum before the following meeting

-Dates for upcoming meetings: September 11, September 25 and October 9 –all from 6-7:30pm at the SteamPlant Annex. All meetings are open to the public.

b. Final thoughts