

FCA External Relations Committee - Ottawa Planning Staff
17 April 2023
SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

In Attendance:

FCA	City Staff
Roland Dorsay (Chair)	Charmaine Forgie
Robert Brinker	Jason Coulas
Elizabeth McAllister	
Arto Keklikian	

1. Improving Public consultation & Engagement Processes

* FCA: Principles of City's 10 yr old Engagement Strategy have held up well.

Continuing public concerns:

- Limited scope to affect meaningful change.
- Not a level playing field for all.
- Explanations typically not provided when public recommendations are not adopted.
- Use time more productively.

*FCA: Suggestions:

- Adopt "Hybrid" mode by default.
- Store recorded sessions on Engage Ottawa for all to view.
- Allow Questions in Q&A function to be visible to all.
- Allow cross-chat between participants during & after meetings.
- Distribute presentations in advance when possible.
- Use Whiteboard & Sticky Note functions. (Usable during & after sessions).
- Expand "What We Heard" reports to include changes made/not made & why.
- Privacy: Advise participants of option to anonymize themselves.
- Engage stakeholders sooner in the policy/planning development & decision-making processes.

* Lansdowne 2.0

FCA Concerns:

- Absence of publicly available up-to-date financial information.
- Perception of predetermined outcome.

* Zoning Bylaw Review Discussion Papers & Surveys

FCA Concerns

Discussion Papers:

- Written as staff preferred outcomes
- Not well designed to promote discussion. No options.
- Conveys impression of predetermined outcomes.
- Equity paper inappropriately links racism to housing form & neighbourhood character.

Surveys:

- Prompt wondering whether public views wanted.
- Limited ability to provide meaningful responses.
- Q's about sex, ethnicity, marital status, & gender self identification of questionable relevance.
- Going Forward: Hope to see more useful/more appropriate Qs.

City Comments:

- Moving to more In-Person meetings.
- Hybrid not practical due to cost/other factors, especially with large groups.
- Privacy concerns & abusive behaviour preclude adoption of certain process improvements.
- Lansdowne Public Consultation on April 27th to include Discussion of Financial Strategy & Biz Plan.

FCA Response:

- Explore possible solutions, including pilot projects, to test feasibility of proposed solutions.

2. Measuring What Matters: Open Data Portal (Benchmarks, Metrics, Data)

FCA: How can Open Data portal be used more effectively?

- Use it to track City progress on its Strategic Goals, esp:

- Official Plan

- Economic Development

- Housing Affordability

- Homelessness

- 15-Min Neighbourhoods

- Term of Council Priorities

- Each Master Plan

- Budget Revenues & Expenditure

- Use easy to understand Dashboards, with infographics.
- Use appropriate Benchmarks, Metrics and up-to-date Data.
- Other cities have done it. Why not Ottawa too?
- Update at least semi-annually; monthly when feasible.
- Measuring improves performance.

Unresolved matters:

- What are the right Benchmarks & Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track?
- Stakeholder engagement in determining Benchmarks, Metrics & relevant data.
- Funding & staff resources.
- When will it be done?

3. Data Publishing Plans

* Tracking Key results:

- Of value to staff, Councillors, public.
- Make info available to all; not silo'd within Depts.
- FCA Ask: Annual Departmental Publishing Plan to publish KPIs semi-annually/monthly.

4. Implications of Recent Provincial Legislation for Public Engagement

- Deferred due to time constraints.

5. Next meeting dates

- May 11 or 18
- June 6 or 13

To be confirmed by City staff.

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