

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 24

DATE: January 19, 1999

STAFF: Diane Jones

SUBJECT:

Resolution 99-11 Authorizing the Establishment of a Dialogue Regarding Significant Community Issues.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Fort Collins is a dynamic and changing community. It's important to periodically listen to what's on the minds of citizens and engage in an in-depth conversation about particular issues and/or directions for the community.

The City Council *Organizational Development Committee* has recommended that staff develop and facilitate a way to engage the community in a dialogue that may address topics such as City Plan and the City-School District cooperative project(s) related to the voter-approved Building Community Choices program.

Staff will organize at least one round of community dialogue within the first quarter of 1999.

BACKGROUND:

In January 1995, the City began a community visioning process. Five community forums were held to gather thoughts and ideas from citizens on where the community should focus its efforts over the coming years. Two-hundred and fifteen residents participated in the community forums and deliberated with their neighbors to identify the qualities of community life that were important to them and to suggest areas that most needed attention in Fort Collins. The results indicated that education, a strong local economy and transportation were community characteristics that needed the most urgent attention.

During the remainder of 1995, community surveys were completed and additional forums were held. Toward the end of the year, interest and participation began to wane. Several ongoing initiatives such as City Plan, Healthier Communities, the Timberline extension project, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, etc. were drawing a significant number of citizens participating in these efforts. In December the City Council agreed to suspend further work on the City Dialogue process. The information that had been gathered and analyzed was to be summarized and woven into the City's then current planning and program initiatives., e.g., City Plan.

Since that time, the Council's Organizational Development Committee and the City Council have expressed a desire to sponsor forums or gatherings where citizens could come together and discuss community issues and future directions in a meaningful and respectful way.

What is proposed in Resolution 99-11 is to plan and conduct a series of forums to provide the community with this opportunity.

RESOLUTION 99-11
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
DIALOGUE REGARDING SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY ISSUES

WHEREAS, in 1995 the City conducted community forums and surveys to gather information about the policy issues, future directions, and strategies that the City might employ in resolving the problems it faces and moving the community forward; and

WHEREAS, these activities were part of a process to engage citizens in meaningful discussions and a deliberative process of community decision making called City Dialogue; and

WHEREAS, in December of 1995 the City Council agreed to suspend further work on the City Dialogue process, and the information that had been gathered and analyzed as part of City Dialogue was to be summarized and woven into other programs and projects such as City Plan and Building Community Choices; and

WHEREAS, in the course of discussions with the Council's Organizational Development Committee and at the September 1998 Council Retreat, the Council has expressed interest in continuing to engage the community in a meaningful and civil dialogue around significant community issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. That the City Manager is directed to plan and carry out a series of forums that enable community members to participate in meaningful and civil conversations related to significant municipal issues that are pertinent to the Fort Collins community, including, without limitation, issues relating to transportation, City Plan, affordable housing, City-School District cooperative projects, and others.

Section 2. That the City Manager is to provide a report or the results of such forums to the Council for its review and consideration on or before October 31, 1999.

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held this 19th day of January, A.D. 1999.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk