

# imagine **Columbia's** future!

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Community Pride and Human Relations

## **Draft Meeting Minutes**

March 14, 2007

*West Jr. High, Room 206*

Co-Facilitators: Pietre Van Waarde,

Support Staff: Maureen Coy

*Present:* Feye Heidari, Christi Phillips, Karissa Herndon, Crystal Morris, Al Plummer, Lesley Sapp, Michelle Schawao, Otto Steinhaus, Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer, Mark Janda.

*Absent:* Bruce Alspaugh, Josef Carr, Nanette Chun-Ming Ward, Roger Dowis, Khesah Dunca, Tonya Ellis, Ana-Marie Fernandez, Vicki Hobbs, Leela Jashnani, Karen Laughter, Julio Lorio, Alicia Lorio, Betty Cook Rottman, Stayce Smith, Carol Snively, Don Stamper,

*Next meeting:* April 18<sup>th</sup> at West Jr High.

## **I & III. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting and Motions**

Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer moved to approve both the January and February minutes. Leslie Sapp seconded the motion. Minutes stood approved by unanimous vote.

## **II. Key Meeting Discussion Topics**

Pieter read each of the sub-topic goals and asked the full topic group if they agreed on the goals. The youth group made a slight adjustment to their goal. He distributed the strategic development worksheets and asked each group to finish brainstorming strategies and choose the top three strategies they want to accomplish.

### *Sense of Community subtopic group*

Goal: In the Future, connections between families, neighborhoods, and the community at large will be actively promoted through events, communication and interactive community challenges.

Strategies:

1. Investigate what made "Spark in the Park" successful (in bringing the community together) and explore replicating into an annual event.
2. Create an easily accessible community calendar that is all inclusive.
3. Develop a "challenge event" that brings people together (those that don't normally get together – that is truly fun!) i.e. Trading Places Columbia.

### *Youth Subtopic group*

Goal: Revised: Columbia will promote/develop a central place and create environments that will cultivate responsible citizenship and inclusive behavior among young people.

Strategies:

1. Better promotion of existing opportunities.
  - a) Creating webpage off CoMO website

- b) Booklet (free)
- c) Distribute all throughout Columbia
- 2. Leverage study circle program to build consensus and vision amongst youth organization leadership.
- 3. Develop a shared facility for youth related entities. Huge wow factor!

*Diversity/Inclusion subtopic group*

Goal: Columbia will be an inclusive community where people from all walks of life hear, appreciate, understand, respect and trust each other, and where positive relationships are fostered and human rights are advanced.

Strategies:

- 1. Reorganize and expand Human Rights Commission in order to strengthen the Commission by creating a more direct reporting system to the mayor, review city policy statements regarding human rights, and support, promote and expand the study circles.
- 2. Develop and implement cultural awareness orientation and training programs for all new and existing City employees that shows the City's commitment to a diverse and inclusive community
- 3. Form an Intercultural Council to identify existing organizations which reflect diversity/inclusion goals, promote and support cultural events and continue to research successful communities for new and innovative idea

**IV. Actions to be Taken**

On April 4 each topic group will be making subtopic presentations to the community about their goals and strategies and receive feedback from the audience. Feedback cards will be available for the participants to fill out with the objective being to get more information to help make the visions possible. Pieter asked the topic participants to attend on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. for the "Exploring the Vision" event at Stephens College LRW ballroom. From information gathered at that event and the next Citizen Topic Group meeting the groups will try to see who needs to see this scope of work, who is going to help implement the goals, and pay for and be responsible for the work.