Community Meeting Report

Date: March 24, 2016
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Raymore City Hall
Facilitator: Julie MacLachlan, MacLachlan Associates

The City of Raymore invited interested residents to participate in a community meeting to discuss the Communities for All Ages (CFAA) initiative. The focus of the meeting was to provide residents an overview of the initiative and to discuss ways in which Raymore can work together to become a Community for All Ages. Twenty residents attended the community meeting. The room was set up in a U-formation to allow residents to have face-to-face contact with one-another as ideas and comments were shared. Sandwiches, desserts and drinks were provided.

Meeting Overview

Community Development Director Jim Cadoret opened the meeting by providing a brief overview of the recent community conversations that were held as part of the Reimagine Raymore strategic planning effort. When residents attending the first
community conversation (attended by 135 community members and 40 city staff members) were asked the question “What should we pay attention to as we plan for the growth and design of our community”, one of the items receiving a significant number of votes was to plan for a community for all ages. The interest identified at the meeting led the City to host the CFAA community meeting and begin the conversation.

Review of Changing Demographics

Julie MacLachlan led the review of the PowerPoint presentation slides of the changing demographics in the State of Missouri, Kansas City Metropolitan Area, and for Raymore. The presentation utilized many of the slides included in the CFAA presentations previously given by Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Project Manager for KC Communities for All Ages. Slides included in the presentation were: demographic information; myth vs. fact; tools and resources for communities; checklist overview; recognition program overview; and CFAA contact resources.

Small Group Discussion

Julie posed two questions for residents to discuss in small groups:

1. How well is Raymore prepared for the changing demographics? and
2. What does Raymore need to do to become more prepared?

Residents gathered in small groups for 10 minutes to discuss the questions.

Large Group Exchange

Julie engaged each of the residents to provide any comments, suggestions and ideas they had regarding the two questions. Utilizing a flip chart Julie summarized the group comments as follows:

- Low cost transportation options are needed. Participants noted that many residents use doctors and medical resources outside Raymore’s boundaries and they need a way to get there.
- Need more office space for service like medical offices.
  - A participant wondered if it is possible to add office space for medical and other services to the planned civic center.
- New buildings and the parking should be accessible. There was discussion about current ADA-compliant accommodations either being inadequate (e.g. not enough handicap parking) or inconvenient (e.g. parking away from the entrance, ramps at the side or back of buildings).
• Housing options are needed that provide different types of floor plans (e.g. two master suites at different ends of house, separate entrances) that accommodate intergenerational households, two adult roommates. Affordability is another important factor, regardless of age. There was discussion about increased interest in low maintenance housing options, regardless of age.
• Desire for a centralized Point of Contact (POC) to supply information, give information about amenities, and provide help for residents with questions about All Ages topics.
  o The Chamber of Commerce was identified as a potential resource.
  o A council member stated his willingness as an elected representative to be a resource. Also noted that much information is available to residents online and through social media.
• Need for more medical/doctor options within the community.
• Create support for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Schools are seeing more situations where grandparents are full-time “parents” for grandchildren.
• Need a town center. This makes the city more attractive by providing a place to shop and eat.
• Encourage more universal design options in residential housing. Discussion followed about what policies might be helpful to encourage builders and developers.
  o A comment was offered later by a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission about the importance of residents attending Commission meetings. Oftentimes issues are raised and discussions begin that can lead to some of the hoped-for changes participants were describing.
• Comments offered about how different surfaces in parking lots and paths or trails that connect parking lots affect accessibility to playing fields, other recreational amenities. Important to consider so that all ages and abilities can attend sporting and other recreational events.
• Noted that it takes a cultural shift to think about All Ages and All Abilities.
• Request for facilities and programs that keep both mind and body active.
• Senior assistance for computer use. Participants observed that computer skills are increasingly required to do everyday business, e.g. filling out forms for medical offices. A participant noted that traditional classes are not always the best method of learning or coaching people on use of their computer.
• Intergenerational coaching and mentoring. Participants discussed the opportunities to have younger residents coach and mentor older residents on computer use.
• Observation that many of the ideas offered are aimed at actions the City could take, likely requiring additional resources.
  o Another participant noted that information and resources related to assistive technology are available from her employer.
  o Brief discussion followed about other community resources.

