

# Westminster Inclusivity Board

6:00-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2024, Hybrid Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Present: Seth McGinnis, Rich Chamberlain, Justin Davis, Steve Brachman, Alan Farb, Jillian Gibson, Doug Pfeiffer, Miguel Mendoza-Hall, Michelle Zajic, Donna Johnson

Absent: Megan Peters

Staff & Guests: Kodi Blue Erb, David DeMott, Chris Lynn, Kristine Ireland, Claire Camillia

- **Guest (30 Minutes)**
  - Chris Lynn, President & CEO, Seniors Resource Center
  - Nonprofit in operation about 45 years; goal: supporting aging in place
    - Non-medical; day respite care program for alz/dementia carers, deep-cleaning for hoarding issues
    - Serving Denver metro, ~3500 clients annually
    - Provide reference to faith communities, but don't depend on them
    - Well-known to other service providers for the elderly (much info-sharing)
  - Big gap in funding
    - Services are free; funded by DRCOG, Older Americans Act - being reauthorized at 2018 levels (no inflation adjustment) - expecting ~\$1M reduction annually
    - SB-24040 - Bill requesting \$5M from state to help with funding gap didn't move forward
      - Might be possible to get city lobbying to push it forward again
  - 3 main issues: Transportation, Housing, Food
    - Recent info gathering on needs; trans & housing too big to tackle, but think they can get traction on food
    - Workign with VoA to get congregate dining sites set up for food support & community; also provide nutrition counseling
    - Gap in views on who is an older adult
      - Greatest Gen mostly gone; "junior seniors" incoming
    - SRC had a big transportation division, but it lost ~\$1M / yr
      - Transferred to Via Transportation
      - Worked well, but Via struggling due to pandemic effects
        - Wait-list closed, only providing essential (medical) transport
      - Some folks use Uber/Lyft, but many drivers not equipped for mobility-impaired riders
      - Council will be looking at providing vouchers/coupons in strategic planning. Was cut from last budget, but lots of interest
    - Rural communities facing a lot of difficulties
  - Homelessness act - recent bill providing tax breaks for donation
  - What board can do to help: encourage people to be neighborly
    - Who are the older adults in your neighborhood? Would they be comfortable asking you for help?
      - Messaging / campaign materials would be helpful
    - Support from Legacy Foundation would be great
    - More volunteering always helps
  - Rich suggests keeping community building on our agenda
  - Looking for new board members to support fresh thinking

- Coral Gables “FreeB” free electric bus program
- Needed: clearinghouse for volunteer services, both using & contributing
  - Information-gathering on landscape of service provision
- Older adult volunteers
- More 65+ than 18- in Colorado for the first time
- **Old Business (15 Minutes)**
  - [Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes](#)
  - Doug: move to amend Feb minutes to mention further discussion about Patriot Front stickering
  - Motion: Seth, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Doug, passes unopposed
  - [Naturalization Ceremony](#)
  - Libraries will find a way to continue doing it
    - Call for volunteers to help
  - [PatriotFront.us stickering](#)
  - Being monitored; so far just propoganda, no threats; nothing specific to Westminster
    - If you encounter any, let PD know
  - [Digital Access](#)
  - City has not recently looked into providing it as a utility, no county programs to partner with
  - Big 3 (T-Mo, ATT, Verizon) have presence in city
  - Google Fiber and Intrepid Fiber Networks both have signed agreements with the City to build their fiber network in the Westminster. One other fiber network has shown interest in building their fiber network in Westminster, but have not yet signed an agreement with the City. The agreements do not give the City authority to tell them where to build their network; however, the agreement does authorize the City to dictate the build area for each permit (typically one neighborhood per permit) and the communication expectations to the public prior to starting work.
  - Google and Intrepid have submitted Internet Right Of Way (IROW) Permits for their first areas to build. It is expected that construction will begin in the early-summer of this year.
  - Does Comcast/Xfinity still offer discounts?
  - Yes. <https://www.xfinity.com/learn/internet-service/internet-essentials>
  - Westy Live Better Discounts: <https://www.westminsterco.gov/Residents/AssistancePrograms/WestyLiveBetter/Discounts>
  - Look into reviewing library hours, since they provide access
    - Maybe be very difficult given short staffing
- **City Council Report (10 Minutes)**
  - [Councillor David DeMott](#)
  - Strategic planning April 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Short agenda but very long meeting on Monday (lots of community participation)
    - Lots of discussion of Rocky Mountain Greenway Trail
    - Lots of discussion about airport – Community Noise Roundtable, split vote, but any no’s means FAA won’t look into it; other local municipalities have filed lawsuit about touch-and-gos. Part 150 study will be happening, 2-3 year process
    - Wards – discussion w/ consultant about possibilities & process
    - Team-building

- **New Business**
  - Postpone next Board meeting by a week so Council strategic planning has begun?
    - Keep meeting as-is, but next meeting focus on issues for Councilor to bring up at planning meeting
  - City, North Metro Arts Alliance, & schools coming together to support arts in the spring
    - Talked about barriers in Westy (cost of living)
    - Call for participants who reflect demographics
    - If anyone wants to volunteer / join discussion, email Justin
  - What are priorities for the Board? Email Justin
  
- **Subcommittee Reports/Updates**
  - None
  
- **Community Report**
  - Native American church in SW Westy having frybread-taco fundraiser Saturday after next
  - (Uncertainty about which city facilities will be open for shelter during snowstorm)
  - Homeless navigators are handing motel vouchers out
  - Alan has encountered several asylum-seekers

Notes from Kodi: