

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING / Worksession

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL with the Agency Budget Review Team (ABRT) WILL BE HELD ON Wednesday, May 8, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. IN THE City Space Meeting Room, 100 5th Street NE, Charlottesville, Virginia, 22902

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

BY Kyna Thomas

CITY SPACE – May 8, 2019

City Council met on this date with the following members present: Ms. Nikuyah Walker; Ms. Heather Hill; Dr. Wes Bellamy, Ms. Kathy Galvin and Mr. Mike Signer.

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Interim Assistant City Manager Kathy Dimock.

Ms. Dimock advised that this meeting is follow up to the January 22, 2019, City Council meeting where Council directed its staff to collect ABRT-related feedback from three different stakeholder groups: community members receiving services from area nonprofits, other community members, and the nonprofit sector. City staff asked CNE to facilitate the engagement with, and solicitation of feedback from area nonprofits.

Ms. Walker opened the public comment period.

Mr. Walt Heinecke, City resident, commended non-profits in the City. He advised that the ABRT process needs an outside review from an independent source with an equity lense. He said that more data is needed than the Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) and City Survey provide, as they do not reach a certain segment of the public who would be recipients of these services. He suggested that there be a way to measure the implementation of the new process and focus on client satisfaction. He concluded by saying there is a lot to be learned from other localities.

Ms. Maureen Brondyke, Director of New City Arts said that she is grateful that the ABRT process is being evaluated. She commended the City for supporting the arts and expressed that she would love to see the process evaluated and improved. The arts and culture organizations have mentioned that the process is strained. She referenced a recent Request for Proposal (RFP) in the City of Richmond, and recommended that applicants be required to align with the City's goals and values. She would like for the process to improve the way that the arts and cultural community works with the City.

Ms. Walker closed the public comment period.

Ms. Dimock reviewed the Background/Overview of the ABRT, giving the history of the ABRT process and recent analyses of ABRT process, including the January 2019 Council Session outcome.

Ms. Cristine Nardi of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence shared feedback from nonprofits, including participant background and process themes.

Regarding participant background, Ms. Walker asked about how many non-profit leaders of color were included. Ms. Nardi advised that this data was not collected. Dr. Bellamy advised of a local group, Nonprofit Leaders of Color (NLC), and advised CNE to send notifications to the NLC director in the future. There was further discussion about who applied and reasons why others did not apply.

Process themes that arose were the need to foster collaboration, strengthen communication, and establish an effective review team.

Dr. Bellamy asked whether the City has a tracker for non-profits led or served by people of color. There was no definitive answer.

Ms. Walker asked for the group to discuss what it would look like to include more equity focus in their process and make sure that the nonprofits are able to provide the services needed to serve those particular communities.

Mr. Murphy advised that Charlottesville is a local government that has chosen to invest in non-profits and consideration should be given to how those nonprofits extend the goals of local government. He recommended evaluating where the City is trying to make an impact, then determining how nonprofits can help to extend those services.

Discussion ensued around feedback from the City Survey, the history or how organizations entered the system, learning from other communities, and priority setting.

Employing best practice strategies for public funding would make the process easier, faster, and simpler for all involved.

Ms. Dimock advised that one aspect of moving forward would involve managing tensions.

Ms. Walker commented that conversations such as these tend to indicate that more data is needed.

Dr. Bellamy advised that the Black Community needs space to discuss issues and solutions that affect them without having others dominate the space. He mentioned that he would consider having a staff member from the Nonprofit Leaders of Color (NLC) get involved and that he could bring feedback in three months.

Ms. Walker asked the group to consider who is used in the process of outreach because that impacts who is reached.

The business portion of the meeting concluded with review of options moving forward:

- Adopt recommendations from workgroup
- Examine categories of funding
- Establish a priority-setting commission to inform operational funding
- Establish an ABRT Revision commission to:
 - o Create a new funding mechanism and process for nonprofits
 - o Set priority funding areas

Ms. Walker opened the floor for public comment:

Ms. Erica Vixilio with The Fountain Fund advised that the right data is already available. Having the people who would be receiving the benefit of the services and practitioners would be more effective. Many nonprofits would like to do an equity assessment, but don't have the funds. She advised that perhaps the equity component not be a condition of receiving funds, but use that recipients be able to use funds to do an equity assessment. She advised that the ABRT could use an Impact Report and a student could help.

Mr. Walt Heinecke, advised that sometimes people "don't see what they don't see". He advised the group to think carefully about how consultants are hired and to not go to the same pool each time. He advised that there is no need to further study, but now is the time for developing solutions. How nonprofits work with existing City services should be considered. He suggested that consideration be given for figuring out the capacity for writing grants so people get access. Which nonprofits can or cannot raise funds? He suggested using the cost-benefit approach and to categorize all nonprofits in Charlottesville. He encouraged looking at the racial demographics for nonprofits and suggested that the outreach and engagement process is broken. Self-selection is not effective.

Ms. Maureen Brondyke asked whether there was a precedent for a cap on funding for a nonprofit.

Ms. Walker closed public comment.

Ms. Galvin left the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Council agreed that more time was needed in order to give direction. It was determined that the item would come to the May 20th City Council meeting for further discussion.

Dr. Bellamy advised that he would meet with the NLC before the May 20th Council meeting and bring members to the meeting.

Mr. Signer suggested that Council have the new City Manager come back to Council with 2-3 recommendations. He recommended a feedback loop between Council and the ABRT group, and advised that he would not be at the May 20th City Council meeting.

Dr. Bellamy left the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Ms. Dimock clarified that Council would dictate the charge, confirm the recommendations, and evaluate the feedback of the Commission/group

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.