

Advisory Team Meeting #10

May 12, 2021

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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

Team Members Present

Steve Blaine, Michael Holmes, Sara Kern, Cory Koplín, Doug Larsen, Samantha Malcom (half the meeting), Liz Magill, Thomas Young

Team Members Absent: Juan DeLaFuente, Alexis DeVries, Yadira Ramos, Cholwe Walker

Facilitator

Michelle Leise, City of Red Wing Community Engagement Facilitator

Meeting Notes

Around the Table

Team members did a short check-in sharing one word about how they were feeling and one favorite summertime food.

Michael asked for a couple of minutes to share his experience traveling recently and feeling energized and positive about the future.

Discussing the Desired Impact/Results of the Work

Team members answered these questions: What kind of impacts or results would, in your mind, show that Red Wing is becoming a more welcoming community? What would Red Wing look and feel like if measures were implemented that helped people feel they belong? The team started with these questions based on the HEEAP Sheet equity tool that states “identifying impacts” is step #1 in planning policies and programs. You can view that document here on the City’s website: <https://www.red-wing.org/DocumentCenter/View/4927/HEEAP-Sheet-2021---Equity-in-Policies-Tool-PDF>

Members answered the following:

- Youth would have a safe place where they can be kids.
- There would be improved STEAM programming (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) throughout the community.
- No matter who you are, you could look around and see people who look like you.

- There would be a positive change in the way people view and talk about the East End (Ward 4) and the neighbors who live there.
- We would have a community where people can listen openly and with intention. People can often become too offensive or defensive; improving effective communication skills would allow all of us to discuss topics respectfully.
- Red Wing would be a place where people make eye contact and both people feel acknowledged positively.
- There would be more neighborhood engagement where neighbors know each other and help each other. Sometimes people feel apart from the community just because their family has not lived in town for generations. It would be good to change that.

Next, the team brainstormed on their own for a few minutes about ideas where the City and community could work together on strengthening neighborhoods and/or lifting up residents in diverse communities who may want to become more visible leaders.

One member inquired how the City would make sure there is no duplication of efforts between ideas the Advisory Team has and what various people and groups are already doing in the community. Staff member Leise shared information about the upcoming Red Wing Report Card and discussed how that project will act not only as a place for data and trends, but it will also provide a place to find out what community initiatives are happening and what groups are leading those. Later in the meeting, Leise mentioned that in the short term, a document can be compiled that notes how current community initiatives intersect with any ideas the Advisory Team discusses.

Team members shared the following ideas for strengthening neighborhoods:

- A sustainable program that offers opportunities to senior high school students to sit on the boards or committees of nonprofits and/or businesses in town in order to learn from those experiences.
- An annual block party/welcome party/festival – possibly focused on welcoming others to town and/or neighborhood and sharing information about the community.
- Create a system of neighborhood leadership where volunteers could share welcome information to new people who move into an area. Maybe that information could come through the real estate agents or some other avenue.
- Neighborhood incentives, similar to a contest like a yard beautification contest or a help-exchange program so people know what neighbors are willing to assist with tasks or errands, etc.
- A “take your neighbor’s child to work” day like the current “take your child to work”
- More neighborhood gardens/community gardens to bring people together. The City could work with neighbors to identify more available spaces for this purpose.
- Find ways to build up neighborhood leaders.

- Have the City departments like the labs and engineering departments get older students into those environments to get that experience.
- Have sports equipment available for free in bins in all the parks. Even though some would get stolen or lost, it would still be worth it.
- A digital mural project. This would bring in the science and engineering/math aspect. It would also be able to change often so the community would have more opportunities to be inclusive. There would need to be a review panel. This would be a great way to fuel energy and excitement on a continuous basis.
- Create a teen center as a partnership between the city and nonprofits and potentially others like philanthropy.
- Redo a current space into an indoor park for families with young children.
- People sometimes need something specific to bring them together – a reason for gathering and a common interest. We may need to find a reason for people to routinely engage together, instead of just once a year.
- Possibly an expansion or more promotion of the current Night to Unite event among neighborhoods that don't currently participate.

The team shared thoughts and ideas on what helps raise up people to become leaders in the community—especially those who don't see themselves as leaders.

- One-on-one mentorship. People need someone they trust who they can ask questions and feel heard – someone to listen to them and believe in them.
- Becoming educated on what leadership looks like to different people.
- Include in the Report Card what opportunities are available in organizations and what they're looking for – so young people and adults can find those chances and have a more open avenue to joining and learning.
- Developing residents as leaders who have diverse backgrounds so more communities are represented. Think about how to find people who are interested.
- Need to make sure that there are supports in place for leadership development such as transportation, childcare – maybe this includes volunteers who would be willing to help remove barriers so more people can get involved.
- Remember that small businesses and the trades are good places for students to get involved with community business and learning opportunities open to them.

Community Needs

The team also brought up additional ideas that they felt Red Wing could consider to make it a better place for everyone.

- Overdoses are a big concern in Red Wing. We may need to look into this and what the City and community can do. This is affecting our youth and young adults. There could be an expansion of the current needle exchange program.
- Need a better way for people to assimilate after coming out of the correctional facility or county jail. They have no tools when they get out.
- Could potentially have charging stations for people to charge their phones at designated places in public spaces. This would help people who need their phones during times of stress and isolation but they have nowhere to go to charge up. (One member mentioned that in Korea, they have exercise areas that charge their phones as they're pedaling stationery bikes, etc.)

Staff member Leise shared that the next Council budget workshop is scheduled for June 28. If any recommendations come from the Advisory Team that affect the budget, now is the time to think about what those would be.

The group discussed the idea of getting together in a small group and/or work via email to discuss ideas and/or research ideas further for more in-depth discussion in June.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.