

Summary of Post-It Notes From Warner Park TFOGS Open House

BBCs

Q1. Do the BBCs adequately represent and serve residents?

- Expectations of BCCs are not always clear and conveyed to new appointees.
- Committee vacancies are not filled in a timely manner. Applying for appointment isn't clear and easy.
- How can BCCs be more accountable?
- How can BCCs build in evaluation and effectiveness, benchmarks/reports?
- Are all the BCCs listed on the city's website with contact info, agendas, etc.?
- There seems to be a vocal majority atmosphere appointed to committees.
- It is difficult to tell how residents are recruited/chosen for BCCs.
- No, if they did, we would not have racial and economic disparities that Madison has.
- How can we limit those who already have power and encourage engagement of the disenfranchised?
- Why is there no uniformed training? No point - if there is no clear purpose, need a way to clarify.
- They do not serve us! They serve an agenda created before we can participate.
- Have a central role to help citizens to plug into the system according to their concerns, connect/include low participating districts.

Q2. Do the BCCs adequately engage residents?

- How can the city council reach out to recruit BCC members with the special skills and knowledge needed for the task?
- Consider making distance participation possible. Invite specific non-represented groups/areas to apply.
- I don't want the community "engaged." I want us to contribute to/participate in setting the AGENDA.
- No.
- Is there a list of BCCs and how one can apply somewhere? What is the time frame of commitments?
- Provide online participation.
- No, if they did adequately engage all residents, our ethnic and economic disparities would not exist.
- Allow attendance by electronic meeting service.
- Using Robert's Rules of Order which are complicated and divisive; democratic processes would improve chances of synergistic solutions and equity.
- Rules and procedures should be simple, clear and promote resident participation.
- I think very few residents are aware of the BCCS or the opportunity to serve on them.

Q3. Ideas to improve city BCCs?

- Change rules to allow for discussion without quorum (voting held later).
- Provide child care.

- You can try involving us in actually meaningful participation like participatory budgeting.
- Start over with a process to decide what BCCs we need.
- I like the idea of technology for resident engagement. It seems that locating meetings in the neighborhoods most impacted would be smart.
- The idea of splitting appointments concerns me when not all citizens have voted those other than the mayor. Appointments should reflect the vote.
- Use ad hoc committees, only if they are effective, ensure the BCC gets the visibility even if it is reduced to a subcommittee.
- Fewer alders on each committee. Offer ongoing online training for members or prospective members.
- These all sound like good ideas. Prioritize alder and citizen time (best use of).
- I like the idea of a plan to improve resident engagement; remote participation; platform for feedback.
- Split PSRC into PD (oversight) and FIRE, other public safety (lighting, pedestrian, etc.).
- At various community events (festivals, farmers markets in low participation areas) have info about the BCCs and encourage people to learn more.
- BCCs - it appears need to be reduced in number, have clear not overlapping or repetitive goals - be closed or deactivated once goals are met. Better connection to residents.
- Somehow encourage more residents to participate, reach out with advertising-discount parking?
- Reduce number. Online access.
- Each Council member has to be on at least 6 BCCs!! Why? How about more community members. Specifically recruit the type of people that could best represent those ready for specific BCCs.

Common Council

Q4. How many Council members/Districts should there be?

- Do not reduce numbers - alders need to really know their district.
- 10-12 alders. Make it full time. Less decision-makers will make it more efficient, alder staff can do day to day work.
- Do not reduce the number or the hours of our representatives. It should not be treated as a privilege or endeavor only for those who can afford to give off their time.
- Fewer Council members would force alders to serve on even more BCCs. More alders would allow more participation.
- I disagree with reducing the number of council members.
- Reducing is a terrible idea. More would be better.
- Reduction in numbers seems it could limit true representation and ability of alders to know their district concerns.
- More, not fewer. Fewer means less accountability.
- Reduce by half (too many cooks), pay full time.
- Do not reduce please. Fewer will make our alders less accessible and it will be harder for people to run without \$\$\$.

Q5. Should Council members have term limits?

