

February 7, 2018
City Manager's Roundtable
Procter & Gamble Room, Mercer Park Aquatic Center
Meeting time 12-1 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Anderson, Anthony Branch, Bill Campbell, Chad Dyson, Charlie Eastham, Geoff Fruin, Henri Harper, Joe Coulter, Juli Seydell-Johnson, Kristin Watson, Mazahir Salih, Melva Hughes, Orville Townsend, Sr., RaQuishia Harrington, Royceann Porter, Shannon McMahon, Simon Andrew, Stefanie Bowers, Susan Craig, Tracy Hightshoe.

Others present: Marcia Bollinger, Troy Kelsay, Kelly Schneider, Pastor Lear.

Meeting overview

Mobility Coordinator Johnson County Social Services

The latest addition to the Johnson County Social Services Department is the Mobility Coordinator. This position was created to organize transportation services throughout the county to improve overall mobility for elderly, low-income persons, and persons with disabilities. Services are provided at no up-front cost to consumers. The Mobility Coordinator is tasked with increasing awareness of public transit, and overcoming transit barriers, while working with human service agencies to expand potential ridership and ultimately leading to a more independent lifestyle for many individuals in Johnson County. Funding is made possible through the Iowa DOT, Johnson County, City of Iowa City and City of Coralville.

Update Police Department

The Iowa City Police Department has responded to four incidents within the last month. The first were White Supremacy fliers that were distributed in Iowa City neighborhoods, the second incident involved White Power stickers being placed on various structures downtown, the third incident was a derogatory word being written on a stake at an Iowa City park, and the fourth incident involved a local business who repeatedly asked harassing questions to a customer who was Muslim. The department has one officer who will specifically handle and report out on these types of incidents. Not all bias based incidents are chargeable but when such incidents do violate the law, persons will be so charged.

Neighborhood Event Grant Program

The City of Iowa City has grants available, up to \$500, to assist residents of the Pheasant Ridge, Towncrest and Hilltop/Broadway neighborhoods to host events in their neighborhoods. The funds can be used for a wide variety of events including block parties, classes/workshops, big screen movies (indoors or outdoors), neighborhood cleanups, diversity celebrations, music festivals, community gardening projects, sports tournaments, etc. Funds can be used for a variety of expenses including food, supplies, entertainment, equipment rental, printing of promotion materials, etc. The grant process starts July 1, 2018.

Community Survey Update

In the fall of 2017, the City conducted a community-wide survey. In total, 1,400 residents responded to 134 questions regarding the livability of Iowa City, including community characteristics, City service delivery, and community engagement. The survey was conducted by the National Research Center. Surveys were made available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, and African French. Iowa City was similar or higher on

benchmark comparisons with other cities in all but three questions. Iowa City residents rated Iowa City lower than residents in other cities on the availability of affordable housing, whether the respondent had done a favor for a neighbor, and whether the respondent had stocked supplies for an emergency. Responses were highest in education and enrichment and economy. City staff shared the survey results in the City Council Information Packet of January 18 and answered City Council questions about the survey at its strategic planning session of January 30.

Other announcements included the Public Library's Bookmobile schedule for January – May 2018.

The next City Manager's Roundtable is Wednesday, April 4, 2018.

Notes prepared by Stefanie Bowers.