Welcome

The meeting began at 1:00 pm. The minutes from the October 8, 2018 meeting were approved. The agenda was approved. Welcome to new Tenino Councilmember Dave Watterson.

Thurston Thrives Agenda Item 3

Krosbie Carter, Director of Thurston Thrives (TT) was invited to the table to provide an overview of Thurston Thrives, its history and its future direction. She described how TT was created in Public Health and Social Services (PHSS) Department in 2013 to look at social determinants of health, including housing, education, food etc. The idea was to bring these areas together to provide an overview of health. In 2015 – 2016 TT became a community-owned initiative, an independent body and the Thurston Chamber of Commerce took over fiscal responsibility. TT is governed by a 24-member Coordinating Council (CC), which includes representatives from 6 jurisdictions, non-profits, philanthropy, business owners and other community stakeholders. TT provides the infrastructure to support the action teams, to bring together the entities that want to work together to find solutions to community health
challenges. TT functions with the action teams serving as the feet on the ground, Coordinating Council is the brainchild which provides the big ideas, partner agencies are the ones putting the ideas out into the world, and TT staff and the Chamber provide the backbone support connecting all the stakeholders together.

Krosbie noted that there are 8 action teams but only 1 staff member. The Housing Action Team has good staff support through PHSS and regularly brings together providers and has built good relationships. However, many teams do not have adequate staffing, as PHSS has been the primary department to provide staff support. In developing a vision for TT moving forward, the CC has identified three areas of emphasis that impacts all the teams and everyone’s health: 1) housing stability, 2) resilient children and families, 3) economic opportunities. The next objective of the CC is to create goals for these 3 areas.

Following Krosbie’s presentation, the group discussed Thurston Thrives, asked questions of Krosbie and offered thoughts on future directions for the CC to consider. Part of the discussion include clarification of how TT fits with other past and current initiatives, such as Sustainable Thurston, which was part of the original impetus for creating TT. Krosbie noted that TT was specifically created to improve collaboration and include all jurisdictions for input to avoid duplication of efforts.

The group discussed the scope and feasibility of the 8 Action Team, with some members suggesting that not all the Action Teams were needed or seemed viable. Krosbie stated that TT does not plan to dissolve any action teams, as they did not want to prevent interested stakeholders from meeting around a topic of interest to them, but she did state that the CC wants to help focus the work on the Action Team around the areas of emphasis. As part of this process, some teams may combine, evolve or dissolve based on participant interests.

Further discussion revolved around the relationship between the Action Team and the CC and how information and ideas are shared between these groups. Krosbie stated it is an area for improvement.

Krosbie made the point that much of the future of the Action Teams and support by the CC will depend on future funding. Currently, the TT budget is approximately $60,000, plus in-kind contributions from the Chamber of Commerce. This level of funding lends itself to the focus on the 3 main emphasis areas. Keeping TT more focused will help to get people to understand the objectives and goals which may lend itself to strengthen collective efforts which may help bring in funding.

Krosbie concluded the discussion by thanking the CIP for inviting her to present. She noted that the CC meets the third Thursday every month at 3pm at Lacey EDC building and people can visit the TT website for the calendar of when Action Teams meet.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 Basic Needs Discussion**

The group continued its discussion from the October meeting regarding whether to refine the definition of “basic needs” to include in the 2019 Request for Proposals (RFP). As requested by the group, staff provided a handout that lists a description of what was funded under basic needs in the past two funding rounds.
The discussion touched on a variety of topics and began with a reminder the John was going to reach out to PHSS Director Schelli Slaughter to see if the Housing Action Team would consider allocating $160,000 in 2163 funds for housing-related basic needs, to match the CIP basic needs funding.

The group discussed that funding for basic needs, even if matching housing funds are provided, is limited and organizations generally utilize funds quickly, particularly around rental assistance. As a result, some members advocated for looking at a hierarchy of basic needs, with several comments related to housing-related assistance including utilities and rental application fees. Other members expressed a desire to have basic needs funds concentrated in one organization so residents know where to go and do not need to reach out to multiple organizations to determine who has funds available. This led to a discussion of the community resource phone line 211, and the need to better promote and support this resource. As part of this discussion, the group discussed how families access services, including a description of the services provided by Together!, including its Family Resource Guide.

In concluding the discussion, members were encouraged to bring any other ideas for inclusion in the RFP priorities to the next CIP meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 South Sound Continuing participation in HHSC**

John reminded the South County representatives that a decision is needed from their jurisdictions by the January 14, 2019 CIP meeting whether they intend to continue their participation in the HHSC be contributing the required sales tax revenue. Robin Campbell is finalizing the sales tax amount for South County cities, which is estimated to be approximately $12,000. Each town or city can decide on their own to continue.

Joan mentioned that the other item for discussion, if the South County jurisdictions continue their participation, concerns the representation and voting in CIP. Nothing needs to be update in the Interlocal Agreement to continue in partnership.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 Next Meeting and Wrap Up**

The next CIP meeting is December 10 1 – 3 pm.

Joan noted that Tumwater will be contributing at least $8k more in 2019 than in 2018.

John asked the group for suggestions on future meeting agenda items. Suggestions included:

- A presentation from law enforcement regarding what they see are the major problems in the community.
- How do we leverage the money in a better way to help solve heating/energy problem? Is it possible to use some funds to build a solar energy generation source to provide a longer-term solution to provide lower cost energy to lower income people?

Finally, at the HAT meeting last week, it was noted that the Nisqually Tribe said they have started to see an increase of homeless camping to the point that they want to take more active role in HAT and create staffing resources in tribal government. These are not tribal members camping on reservation, they are non-tribal.
ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Next CIP Meeting:
December 10, 2018
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Conference Room 280