

Denver Climate Action Task Force

Meeting Summary 01-16-2020

Key Discussion Points

- Denver Mayor Hancock and City Council President Jolon Clark each welcomed the group. They shared with the Task Force that Councilman Clark & the Mayor had serious conversations about the right process to address climate change because conversations are important to engage the community for equity and buy-in. They charged the Task Force with:
 - o Identifying what Denver needs to do to address climate change and its impacts.
 - o Being strategic to focus on what will make the biggest impact.
 - o Supporting community-based conversations.
 - o Taking our resources and focusing on how to achieve the objectives of the Task Force in a way that lifts up our low-income communities.

Council President Clark stressed, “We are indebted to you because this is going to change the world”.

The Mayor underscored that the Task Force has “a partner in the City of Denver” to “get it done and done right.”

- The group discussed the Sandbox, which lays out the charge of the Task Force to develop recommendations to both reduce Denver’s greenhouse gas emissions as well as adapt to climate change and become more resilient. The sandbox is available [here](#).

Group Norms

The Task Force identified the following group norms by consensus:

- 1. Chatham House Rule**
 - a. You may share generally what was said, but do not attribute specific comments to the speaker. This allows people to speak more freely and to build trust. For more see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatham_House_Rule
- 2. Speaking Publicly:** When speaking with someone about what the task force is thinking, only speak on behalf of yourself. When the task force wishes to make a public statement about an agreement they have reached, they will agree as a group how to share that publicly.
- 3. Platinum rule:** Treat others how “they” want to be treated
- 4. Being present and use of technology**
 - a. No working during the meeting or using technology except for taking notes or research.
 - b. If you need to take a phone call, step away and come back present.
 - c. Keep phones on silent.
- 5. Respecting all people & ideas** (address the issue and not the person)
 - a. When someone presents and idea you don’t agree with, listen to understand, ask questions
 - b. No side-bar conversations
 - c. Honor intent and focus on impact. You may not intend to offend people, so think about the words you use.
- 6. Encourage 100% participation and share dialogue**
 - a. Say what you need to say succinctly

- b. Speakers listen more & listeners speak more
 - c. If you have something to say, turn your name tent up so that people know you want to speak
- 7. Come with an open mind and positive mindset**
- a. Think with a fresh mind
 - b. Think outside your box, be open to ideas that are outside of that
- 8. Begin and end on time**

Process Considerations:

- Need for gallery engagement (the audience), what in the structure allows for dialogue. Include more mics for gallery so they can hear
- Time keeper: Have someone with a beep or alarm
- Electronic polling: Be efficient so it can be captured, and they can take action
- Live note taker, to ensure things are transcribed correctly later
- Appreciate the complexity: Set macro parameters early. Think big-picture.
- Schedule very short breaks each hour to allow people to check phones so they can be present for the whole time.

Visualization & Shared Understanding: Questions

- 1. Envision someone in Denver who will be most impacted by climate change in 2050. What needs must we consider as we develop our recommendations as a committee?**
- o *Who is impacted?*
 - Black and brown communities, • Low income communities, • Indigenous communities,
 - Children (see effects most if nothing is done), • People with varying abilities (elderly, disabled), • Animals, plants, environment, • Air Quality, • Workers (focus on balance of lost/gained employment), • Population as a whole (potential mothers), • Individuals with compromised immune systems (negative health outcomes), • Homeless individuals
 - o *What is impacted?*
 - Air quality, • Safety, • Access to nutritional food, • Water, • Health, • Environment,
 - Jobs, • Technology, • Transportation, • Quality of life, • Business/ economy / industry (i.e., energy), • Shelter, • Access to education, • Financing (the equity of tax structure)
- 2. Paying attention to how the climate crisis will impact some people and communities more than others, how would you state the problem we are trying to address?**
- o How will we address climate change impacts on the City of Denver in a way that improves equity and encourages innovation?
 - o Key factors:
 - GHG reduction/consumptive behaviors
 - Innovative technologies/improve equity
 - From status quo to something new without winners/losers
 - Health & safety
 - Awareness & access to information
 - Climate resiliency
 - Waste reduction

- Water & air quality
- Highly impacted, vulnerable populations, marginalized communities
- Marshalling enough funds
- Education & baseline understanding
- Transportation: mode & fuel switching

3. Looking out to 2050, what is your vision for Denver as it relates to climate change?

- o If we do our jobs right, in 2050...
 - Denver is the leading (or a leading) city addressing climate change
 - Denver being carbon free for x number of years as a way to speak about it
 - Denver being prepared and more resilient for people moving here
 - Denver is one place that might be more resilient to climate change
 - There may be more people moving here
 - Denver is known for environmental ingenuity
 - Denver residents aware of, and take ownership of, their impacts
 - Sustainability is a norm
 - Sustainability creating economy prosperity & wealth
 - Denver leading on intersectional policies
 - Addressing environment, education, health, justice
 - Ownership and land impacts all of this

4. What do you hope we can accomplish as a Task Force by the end of this process?

- o Themes (goals vs. plans vs. visions)
 - Strong goals
 - Fast-paced but reasonable plans that take into account funding
 - Strong plans
 - Concrete, but no actionable steps
 - Denver is the leader and sets the pace
 - Strong visions
 - Solve the big problem
 - No consensus on goals, plans, visions. However, these are not mutually exclusive. We could be happy if there were elements of all three
- o Need to include
 - Targeted populations/equity
 - Enforcement/policies
 - Coordination within City government, business, residents
 - Actional/achievable
 - Urgency!! (a lot of exclamation points used)
 - Recommendations for integrating climate change in government
 - Identify funding sources because otherwise we cannot do any of this
 - Develop an adaptive path forward that allows for learning and iteration.

Process for Reaching Agreement: A blended approach

- Work to achieve full consensus and understand dissenting opinions. Consensus minus one is needed to approve a recommendation at meeting one.

- If after every effort is made in the meeting to reach consensus minus one and it cannot be reached, then any member can ask for a 75% supermajority to vote to move the recommendation to a 75% supermajority vote during the following meeting.
- The time between meetings is used to continue to pull together a package that can work for everyone.
- A 75% majority of those present is needed to approve a recommendation. Dissenting opinion(s) will be added to the record.

Next Steps

- While alternates cannot vote, it remains unclear where they will sit and if they can join the discussion. The planning team will let the task force members know how to handle this.
- The planning team will consider developing a webinar option to allow for feedback of the final package.
- All Task Force members are expected to conduct a meeting in a box during the first two weeks of February. This first meeting is around gaps, needs, goals, not around solutions. An additional meeting in a box is expected. The consultant team will provide a sign-up form and invitation materials so that task force members can schedule these.
- The full public engagement plan will be discussed during the 1/30/2020 meeting.
- An equity workshop will be the majority of next meeting.