COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN
ENGAGEMENT MINUTES
April 3, 2018

After determining that a quorum was present, the Committee on Citizen Engagement convened in a meeting on April 3, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. in the City Hall Conference Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Council Member Dalton Gregory, Council Member Gerard Hudspeth, and Council Member Keely Briggs.

STAFF PRESENT: Bryan Langley, Sarah Kuechler, Melissa Kraft, Karisa Richards, Jessica Rogers, Sarah Fullwood, Justin Harmon, Kevin McGinnis.

OTHERS PRESENT: Abdulrahman Habib with Smart Denton Lab

A. Consider approval of the minutes of February 6, 2018.

Council Member Briggs motioned, and Council Member Gregory seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the Smart Denton Lab initiative.

Kraft introduced Abdulrahman Habib with Smart Denton Lab to make the presentation.

Habib gave a brief presentation regarding Smart Cities / Smart Denton Lab.

Cities have grown into complex "systems of systems" saturated by aging infrastructure and socio- economic problems urging for immediate solutions. At the same time, modern technology has brought opportunities to approach these challenges in a data-driven way.

Integration of technology into infrastructure, integrations of systems, mobile devices and real-time information systems provide new opportunities to engage citizens and make cities more efficient, resilient and adaptive. This trend to make cities "smarter" poses new research and technological challenges in designing "smart cities".

The Smart Denton Lab is requesting for the city to collaborate with the lab in idea selections, support the lab in submitting grant applications and work with the lab as an innovation and idea channel.

Gregory asked for an explanation of what exactly the Smart Denton Lab is.

The Smart Denton Lab is a newly formed non-profit organization that is focused on providing scalable solutions that take advantage of information and communications

technology (ICT) to increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and enhance quality of life. The Smart Denton Lab goals are to attract innovative and technology companies and businesses, promote the city as an innovation hub, spread the word about city innovation, provide successful pilots, and to increase intercity collaboration. The Smart Denton Lab would like to collaborate with the city of Denton in an effort to design and pilot future smart city initiatives for the City of Denton.

The proposed 1st year projects include;

Smart lights – This will include LED, environmental sensors and motion detection capabilities for public safety. This is estimated to be 2 – 4 month project and an estimated 20 hours of staff time to scope out the technical involvement on this project. The Denton Smart Lab is seeking funding from organizations like NSF, Department of Transportation.

Gregory asked if there were grants already available.

Habib responded yes there are grants already available, there are also companies who are ready to bring their sensors into the City to test.

The second project includes a Parking mobile application pilot – This will utilize the city's current surveillance camera solution. This is an estimated 3 – 6 month project and an estimated 30 hours of staff time to scope out the technical involvement on this project. The Denton Smart Lab is seeking funding from organizations like NSF, Department of Transportation, etc.

Habib gave an example of airport parking lots and the lights that hang down that detect if there is parking available. That technology could be used for the parking lots in Denton.

Gregory asked if we were checking with staff on areas where we could make improvements.

Langley stated that staff was working closely with the open data group and would continue to have those discussions. It would require some staff commitment..

Briggs asked about staff commitment and if the volunteer policy that Council signed would apply?

Langley stated that it could be possible in the future, the first initial projects will be more difficult to set up so it probably wouldn't be best for volunteer work at first.

Gregory stated that in our utility department, we do rebates for insulation, energy efficiency, etc. and thinks it would be a good idea to also have rebates for lawn sprinkler sensors, where you can monitor over watering of lawns.

Briggs stated that the sensors could also prevent the sprinklers going on when it's raining.

Hudspeth asked Langley to help him understand what that looks like, if there are hours involved, how do we evaluate that and what is the process?

Hudspeth stated to Habib that he would like to see more citizen facing projects, for example; the lighting sensors, the noise sensors, and anything that ties to waste. He would like to see virtual reality with zoning projects and something that allows a 3D rendering. Hudspeth mentioned having something for trains that would allow a device to monitors travel habits and compare them to see the value that a train brings vs other modes of transportation. Do I want to drive vs do I want to ride the train.

Habib mentions that DCTA is working on an app and they are also working with the Smart Lab to work on projects with sensors.

Langley stated the best way to move forward would be to bring an MOU forward to the Council and articulate the level of effort on staff, what projects we would start with and have them approve. Then we could come back after the first quarter with where we are, what we have done, what projects we would like to start with next, how we want to move forward.

Langley asked if it would be ok to bring back to Council. Hudspeth, Briggs and Gregory agreed.

Gregory stated that one of the more important projects would be the issue of parking. And app would be a good way to check parking to see if spaces were available.

Briggs stated that it would be good to also just be able to see handicap parking.

Habib stated that they can.

Gregory asked if there would be a way to collect data from the projects.

Kraft stated that we can do internal testing.

C. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding citizen engagement, communication, and transparency initiatives.

Kuechler and Rogers put together a summary of some updates.

CRM System Update – Staff presented information on a CRM system and a recommendation to purchase the CitySourced software in February. A contract was signed with CitySourced on March 16 and an initial kick off meeting was held on March 30. Staff has proposed that the application be named "Engage Denton" and graphics to be included in the app stores are shown in Exhibit 2. Staff will be working with the vendor to develop the application and train staff over the next three months. The soft launch of the mobile and web application is expected to occur in

late June.

Hudspeth thinks that the picture on the app needs to be updated.

Briggs said she was ok with changing it.

Kuechler said that we can change it.

The next update is the "Improving Denton" campaign – In February, staff briefed the COCE on a proposed brand marker and comprehensive strategy to communicate capital projects to residents and the public. The official launch will occur in early April, with a multi-page spread in the April/May Resident Update newsletter, expanded from an 8-page issue to a 12-page issue to accommodate additional space to highlight and communicate capital projects and infrastructure work. Staff has continued to work with Capital Projects and Utility departments to update and improve information available online. While many changes have already been made, staff is continuing to develop more content to provide timely and meaningful updates to citizens.

Hudspeth stated that he thinks it has been fantastic and has received excellent feedback.

Kuechler stated that the other update is WAZE and we are working on getting that contract in place with COG and will keep you updated.

Rogers noted that the survey widget is now live so any issues with navigation will now be able to be reported.

Rogers also stated that the email notification system for the traffic notifications is up and running. 39 people are currently signed up. It is the best way to send out notifications until WAZE is up and running. You can sign up at ImprovingDenton.com.

Kuechler asked the Committee if they have any other feedback or questions.

Briggs stated that she liked the website changes, moving the events up. Asked if meetings like Committee on the Environment would be featured.

Rogers stated yes, they are adding an extra carousel layer for items that are coming up.

Gregory stated that he really liked the Annual Report, said that it is more reader friendly. Asked if we have received any feedback.

Kuechler stated that we received good feedback from the State of the City event.

Hudspeth stated that he likes the "having issues" feature. Wanted to know if we could add a chat feature.

Rogers stated that we are currently investigating a chat bot, what it would look like and include.

D. Set Future Meeting Dates and Topics.

Topics:
Bring back MOU for the Smart Denton Lab

E-mail picture options for the app.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 10:30 am.

GERARD HUDSPETH	KARISA RICHARDS
COMMITTEE CHAIR	RECORDING SECRETARY
CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS	CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS