

Growing Public Trust | Presentation to Gresham Citizen Involvement Committee | July 1, 2015

Location: Gresham City Hall

Presenters/facilitators: Heather Coston, Erin Pidot

Participants: Aaron Abrams, Manager of Gresham's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement; Gresham's Citizen Involvement Committee members

Part I: Heather and Erin provided overview of Oregon Innovation Award and the work that has happened so far.

Part II: Discussion – How do community members influence decision-makers?

- Council liaisons are working directly with the committee
- Join committee or neighborhood association
- Educate people about what the city does and doesn't do – produce a map that explains this
 - o Committee went through process to clearly define this
 - o Often people don't understand this
- Public testimony at council meetings
- Email and phone
- Leaders need to create pathways and opportunities for influence to happen – ways for community to connect
- Usually a really small number of people are influencing leaders
- RAD (Rise Advanced Dream) program – went out into community and asked 'what do you want to see?' – people could vote on ideas
- My Gresham App – with general Ask Gresham component
- Educate people about how to advocate – what is available, how to get involved
 - o Many people don't know how to navigate or why they should → need to create meaningful incentives
 - o Provide opportunities on days/times that work for people
- Public engagement at assembly areas – soccer games, church, etc.
- Take leaders out to where the people are
- Does format we present community input to leadership in matter?
 - o 1) meaningful input should influence what staff recommending and presenting to leadership
 - o 2) direct to leader - community leaders in front of decision makers to share directly – build one-on-one relationship and get information right from the source
 - How do we connect people directly to leadership?
 - If you bring community leaders to decision making table, may come back on their own
 - More we can bring people with us when we present the better we're doing our job – firsthand knowledge, rather than an interpretation
- Relationships depend on results
 - o Need to show the results and how feedback impacts decisions
 - o Responsiveness