



## Community Advisory Forum

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 (3:30 pm – 5:00 pm)  
127 N Wyman St, Rockford, IL 61107

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm.

#### 2. Roll Call

**Members Present:** Tim Bragg, Dick Rundall, Martesha Brown, Amy Nord, Matt Branom, Ryan Brauns, Corinne Sosso, Rebecca Quirk, Rebecca Francis, Nancy Razon, Kerry Leigh, Deb Alfredson, Paula Capone, Scott Hartman, Julie Bosma, Steph Gaspers, Carol Erickson, Ann Wasser, Duntai Mathews, Joshua Patterson  
**Staff Present:** Cesar Sanchez, Chelsey Glatz, Jason Holcomb, Michael Dunn, Myranda Gould, Gabi Gamily, Sydney Turner, Kennedy Pruitt

#### 3. Public Comment

- a. No comment

#### 4. Action Items

- a. N/A

#### 5. Discussion Items

##### a. R1 Introductions/Opening Remarks

- i. Introductions were provided by staff and stakeholders.
  1. R1 Executive Director Michael Dunn gave general remarks regarding R1's mission, background, and purpose. Dunn highlighted five core aspects of R1- Transportation Planning, Economic Development Planning, Environmental Planning, the Land Bank, and the Council of Governments.
- ii. R1 Director of Regional Planning Sydney Turner briefly touched on the core planning documents and will present on this topic at a future date.

##### b. CAF Overview Presentation/Review of Charter

- i. R1 Community Engagement Specialist Cesar Sanchez reviewed the Community Advisory Forum charter. The purpose of the forum is listed below.
  1. Purpose: to diversify and increase meaningful public participation, a critical element of planning.
    - a. Enhance stakeholder input by serving as the primary body representing public opinion
    - b. Ensure thoughtful and timely advice in public engagement, involvement, and input

- c. Ensure all plans and programs consider potential social, economic, and sustainability issues
2. Members will play a vital role in community engagements within the community and core planning documents.
3. The CAF is intended to meet 4-6 times this year.

**c. Officer Rolls**

1. The CAF will choose who will serve as chair and vice chair for the community advisory forum. Members are invited to send a statement of interest or nominations for chair and vice chair.
2. The chair and vice chair will be approved through R1's Executive Committee. Once the committee approves, the R1 Governing Board will approve the chair and vice chair. The chair will become a member of the R1 Governing Board voting board. This meeting takes place four times a year.
3. The chair will present to the Governing Board to give updates on CAF.

**d. 2023 Community Calendar**

- i. R1's Director of Community Impact, Jason Holcomb, gave remarks about the purpose of a community calendar.
  1. The goal is to be engaged in the community to receive community input post-Covid.
  2. The goal is to hear about community events; R1 is not aware of and hear from the CAF about opportunities to show support and receive engagement.
    - a. Opportunities for vendor booths, community engagement, and participation in the community in general.
- ii. Open floor to discussion
  1. Rebecca Francis shared information about the SOAR Radio Awards at the Coronado Center. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest gospel awards show in the US.
    - a. The awards show will take place March 6<sup>th</sup> with a ShowTime starting at 7 pm at the Coronado Center in Downtown Rockford, emerging artists showcase, and door opening will begin at 5:30 pm.
  2. Nancy Razon shared an opportunity with Lulac in Belvidere called Dia del Nino.
    - a. The purpose is to keep cultural traditions in our children. Vendors are invited to attend.
    - b. The event is held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 12-4 pm at the Apollo in Belvidere.
  3. Martesha Brown shared an opportunity for a Juneteenth celebration.
    - a. More information will become available, but the event will be held at Sinnissippi Park.
    - b. June 19<sup>th</sup>- Saturday and Sunday to engage with a diverse population
  4. Dante Mathews helped co-found a not-for-profit expo called Think Big.
    - a. The event will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Sports Factory.
    - b. Entrepreneurship and growing businesses work together, with over 70 vendors attending.
  5. Rebecca Quirk shared an opportunity on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

- a. Citizen Utility Board and the Illinois Solar for All Grass Roots Coordinator
  - b. An informational session will be an opportunity for people to sign up for programs for primarily low-income individuals in a designated environmental justice community. It will also be an opportunity to learn more about solar and opportunities for funding to incorporate solar systems onto your property through these programs.
  - c. There will be a presentation starting at 11am-noon, and a computer lab at the library to register.
  - d. They are looking for organizations to help endorse these programs; it is a free endorsement asking for outreach to the community and promoting the event.
6. Joshua Patterson shared about their upcoming graduation with the Workforce Development Program on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- a. The location is still not determined, but we are currently looking for sponsors with a goal of \$25,000.

## 6. Agency Reports

### a. Community Impact

#### i. Jason Holcomb presented on R1's Community Impact purpose and updates.

1. Community impact is addressing community problems at a level of community conditions.
2. Some important subject matters include mental health and substance abuse, health care, social determinacy of health, community violence prevention, and community development.
3. Current projects include managing the 1/2 cent sales tax, a funding intermediary for the Department of Justice for Project Safe Neighborhood, and a Community Needs Assessment for a few partner agencies, such as the Rockford Regional Health Council.
4. One of the most visible projects is managing the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board. The Community Impact team works the grant program for the Winnebago County ½ cent sales tax.
  - a. Strategic planning, which has led to grant making
5. We are currently partnering with the Rockford Regional Health Council to do a community health plan. The plan is done every three years, and several health systems use this information to inform their community health plans. A study survey is being conducted until March 31<sup>st</sup>; if able to help distribute and take flyers.
6. Ready to learn- partnership with alignment Rockford
  - a. Part of this partnership is taking community maps developed by UCLA, which has all kindergarten students in our area and shows vulnerability against five domains with custom community data.
  - b. The data is there, but getting community input and personal experiences with available resources is the next step.
7. A newer idea with some internal partnerships called Livable Communities Initiative is to identify areas within the community that community partners can invest in to see micro neighbors that can be transformed and make a more considerable impact.

- a. Data analysis has been done for the three county area that looks at various data indicators, current conditions, trends, etc., to look for investment opportunities for neighborhoods leaning towards recovery.
- ii. The objective of CAF is community engagement and opportunities to get information out into the community.

## **7. Other Business**

- a. If any members are interested in being the chair or vice chair, contact Cesar with the names and statement of interest.
  - i. Amy Nord nominated Martesha Brown for the chair position.
  - ii. Deb Alfredson expressed interest in Vice Chair.
- b. The process requires a change to the bylaws to vote for a new member of the R1 Governing Board.
  - i. All terms for board members are two years, and chair terms are two years.
  - ii. The Executive Committee has a voting interest and has to vote in a chair for approval but does consider a recommendation by the CAF.
- c. If anyone else wants to express interest, email Cesar a statement of claim. If we do not have more than one candidate, we can bring recommendations to the next Executive Committee meeting; if we do, we can get it back to this committee in April.
- d. Between now and April, the committee is encouraged to distribute the Healthy Community Study and be proactive on a robust community calendar.
- e. The CAF is an open meeting; anyone is welcome to attend and participate more.

## **8. Adjournment**

- a. An adjournment was called at 4:50 pm

Meeting minutes prepared by: Kennedy Pruitt  
Minutes approved by action of the Board: 6/29/23