- Yes, 4 terms/8years. Alders should not have lame duck issues. Could allow reentry after a term out.
- Term limits would allow more people to serve as alders. We have had very good people not being able to beat incumbents.
- Probably should consider term limits. Some alders have been on way too long and it is always hard to beat an incumbent.
- The average time currently seems reasonable to become educated about city government and how to effect change.
- I disagree with full time alders as well as term limits. The cons for term limit may outweigh the pros.

Q6. Should Council members be considered full-time or part-time?

- Part time - eliminates the need to give up a career, encourages more diverse experiences
- Can we creatively offer both?
- 1/2 to 3/4 time, compensated based on participation. Many alders, our last alder hardly ever showed up at council.
- Full time - we deserve to have people representing us without having to choose between being involved and having a paycheck.
- It is a big job for part time.
- Increasing the number of alders who all serve part time would allow more people to serve and would make it easier to get elected.
- More alders is better. Stick with part time and avoid career politicians.

Q7. Should Council members have two-year or four-year terms?

- How about 3?
- 3 or 4. 2 is too short
- 2 yr
- I support these full time benefits. The cons already exist and won't be much worse.
- How about 3 year, staggered terms?
- 2 yr will allow more to serve and will not be as much of a commitment barrier to entry. It will allow more diverse council.

Q8. Should Council members represent Districts or the City At-Large?

- Include a few at-large alders to represent specific interests: women's rights, economic equality, non-downtown interests.
- Districts are necessary! So we hear our own interests voices vs. corporate influencers.
- Based on the F35 vote I say Hell No to at-large.
- Districts must have local representation. The Mayor doesn't have this and was able to ignore North and Eastiders on the F35 vote.
- Reduce the number of districts by half (10) and add 2-4 at-large alders.

- Whatever changes that would allow people of color and less privileged residents to have real voice. If that is at large, then YES!
- Keep districts.
- Seems to me at-large is more likely to lead to influence of \$ than influence of people of color.

Q9. How should Council members get paid?

- Those serving on more BCCs or other very time consuming tasks should get paid more than those that do as much.
- Pay should be "comfy" - salary of 45,000 plus benefits for an alder working 40 hours/week. Each alder should be expected to work a minimum of 20? 30? with option to work up to 50 by choice
- Definitely add benefits that allow wider participation by variety of folks - like child care, transportation, living wage, that allow alders to do what they need to do to represent interests of the people they represent.
- It should be competitive - not just something those with means can do to have a role and a voice. Small pay leads to corruption.
- Child care and staff assistance are a good idea.

Q10. How can the Common Council improve equity and engagement?

- These are all good ideas and should happen
- Separate public testimony from legislative debate; vary meeting locations; provide child care for residents attending meetings.
- Yes to: child care; validating parking; allowing comments to be submitted by video; allow live participation by electronic means; vary meeting locations; avoid late-night meetings, reduce lengths of meetings; explain how input will be used and influence decision-making; ensure city staff has support, tools and capacity to do engagement well.
- child care; validating parking; allowing comments to be submitted by video; allow live participation by electronic means; allow public comments to be considered in advance
- Set up regular remote sites for viewing/participating in meetings like libraries, fire/PD stations
- Begin a process of public action plans to address specific occurrences of racial inequity
- These would be all great improvements
- Listen to the feedback on issues. We know what we need.
- Reduce the barriers to entry for alders and the BCCs.
- Yes to all suggestions.
- Equity considered and prioritized in all policy decisions.

Q11. Engagement and Participation: What do you think? Do you think BCCs create an effective way for residents to engage with City gov.?

- I would like to be able to vote online, with a secure system.

- City should work w/ bilingual resource specialists from MMSD to do outreach to ELL communities.
- People feel like their voices are not heard. Decisions made by people who are not impacted directly by those decisions.
- Difficult when only avenue for access to electeds is formal testimony.
- Alders should have their own offices in CCB where they can work.
- Open talk about what issues should have committees.
- Engagement requires two parties. What process does the City use to specifically address concerns of low-income minority people?
- City officials should be more available by phone or in person.
- Sure looks like heavy representation of near-westiders.
- No! They aren't same people appointed always.
- There needs to be conversational sharing to develop agendas "committees of the whole type".

Q12. Representation: What do you think? How would you like to be represented?

- Create an Ombudsman Office with Common Council so alders can focus on legislation and policy.
- I would like the district needs of my district respected.