Next Steps

Jim Cadoret closed the community meeting by discussing the next steps to be taken. Step 1 is for the City to prepare a summary report of the meeting and include it with the
supporting documents the City has gathered to prepare an application for Bronze level recognition as a Community for All Ages. The summary report, along with additional information on the initiative, is available on the City website at www.raymore.com/cfaa.

Jim indicated that an evaluation form has been provided for everyone and asked that if any residents are interested in diving deeper into the conversation and helping staff with the Assessment phase of the initiative to provide their contact information on the form. Step 2 is for the City to form a small committee or focus group that will complete the Assessment phase, including a close review of City policies and programs. Completion of the Assessment phase will help the City achieve Silver Level recognition. Step 3 is the end goal of completing a Communities for All Ages Master Plan for Raymore.

The meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m. and residents were invited to stay and ask questions or simply continue the conversation.

Summary of Evaluation

12 of the 20 residents attending the community meeting completed the evaluation form, with the following tabulated results.

1. I have a better understanding of state, regional and local demographic trends that will affect our city.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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2. I can describe how the categories in the Checklist Assessment relate to city functions.

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<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
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<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
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</table>
3. I understand how all ages strategies can guide our city to make plans that fit All Ages.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
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<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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4. I believe Raymore should take specific actions to make Raymore a Community for All Ages.

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APPENDIX

Flip chart Notes Sorted by Topic

NOTE: sorted list does not reflect chronology of discussion.

Public Spaces and Buildings works, transportation

- New buildings and the parking should be accessible. There was discussion about current ADA-compliant accommodations either being inadequate (e.g. not enough handicap parking) or inconvenient (e.g. parking away from the entrance, ramps at the side or back of buildings).
- Comments offered about how different surfaces in parking lots and paths or trails that connect parking lots affect accessibility to playing fields, other recreational amenities. Important to consider so that all ages and abilities can attend sporting and other recreational events (social inclusion).

Housing and Commercial Development

- Housing options are needed that provide different types of floor plans (e.g. two master suites at different ends of house, separate entrances) that accommodate intergenerational households, two adult roommates. Affordability is another important factor, regardless of age. There was discussion about increased interest in low maintenance housing options, regardless of age.
- Need a town center. This makes the city more attractive by providing a place to shop and eat.
- Encourage more universal design options in residential housing. Discussion followed about what policies might be helpful to encourage builders and developers.

Transportation and Mobility

- Low cost transportation options are needed. Participants noted that many residents use doctors and medical resources outside Raymore’s boundaries and they need a way to get there.

Civic Participation and Employment

- Desire for a centralized Point of Contact (POC) to supply information, give information about amenities, and provide help for residents with questions about All Ages topics.
  - The Chamber of Commerce was identified as a potential resource.
  - A council member stated his willingness as an elected representative to be a resource. Also noted that much information is available to residents online and through social media.
- A comment was offered by a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission about the importance of residents attending Commission meetings. Oftentimes issues are raised and discussions begin that can lead to some of the hoped-for changes participants were describing
- Noted that it takes a cultural shift to think about All Ages and All Abilities.
- Observation that many of the ideas offered are aimed at actions the city could take, likely requiring additional resources.
Another participant noted that information and resources related to assistive technology are available from her employer.

Brief discussion followed about other community resources.

Social Inclusion, Communication, Participation

- Senior assistance for computer use. Participants observed that computer skills are increasingly required to do everyday business, e.g. filling out forms for medical offices. A participant noted that traditional classes are not always the best method of learning or coaching people on use of their computer.
- Intergenerational coaching and mentoring. Participants discussed the opportunities to have younger residents coach and mentor older residents on computer use.
- Request for facilities and programs that keep both mind and body active.

Community and Health Services

- Need more office space for service like medical offices.
  - A participant wondered if it is possible to add office space for medical and other services to the planned senior center.
- Need for more medical/doctor options within the community.
- Create support for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Schools are seeing more situations where grandparents are full-time “parents” for grandchildren.