

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at 6:30pm, Council President Isabel Piedmont-Smith presided over a Consensus Building Activity (CBA) of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
CONSENSUS BUILDING ACTIVITY
14 August 2024

Councilmembers present: Courtney Daily, Isak Nti Asare, Matt Flaherty, Isabel Piedmont-Smith, Dave Rollo, Kate Rosenbarger, Andrew (Andy) Ruff, Hopi Stosberg, Sydney Zulich
Councilmembers present via Zoom: none
Councilmembers absent: none

ROLL CALL [6:30pm]

Council President Isabel Piedmont-Smith gave a land and labor acknowledgment and summarized the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION [6:31pm]

Piedmont-Smith appointed Rosenbarger to the Hiring Committee for the Council Attorney/Administrator position without objection.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [6:33pm]

Piedmont-Smith introduced the focus question for the evening's consensus building activity: "What actions should the City Council take to address street homelessness and support the work of others addressing street homelessness?"

FOCUS QUESTION [6:35pm]

Asare noted that the conversation that evening was one of several that were happening as part of the larger ecosystem around homelessness. Asare said the focus for the evening was particularly on what the city council could do to address the issue.

Flaherty explained the role of council, and provided examples of the ways council could take action.

Asare stated the notes from that evening would be made available and would help inform future legislation.

Piedmont-Smith added the notes would be available on the council website under meetings and documents. She noted that the deliberations would not conclude that evening and there would be future sessions. Piedmont-Smith introduced Joelene Bergonzi, from the Community Justice and Mediation Center (CJAM), who would be the facilitator that evening.

Bergonzi gave an overview of the process for the evening, and discussed the difference between dialogue and deliberation. Bergonzi She introduced the other CJAM members who would be in each of the breakout groups: Susan Klein, Vanessa Roberts, John VanderZee, Wilson Mosley, and Ed Greenebaum. Bergonzi asked for patience with councilmembers who were not trained facilitators, and said the CJAM folks would be assisting them. Bergonzi reviewed the group agreements.

Group Reporting: Collecting different perspectives, common values, questions that arose, and possible action steps.

Breakout Groups: Part 1-
Facilitated Dialogue

Cms Flaherty, Asare, Stosberg, Ruff, Zulich, and Daily reported out on behalf of their groups. Notes from the group reports are attached to these minutes.

Group Reporting: Synthesizing priorities, values, needs, tradeoffs.

Breakout Groups: Part 2-
Deliberation practice

Several members of the larger group discussed their observations from the session.

Large Group Debriefing

Bergonzi thanked everyone for their participation and thanked the council for stepping out of their comfort zone. She invited people to look at the CJAM website for more information and noted that there would be a follow-up survey.

Piedmont-Smith thanked the members of CJAM for their support and thanked the members of the public for coming out and sharing their ideas. She encouraged people to provide feedback and then adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT [8:32pm]

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this ____ day of _____, 2024.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Isabel Piedmont-Smith, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington

FOR APPROVAL