

Westminster Inclusivity Board

6:00-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Hybrid Meeting

MISSION: The mission of the Inclusivity Board is to work with City Council to advocate for all voices within our community and to ensure everyone is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

VISION: The Inclusivity Board envisions a diverse community where everyone understands the city belongs to them and their participation matters.

Meeting Minutes 09Apr2025

- **Welcome** (5 Minutes)
- **Members Present:** Rich Chamberlain, Steve Brachman, Miguel, Donna Johnson, Jillian Hodge and Councilor Amber Hott
- **Staff:** Amy Rodda and Kate Skarbek

- **Review and Approve Minutes** – see attached
 - Donna moved, Jillian seconded, motion passed.

- **City Council Report** (10 Minutes)
 - Councillor Amber Hott: Chamber of Commerce would like more events downtown to draw business, etc. Concerts, family friendly Sundays. Funds were reinvested in the amount of \$300,000 for nearly every weekend for one year. Most revenue comes from sales tax therefore it is expected to be a good investment. Funds were allocated for new fire station to be built up north and the other 2 stations need to be updated to accommodate larger vehicles. Funds must be used by 2028. Discussion of ballot measures following Budget Town Hall including marijuana excise tax which must be very clear about where the funds would go. Could be beneficial for potential budget shortfalls. Re-examining fees was also discussed, and another smaller measure regarding fire station.
 - Steve asked about re-introducing the Ward measure with a new structure/better explanation. Councilor Hott suggested 4 wards with 2 members and the mayor at large to improve distribution while maintaining cohesiveness. Donna agrees.

- **New Business** (25 Minutes)
 - Update – City Unhoused Initiatives Program
Kate Skarbek, City of Westminster, Senior Management Analyst: See attached

Collaboration built to address homeless initiatives, over 100 agencies involved across 7 counties. MDHI and non-profits use federal pass-through or funds to support, occasionally state funds or private sector grants, NGO's, etc. Businesses and religious organizations are present to offer services. Lived-experience individuals have seats to offer perspective.

Governments can also offer housing vouchers or focus on sub-populations such as those aging out of foster care. Younger populations can be targeted for human or sex trafficking so they need particular attention and protection. Strategic Framework posted on Adams county website.

Adams County has the Pathway Programs, the Up in Adams Program, etc. Bennet, Brighton and Federal Heights are the only cities who do not have their own navigator programs. Adams County pays for hotel during severe weather using the Sever Weather Action Program. Mobile Home initiative assists in residents who are in danger of being displaced when the land beneath their home is sold.

Jefferson County focuses more on housing subsidies and imbeds their plans within their Strategic Plan. Homeless shelters aren't recognized as formal housing, it's a temporary step. Transitional housing is housing that was once funded by the federal govt but is no longer, which has not been overly successful. Permanent supportive housing is that which is nearby and accessible housing with more supportive services such as mental health or substance abuse support. Subsidies currently apply to those earning between \$60 and 100,000 in the greater Denver area.

Jefferson County has taken a multi-sector approach and Heading Home Group recently reconfigured so the group is made up of city managers and a regional homeless director who coordinates the meetings. 5 work groups and frontline staff meet monthly to discuss and work toward metrics regarding prevention and transitioning out of homelessness. Particular focus on using a 'lighter touch' earlier in the slide toward homelessness.

No data before 2023 for Westminster trends. 18% rise in homelessness

Rich asked if the trend is rising across the country but declining in Westminster does that mean we're helping our homeless or are they moving out of the city to be homeless somewhere else. Kate mentioned the programs which actually find out if the individual is being moved into permanent housing. Westminster has been building affordable housing much longer than surrounding jurisdictions. Proposition 123 fund (first to sign up for!) made funds available for homeless and affordable services.

Top 5 counties for last 10 years in evictions filing.

Private activity bonds to assist first time home buyers, funds for those from out of state who maybe need funds to return to state of origin, funds for IDs or driver license.

Elks Lodge volunteers have Wash days 2x a month for laundry mat funds.

Shelter for below 0 Westy Cold Weather Days.

Jillian asked about affordable housing definition and rent control, Rich pointed out that rent control is state managed. Kate expounded on regulations around affordable housing and Donna supported the difficulty in beating the lobbying around state-level housing initiatives.

Miguel had to leave, leaving us with no quorum so old business was skipped and meeting was adjourned.

- **Future Meeting topics**

- May 14, 2025 - John McConnell, Stephanie Troller, Andrew Spurgin to provide an update on Planning and Housing Policy and Recent Developments in Affordable Housing in the City
- June 11, 2025 - Chris Lynn - Senior Resource Center

- August 13, 2025 - Chris Chovan - Federal BRT, Mobility Programs
- Sidewalks - Plowing, Maintenance and Walkability - City Engineering - Heath Klein - Working on Date - Something similar to Pot-Hole-Palooza. Rich says it counts as 'accessibility'.
- City Language Access Plan - Final Report and Plan - Working on a Date/Presenter
- Hott: Westminster's first Pride Celebration partnered with Butterfly Pavilion in June, on a Thursday.