An Equitable Approach to Governance and Consensus Building

Reaching just and sustainable agreements about community development and land uses
AGENDA

• History
• Approach
• Discussion
• Feedback & Questions
1) We will begin with what we believe about human beings, not what we see.
2) We will state our assumptions up front.
3) We will hold ourselves and all participants accountable.
4) We will measure before we act.
5) We will help increase the Five Capitals™.
6) We will help increase justice.
7) We will help increase the benefits of regional inter-relationships.
8) We will design human scale, multi-directional and multi-dimensional processes.
9) We will do the right thing at the right time the right way with the right people.
10) We will state our objectives up front and evaluate whether we have achieved them.
The public will have an opportunity to have a say in decisions about actions that will affect their lives. The public’s contribution will demonstrably influence final decisions. The process needs of all participants will be met and their interests communicated. The involvement of those potentially affected will be sought and facilitated. Participants will be involved in defining how they participate. Participants will be told how their input was, or was not, utilized. Participants will be provided with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
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<th>Standards of Conduct</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Achieve self-determination</td>
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<td>Practice impartiality</td>
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<td>Avoid conflicts of interest</td>
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<td>Demonstrate competence</td>
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<td>Establish and maintain confidentiality</td>
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<td>Sustain quality of process</td>
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<td>Truthful advertising and solicitation</td>
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<td>Set fair and reasonable fees</td>
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<td>Advance practice of mediation</td>
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ACR Model Standards of Conduct
Polarized debate

- The atmosphere is threatening; attacks and interruptions are expected by participants and are usually permitted by moderators.
- Participants speak as representatives of groups.
- Participants speak to their own constituents and, perhaps, to the undecided middle.

Constructive dialogue

- The atmosphere is one of safety; facilitators propose, get agreement on, and enforce clear ground rules to enhance safety and promote respectful exchange.
- Participants speak as individuals, from their own unique experience.
- Participants speak to each other.
The Washington, DC Experience:

A Vision for Growing an Inclusive City
Learnings

- Build neighborhood capacity
  - ANCs, civic associations
  - Multi-generational individuals
  - Develop capacity for complexity

- Increase accountability
  - Personal relationships
  - Wealthier knowledge banks
  - Governmental responsiveness

- Sustainable decisions
  - Documented input

- Raised expectations
EQUITABLE DESIGN

1. A high capacity, well informed, but balanced partnership

2. Collaborative and facilitated problem solving

3. Win-win outcomes with evidence based benefits

4. Sustained information sharing, conflict resolution
Application of Equitable Design

**Stakeholder Assessment**
Assess interests, impacts, and alignments of stakeholders

**Engagement Plan**
Design a strategy and action plan to communicate and engage with stakeholders in an inclusive, equitable way

**Conflict Resolution**
Use mediation, negotiation, and facilitation skills to surface conflict and generate solutions

**Community Partnership**
Create consensus-building and collaboration
The SWBID proposes the creation of a community solutions “agenda” in which the SWBID serves as a hub to pilot programs and initiatives (community solutions) intended to identify and train local leadership, support existing community groups and to repair the social fabric of this rapidly changing neighborhood.

- Recognize the stresses of a neighborhood in transition.
- Create a common purpose among existing community groups
- Identify common values, and shared goals
- Create a basis (projects) for collaboration that benefit the community
The Lower Georgia Avenue Equitable Development Project aims to look holistically at the resources, concerns, and opportunities in the communities connected by the lower portion of Georgia Avenue.

- Upholding racial diversity and cohesion.
- Preserving and creating affordable housing in integrated, mixed-income neighborhoods.
- Promoting and protecting community-serving businesses.
- Re-investing dollars spent in the corridor back into neighborhoods.
- Creating welcoming public spaces.
Northrop Southern Railway's Pittsburgh Vertical Clearance Project (PVCP) is intended to raise existing bridges to accommodate the railroad's double-stacked trains.

- Grant from PennDOT to support infrastructure improvement.
- Project currently before PUC.
- Well Organized Community Groups.
- Negative impact to the public's quality of life along the rail project's 20-mile route.
The Portland IQ wants to be the center of gravity for an innovation ecosystem in Portland, Oregon. It’s mission is to grow investment, attract companies, and retain talent, and facilitate cross-collaboration of health, science, technology, and product design.

- Identify and create a governing structure that clearly defines the mission and purpose of IQ and how decisions will be made based on those principles.

- Outline an inclusive and collaborative engagement strategy in order to develop more equitable and sustainable outcomes for the IQ.

- Apply DEI guiding principles to the governing structure to ensure aspirations are incorporated in all decision (articulate floor and ceiling of DEI infusion).