

Advisory Team Meeting #22

July 13, 2022

Location: Community Development Building
6:00 p.m.

Summary notes are below. An audio recording of this meeting is also available on the website at www.red-wing.org/1032/Policy-and-Practice-Project-Meetings

Team Members Present

Michael Lickness Holmes, Liz Magill, Cory Koplín, Steve Blaine, Racheal Savage

Team Members Absent: Cholwe Hantuba Walker, Yaneth Santiago Huerta, Sara Kern, Samantha Malcom, Alexis DeVries

Facilitator: Michelle Leise, City of Red Wing Community Engagement Facilitator

Others: Mike Warner, Red Wing Fire Chief

Meeting Notes

Welcome

The meeting began at 6:04 p.m. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

6:05 to 6:55 – Small Group Idea Swaps between Team and Fire Department Staff

Fire Chief Warner described the services provided by the Red Wing Fire Department. He discussed some of the challenges faced by the department, including providing services to the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Generating Plant, providing services to Treasure Island Resort and Casino during outdoor concerts attended by thousands of people, providing services to rural areas without fire hydrants, providing services to large industries, and providing services to a city bordered by a major river with barge and riverboat traffic. He also discussed services that are provided to recreational boaters and hikers on the bluffs. He discussed the levels of Fire Department staffing and said the department is actively trying to hire on-call firefighters. He discussed ambulance service funding challenges, especially throughout Covid-19.

Chief Warner also stated that call volumes have been increasing and described the benefits of fire safety and other types of public education programs to keep people safe. He asked the team about their ideas on how to get more information and education out to the community. Team members discussed the following ideas:

--Housing organizations (like Jordan Towers) could partner with the Fire Department to provide staff training to try to reduce the number of client calls to the Fire Department.

--The Fire Department could promote its hands-only CPR classes to the business community via the Chamber of Commerce.

--The Fire Department could start a junior firefighter or EMS program. Team members offered to provide assistance in getting this started and promoted. Chief Warner noted that this is one of his priorities because he also came through the ranks of a junior program. Team members discussed utilizing the high school's Pathways/Flight Paths program to get students interested.

--The Fire Department could offer education at driver's education classes here in town.

--The FD could also offer education through after-school programs and organizations such as Youth Outreach, HOPE Coalition, etc.

--The FD could do education through Kids Junction, which is a daycare through the school district that the FD has not yet reached.

--The FD could do education in conjunction with sports team practices – either before or after practice – to reach high-school ages.

Chief Warner discussed paid on-call firefighter recruitment and reviewed the requirements.

Community donations toward equipment expenses were discussed.

Chief Warner expressed appreciation for the suggestions and provided his contact information.

6:55 to 7:17 – Future of Policy Review in 2023 and Beyond

Michelle reported that the Advisory Team is currently funded and scheduled through the end of 2022. She referenced the City's goals pertaining to equity and discussed how the work of this group could potentially be integrated into the work of the City's existing 14 boards and commissions. She explained that before the end of the year, the group will be able to review its accomplishments and recommendations and discuss how to propel this work into the future. She noted that the 2023-2025 equity plan will incorporate many of the Advisory Team's recommendations made in 2022, and a draft of that plan will be completed near the end of the year. The Advisory Team will then be able to review it and suggest changes before it goes to City Council for consideration.

A team member suggested the idea of assembling an independent advisory group in the future to periodically review progress toward Strategic Racial Equity Action Plan goals.

Michelle explained that City departments and boards and commissions are now being asked to develop a one-year Work Plan and a five-year Work Plan, including goals relating to the advancement of equity. She noted that reports could be provided to a future advisory group. It was suggested that the advisory group review these reports and document whether overall benchmarks and objective measurements are being achieved and maintained.

It was suggested to conduct community surveys to help gauge whether or not things are improving. Michelle noted that additional data is being compiled this year through the Red Wing Report Card and that will also be shared with the Advisory Team and the community.

Team Members commented regarding the importance of making sure that the community is aware of the recommendations of the Advisory Team and the progress that has been made.

Michelle asked Team Members to provide feedback regarding discussions that should occur over the next six months. Michael indicated that he will provide feedback via email. It was suggested to invite representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors & Convention Bureau to meet with the Advisory Team to discuss ways to conduct outreach and encourage diversity. Michelle reviewed departments that are scheduled to meet with the Advisory Team over the next few months. Cory suggested involving nonprofit organizations and community groups in these discussions.

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 7:17 p.m.