

May 6, 2022

To: Debbie Tarry and John Norris  
CC: Bethany Wolbrecht-Dunn and Colleen Kelly  
From: Constance Perenyi  
RE: Update to *Neighborhoods Program – Looking Forward*

As planned, we invited neighborhood leaders to participate in a survey in February. Please see below for information about survey results.

Our next step of conducting listening sessions was planned for April and May. As we worked towards this, a promising opportunity arose. Courtney Wooten, the trainer who conducted our Welcoming Workshops for CON in January, and who we hired to work with the Ridgecrest Neighborhood Association Board in 2021, agreed to support our neighborhoods program assessment and help with listening sessions. She also began to explore this as her research project as she works towards a PhD in Sustainability Education at Prescott University. Courtney has gotten support from her advisors, and on April 28, got the greenlight to begin the project officially.

In the scope of her research, Courtney will ask what a robustly welcoming, equitable neighborhoods program might look like for the City. She will consider what values might be at the heart of a program designed to support all residents and City stakeholders, and how it might be structured to be more accessible to, and best serve, those who are most in need.

With her background as a cross-cultural organizer, Courtney is committed to using affirmative inquiry processes to build strengths-based models. Her goal is to develop a transformative model that will help Shoreline transition from the current system to one that better supports inclusion, belonging and equity. Some key elements she will consider include speed of transition, community buy-in, City support, and immediate and long-term goals.

Notes about the project:

- Throughout her research, and with this practice already in place, Courtney does not name the City of Shoreline as her research subject. Note: Courtney is listed as an attendant of CON meetings, which may lead to outside recognition of Shoreline as the subject of her project. While Courtney cannot guarantee anonymity, she can guarantee confidentiality.
- Courtney intends to conduct personal one-on-one interviews with City staff who interact with the NA program; currently involved NA members; and community members who are uninvolved with NAs.
- After interviews, Courtney will facilitate 2 to 3 focus groups, with community members as defined above. In both the interviews and focus groups, she will seek NA members from both the East and West geographic regions of Shoreline. Because the current NA rosters are almost entirely racially homogenous, she will

prioritize community members who represent the demographic diversity of the City, including Asian, Latinx and Black people.

- Courtney has clearly defined her recruitment and consent procedures for this project. Participants in interviews and in focus groups will be provided with an informed consent form. She is currently attending Council of Neighborhoods meetings. While members already know her from the January workshops, she has been reintroduced in her role as a qualitative researcher in Sustainability Education collecting data on how NAs function to increase community belonging, inclusion and equity. Her contact information is shared in the Zoom Chat with the link to an informed consent Google Form, and the voluntary invitation to connect with her for an interview. When contacted via email, she will re-share the informed consent Google Form and ensure it is received prior to scheduling.
- Now that Courtney's project is fully supported by her advisors, she is working with the City on the scope of work for which we will pay her. She will be contracted through her business, Suburbia Rising, to conduct the focus groups (listening sessions) and to help facilitate an all-City community arts project for Celebrate Shoreline 2022. Funding for this contract will come from the Neighborhoods 2021-22 budget.

Because we chose to pursue this unique opportunity to work with Courtney, we are amending our timeline. Listening sessions will be held during the summer. Evaluation of the Neighborhoods Program will continue through the summer, with transition recommendations made in the early fall.

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Following are results of the Shoreline Neighborhoods Association Survey which ran from February 22 through March 6, 2022.

64 invitations to participate in the survey were sent to residents who are currently involved in their neighborhood associations, or who have been involved in the recent past. Recipients were asked to share the survey link with others who may not have been on the mailing list. 39 surveys were submitted, with one duplicate. There were 38 unique surveys in total.

Please note that this survey was not intended to be comprehensive nor representative. Instead, the intention was to get a snapshot of how Shoreline's Neighborhoods are doing as we begin to emerge from two challenging years of the pandemic. The survey is only one piece of ongoing conversations about creating a welcoming and inclusive community.

**Several factors skew percentages, especially in the first sets of questions.**

Names of respondent and neighborhood were optional.

\*18 people of 38 identified themselves.

\*11 neighborhoods were represented. We do not know which neighborhoods the anonymous respondents represent.

\*One neighborhood was represented by 4 respondents, all self-reported as currently involved. Another neighborhood was also represented by 4 respondents, but with only 1 self-reported as currently involved.

Of the people who identified their neighborhood, this is the breakdown:

Briarcrest – 2

Echo Lake – 4

Highland Terrace - 1

Hillwood – 1

Innis Arden – 1

North City – 1

Parkwood – 1

Richmond Beach - 1

Richmond Highlands – 4

Ridgecrest – 2

Westminster Triangle – 2

A few themes:

--Many respondents indicated required structures were valuable because they allowed neighborhoods to apply for grants and get City support;

--Prior to COVID, a majority of respondents indicated in-person events and open meetings were key to developing and maintaining relationship;

--During COVID, virtual meetings and social media helped maintain connections, but without in-person opportunities, it has been difficult to keep residents engaged;

--Welcome packets are a good way of reaching out to new residents. Challenge is how to do outreach to apartment dwellers.