

Summary of Post-it Notes from August 28, 2019 Open House

BBCs

Q1. Ideas to improve City BCCs?

- Establish a process to review the BCCs: factors like purpose; need what problem is being solved; is the composition correct; is it effective; cost-benefit analysis; does it serve the people.
- Raise awareness! Even politically engaged citizens are largely unaware these opportunities are available.
- Implement a wide action plan to evaluate BCCs and create an effective process, improvement plan and design thinking for BCCs to eliminate waste. Identify scope, evaluate strengths and provide effective services that are not being duplicated and generating waste (wasting time, resources, \$\$\$).
- Reduce total number of BCCs. Make sure each is fundamentally needed, efficient and accomplishing more than just hours of talk.
- We need less! Combine some.
- Anders and elected officials should be out in the community to change them.
- Reduce numbers of BCCs. Reduce redundancy, more efficient, less impact on staff.
- Yes! Office of Resident Engagement + Impact Analysis + Split appointment responsibilities.
- Less BCCs.
- Reducing committee members, alders just further concentrates power in the hands of the few.
- Not sure what this accomplishes.
- Take seriously.
- Allow more open and honest discussion - go to the underrepresented groups for input.
- Amend structure for people to come to you.

Q2. Do the BCCs adequately engage City residents?

- No! No awareness; no communication; no diversity; need a better comprehensive form of community engagement, retention and recruitment.
- Hard to spy?, very informative.
- The traditional hearing format for BCCs and Common Council are ineffective in allowing well-informed citizens participate in discussion after their turn is done.
- More outreach to all communities.
- Incorporate the use of mobile and smart phones. Best way to engage people on the go, especially percents, or when language, money and resources are a barrier.
- If you want the public to attend, do not meet for staff convenience (day time) but meet for committee members and public convenience.
- Give more notice before meetings - noticing and notifying people on Friday about a meeting on Monday is not enough time.

Q3. Do the BCCs adequately represent and serve residents?

- Committee appointments are only as good as the person appointing - allow alders to appoint.
- Incorporate smart phones to allow people to participate. It is the most common way to communicate/participate.
- No - need more engagement and participation or spread out so it is equal/just; provide trainings.
- Standardize and train staff support and resources for BCCs.
- No
- No
- Appointments appear to be selective - based on who you know - entrenchment.
- If diverse.

Engagement and participation

Q4. Do you think that the City's BCCs create an effective way for city residents to engage with Madison's City Government?

- No. Policy makers need to raise awareness of BCCs.
- No - no transparency; no communication to the general community, no central location to get information, no equity, no survey/common forum for all, silos.
- Better systems, less bureaucracy.
- Soli-ed departments make it difficult to know what to expect from public processes.
- Need calls by web site.
- Not enough diversity and representation of people of color at "city" meetings.
- Competing meetings of different committees across town, same time, different location. Committees were not even aware of the duplication.
- Need for improved trust and understanding. No understanding of what alders do, of what city government does. What do alders do? More direct and in-person outreach with community members and constituency.
- More direct communication of city staff with the people they serve (ex. police interactions are only negative) to build trust.
- Less committees, action plans needed, eliminate them.
- Varying meeting locations.
- Need to increase culture of openness to resident involvement.
- Timing and location of the meetings.
- Connecting with Digital Hearth and the work of Local Voices Network (Kathy Cramer).

Representation

Q5. How would you like to be represented on the Madison Common Council?

- Alder: need structure and accountability. I think they do a good job.
- Seek representation from educators at technical colleges, k-12, NGOs that serve population and can be advocates for general needs instead of personal benefit/gains by their district if not equitable.
- By my alder and his liaisons.
- By community leaders in neighborhood.
- Community leaders and people who have similar background - underrepresentation of low-income, etc.
- A community that needs financial resources.
- Someone who looks like me.
- Alder
- By my neighbor
- By my alder
- Alder

Common Council

Q6. How can the Common Council improve equity and engagement?

