

December 5, 2018
City Manager's Roundtable
Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Room A
Meeting time 12-1 pm.

Members present: Abby Anderson, Simon Andrew, Stefanie Bowers, Anthony Branch, Denise Brotherton, Joe Coulter, Charlie Eastham, Geoff Fruin, Henri Harper, Melva Hughes, Kara Logsden, Shannon McMahon, Rafael Morataya, Jean-Paul Mugemuzi, Royceann Porter, Mazahir Salih, James Throgmorton, Kristin Watson

Others present: Susan Craig, Nicole Hanson-Lynn, Mayra Hernandez, Tracy Hightshoe, Tess Kinckerboker, Juli Seydell-Johnson, Connie Spitzack

Meeting overview

Tracy Hightshoe of Neighborhood and Development Services provided an update on two programs. The Building Business Basics program was more successful this year than last, but still not at the desired capacity. Tracy has developed a survey to better assess what prospective business owners are looking for. The program is designed with the essential building blocks of launching a business in mind, but there may be additional topics entrepreneurs are interested in. Tracy encouraged everyone in attendance to take the survey or pass it on to entrepreneurs in their networks. There is also a survey for the InvestHealth program. Tracy hopes to increase community involvement in InvestHealth. She has plenty of involvement from City staff and medical professionals, but has designed the survey to investigate the reasons for low community participation. She also encourages everyone to circulate this survey.

Stefanie Bowers noted that **Susan Craig** is retiring after 41 years of service to the Iowa City community. She has served as Library Director for 24 years. Participants gave Susan a much-deserved round of applause.

Kara Logsden provided an update on the Library's programs, including its use of Equity Toolkits. She discussed the Bookmobile, the story kiosk, and a new free telephone in the Library lobby, which the public can use for any local, 5-minute telephone call. This assists people who do not have phones in making basic, necessary calls. Kara noted that the Library's communications plan includes a social media policy, a public relations and marketing aspect, and e-newsletters. As part of the equity initiative, the Library has requested to eliminate fines on children's and young adult materials. This would be a significant line item in the budget, but other cities have tried this and found that the benefits outweigh the cost. The Library is also looking at conduct reports and the impact on minority youth. Library staff are committed to keeping the teen center accessible to all. Staff are also reviewing access to information and how to get information to different communities. Materials have been translated into Spanish, Arabic, French and Swahili. The next translation language will be Chinese. Kara asked for suggestions from members on distributing information about Library programs and services.

Juli Seydell-Johnson reported on Parks and Recreation's Equity Toolkits. Four areas were focused on. The first was swimming lessons. Generally, most of the community is being served by swimming lessons, which is shown by mapping of addresses when people register for lessons. Parks and Rec has a goal of all children learning how to swim. One family raises over

\$10,000/year to donate for swimming lesson scholarships, so there is a lot of help available for scholarships. The second equity area was garden plots. The oldest garden plot area is Weatherby, so that one has users from all over the City. (People tend to keep their plots form year to year, so people who had Weatherby plots when it was the only option kept them as others opened.) The newer gardens tend to be utilized by people living closer to them. Parks and Rec maps users of garden plots to determine where to do outreach and place future gardens. The third equity area was summer camp participants. Home addresses of all participants will be mapped and evaluated to determine whether all neighborhoods are represented in the children served. Finally, using recent Tree Inventory data, staff will compare the tree canopy coverage of a variety of neighborhoods and correlate with data on income levels and race to prioritize future tree planting projects to provide equity throughout the community.

Henri Harper mentioned that Jeanette Epps, one of a very few Black female astronauts, will visit Iowa City as a part of Black History Month programming. Film Scene will show Hidden Figures, there will be a soul food dinner, and Dr. Epps will visit with ICCSD students and speak to the public. The event is still in the planning stages, but Dr. Epps is expected to speak at Old Brick at 1:00 p.m. on February 23.

Notes prepared by Kristin Watson.