

TO: HOAC members
July 25, 2018

From: Rev. Jill McAllister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

1. Community Decision-Making Process

I know that you are all aware the MANY people in the community are eager for next steps in addressing issues which arose in the recent discussions around the Consolidated Services Center and the Men's Shelter. We propose moving forward as quickly as possible to make decisions about priority tasks and projects to address as many of these concerns as possible.

Three processes of community decision-making are briefly outlined below. All of these processes go a step beyond community discussion, beyond the airing and collecting of opinions. These processes require some buy-in and commitment from the participants, to help create realistic outcomes and to help implement priorities and plans. Creating and strengthening commitment is introduced and explained at the beginning, is woven into the process, and is re-affirmed at the end. The role of the facilitator includes helping the group build commitment to one another, to the process and to the action plans / timelines.

Community Capacity Building

- ~Community Mapping – what exists: institutions, organizations, landmarks, history, agreements, disagreements, resources, barriers, etc.
- ~What are the needs: Describe as fully as possible, collate the list for 10 or less
- ~Prioritizing the needs: Pair-wise ranking (non-voting)
- ~Timelines and action plans for the top 3-5 (depending on work groups)

Community Organizing

- ~Based on the principle of one-to-one relationship building
- ~Listening campaign (one-to-ones) to discover the needs (we have much of this information already)
- ~Articulating / mapping / illustrating the needs for all to see together
- ~Priority setting by caucusing and voting
- ~Workgroups make action plans – group develops timeline

Goal setting with covenant (making commitments)

- ~Community mapping – usually brainstorming the issues / needs
- ~Group work (such as world café) to consolidate into shorter list
- ~Sticky-dot voting for prioritizing
- ~Workgroups for action plan

Steps needed:

- ~Reach out to / invite community members. Let them know about the desire for community engagement in creating real solutions to the issues raised about downtown livability and vitality.
- ~Set a date for an initial meeting, or for a community working session. Could be a 4-6 hour workshop, or longer (such as an evening, and a half or 3/4 day)
- ~Planning group (small)
- ~Choose a process or a combination of processes, and a facilitator(s)
- ~Get started

Funding: Assume local facilitators, assume donated meeting space. May need some funds for food/supplies for workshop.

2. Volunteer Corps for Downtown Livability and Vitality

An advisory council for the consolidated services project has been meeting for about 2 months. This is simply a group of volunteers who have worked with one of the three services over past years, and who are dedicated to the success of this project. We are beginning to look at a Portland-based program called "Downtown Clean & Safe" which addresses problems directly. The program includes employing homeless people to be part of daily clean-up crews. It also includes volunteers who respond to emergency calls from businesses and other people related to homeless people. We have a sense that a program like this would be very useful in Corvallis, and have many benefits for the entire community.

Funding might be appropriate here, especially to help employ clean-up crews.

3. Long-term HOAC goals and processes.

The highest goal for HOAC work, in my understanding, is to decrease homelessness and the problems associated with it as much as possible, by providing services and adequate transitional and low-income housing. The HOAC might consider organizing or re-organizing itself into an entity focused on actions which lead in this direction. Several of the decision-making processes outlined about could be very successful achieving these changes in orientation and capability.

Some funding for training in community organizing and decision-making could be helpful, in the range of \$3K-5K.