- Look at barriers (transportation, child care, communication, live feeds, etc.) and provide solutions for wider participation. Do and aid internships to have more diversity by residents that are

interested but may feel to intimidated. "Apprenticeship programs for civic duty", paid or given credit and incentive.

- Term limits.
- Don't limit the democratic process - unintended consequences.
- Advance meeting notice by alders.
- Increase public transport options because people are unable to get to meetings.
- Remotely testify.
- Alders should really serve their community.
- Bring meetings to the neighborhoods.
- Equity and engagement.
- Demystify what the Madison Common Council does - do not know enough to answer and participate.
- Improve accessibility of information
- Video/livestream all meetings. Allow electronic real time engagement.
- Educate individuals on different options and how to run meetings.
- Live participation.
- Remote testimony.
- Goal to visit new neighborhood once a week, a month.
- Relax Robert's Rules but find some way to stay focused and facilitate diverse views in discussion.
- Hold meetings in public places.
- Communicate to stakeholders to raise awareness of issues to emphasize "What's in it for me?"
- Alders need to build relationships with communities.
- Can we switch our online rec. database Legistar?
- Include liaisons from community to sit on Council.

Q7. How should Council members get paid?

- Hourly wage at \$25 hour
- They will the work when compensate [MN: I believe there are missing words here]
- Poor pay, poor government.
- Good pay, good government.
- Higher pay with term limits.
- Good identification of the need for balance - more pay, but not too much, find the sweet spot.
- Limit the number of BCCs because to their credit, some alders are great and want to or are needed of many (too many) BCCs.
- Monthly.
- Reduce BCCs. Pay should reflect time spent on the job/job duties.
- Reduce BCC participation of alders.
- Depends on their income. Pay low-income folks.
- Hourly, good pay.
- Hourly, or option for state benefits (health, retirement), or percent discount on property taxes

Q8. Should Council members have term limits?

- Seats should be a limited term like a mayor (2,4 years)
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes, allow diverse pool, new blood (democratic)
- Yes? [MN: the question mark is included and is part of the feedback]

- No term limits - let the people decide
- Yes. Look at Congress where nothing gets done
- Diverse groups of leaders
- Yes
- Second this
- Yes, hold comm. elections
- No term limits but have some metric for effectiveness
- Yes. 4 terms. Let new folks in.

Q9. How many Common members/districts should there be?

- Increase the size of the Council to represent 10,000 people
- More alders more service
- Look at population and poverty levels, come up with a quantified number, it takes a village.
- Representatives of districts, don't permit reps to represent people out of this district
- 20, keep it within districts
- As much we have or need
- Reduce the number of districts ONLY if Alders have more full-time staff support
- More the better
- 10

Q10. Should Common Council Members be considered full-time or part-time?

- Part time, more alders, less to do
- Yes, some neighborhoods need more resources or have more needs than others. Have it be assessed by 5 yrs or have strategic goals to meet to reduce risks and achieve goals
- Sick time, benefits, PTO
- Part time but ensure adequate compensation and benefits
- Full time
- Full time
- Full time
- Full time
- With good pay
- Full time

Q11. Should Council members represent districts or the City at-large?

- Districts
- Districts
- Districts
- Districts (make districts smaller)
- Districts
- Districts
- Districts
- Both (some districts need both because of massive issues, lack of resources, lack of \$\$ because of property taxes)
- At-large
- No
- No
- Con [MN: this note was not legible and did not make sense]

Q12. Should Council members have two-year or four-year terms?

- 2 years. We need to encourage people to run against Alders. 4years term will discourage elections.
- 4 years or 3.
- 2
- 2 yrs
- 3 ?? [MN: the question marks are part of the feedback] and not all expire at the same time
- 4
- 4 years
- 4-year
- 4 years with a provision for recalling an alder.
- 4 year terms, but have metrics. The terms should be staggered.
- 4
- 4 years