

YES! House Futures Committee Meeting #1
January 12, 2023, 5 - 7pm at the YES! House building

YES! House Futures (YHF) is a community-led process to establish a 1-2 sentence vision statement for the future operations and stewardship of The YES! House building. A 7 member committee will meet 4 times between January and June of 2023 to establish the vision statement.

Present: Paul Drees (YHF Committee Member), Tamara Isfeld (YHF Committee Member), Melissa Peterson (YHF Committee Member), Crystal Johnson (YHF Committee Member), Harold Goedgedrag (YHF Committee Member), Beth Pullan (DoPT Board Member), Luwaina Al-Otaibi (DoPT Staff Member), Sarina Otaibi (DoPT Staff Member)

Absent: Autumn Cavender (YHF Committee Member) and Fern Cloud (YHF Committee Member)

Welcome & Introductions

- Committee members participated in an activity to get to know each other.

Department of Public Transformation (DoPT) Overview Presentation

- Sarina provided an overview presentation of DoPT's mission, vision, values, programs, and staff and board structure
- Luwaina provided information about the Creative Collaborative Team (CCT)
- There was a request from Harold for DoPT to present at an upcoming Kiwanis Meeting

YES! House Futures Overview Presentation

- Sarina provided an overview of the YES! House Futures process
 - Goals, timeline and why we are implementing the YHF process
 - DoPT's role within the process
 - Committee member roles within the process
- YHF Committee Group Agreement was consented to without additions.
 - Together we will:
 - Listen for understanding
 - Hold each other accountable
 - Speak honestly and from our own experience
 - Respect each other's experiences
 - Appreciate silence and processing time
 - Exercise self-care
 - Own our mistakes, our intentions, and our impacts
 - Respect the process and the people involved

Committee Discussion

Sarina facilitated a discussion around three questions. For questions 1 and 2, committee members discussed in small groups, and then shared their notes with the larger group. For question 3, the committee discussed as a larger group.

Question #1: What do you think of when you hear the word “stewardship”? Committee members shared the following notes:

- Long term thinking: not just about us, but about the generation that’s not born yet/future generations
- Acting in the best interest of someone else/ other oriented
- Care
- Community
- United
- Partnerships
- Transparency
- Commitment
- Responsibility
- Passion

Questions #2: What do you think of when you hear the word “operations”? Committee members shared the following notes:

- Reliable and consistent
- Communication and community outreach
- Fiscal responsibility ties into transparency
- Duties, tasks, administrative
- The details
- Daily functioning
- Keeping lights on
- Financing
- Staffing
- Responsibilities
- Boring but really important

Question #3: What are the elements that make up a vision statement?

The committee agreed with the three points defining a vision statement on presentation slides:

- Forward-looking, future oriented
- Short and simple (1-2 sentences long)
- An aspirational statement that describes goals for the future and the impact it aims to make on the world

The committee continued the discussion around the vision statement as a group and came up with the following comments and questions:

- Being clear and easy to understand- so easy to get off track
- Trying to accomplish goal, if you don't have vision statement, it's easy to go off track
- Something people look at and pretty quickly and easily understand
- Should be able to remember it
- Can make it one sentence, two sentences can be complicated
- Who (is this organization) what and why (to what end)
- (YES! House) Visible - confusion as to who is connected and what the roles
- Lots of different ways of communication-difficult to get the word out to people
- Be very clear, people don't want to feel unsure walking in a building
- Feeling of abandonment in this area in rural areas. Community sees people come in and leave, generations of their kids do not want to live here, they see no future here
- Shift in wanting children to leave and now parents want their kids to stay in the community
- Hesitant when non local people are coming in. They want local representation
- Establishments in Granite Falls either open all the time or sporadic hours
- How is it different to have a vision statement for a building versus organizations?

Scheduling next 3 committee meetings

The committee spent a few minutes scheduling the next YHF Committee Meeting, but there was uncertainty around specific dates for some members. As a result, meeting scheduling will be done via doodle poll after the meeting.

The YHF Committee Meeting on Jan 12 concluded at 6:55 pm.

Virtual YHF Committee Meeting Recap

Wednesday, Feb 1, 1-2pm

Present: Autumn Cavender (YHF Committee Member), Fern Cloud (YHF Committee Member) and Sarina Otaibi (DoPT Staff Member)

A virtual YHF Committee Meeting recap with two committee members absent from the meeting held on Jan. 12 was conducted on Feb. 1 via Zoom. An overview presentation of DoPT and the YHF process was shared as well as notes from the Jan 12 meeting. The meeting included discussion around the same questions as presented at the Jan 12 meeting.

Department of Public Transformation (DoPT) Overview Presentation

- Sarina provided an overview presentation of DoPT's mission, vision, values, programs, and staff and board structure
- Sarina provided information about the Creative Collaborative Team (CCT)
- There was a request from Autumn to provide a breakdown of renovation and program support costs

YES! House Futures Overview Presentation

- Sarina provided an overview of the YES! House Futures process
 - Goals, timeline and why we are implementing the YHF process
 - DoPT's role within the process
 - Committee member roles within the process
 - Added "to deliver a 1-2 sentence vision statement"
- There was a request from Autumn to discuss the plan for accountability around the 5-year planning document at a following YHF committee meeting
- YHF Committee Group Agreement was consented to without additions.
 - Together we will:
 - Listen for understanding
 - Hold each other accountable
 - Speak honestly and from our own experience
 - Respect each other's experiences
 - Appreciate silence and processing time
 - Exercise self-care
 - Own our mistakes, our intentions, and our impacts
 - Respect the process and the people involved

Committee Discussion

Question #1: What do you think of when you hear the word "stewardship"? Committee members shared the following notes:

- Not owned by us, but guided
- Connection
- Guides for moving forward
- Good campsite rules, leave conditions better than when you arrived
- Divorce the concept of stewardship and ownership
- More about relationality than ownership
- I may own that land, but that land owns me - being in good relation with it
- Need to have a direct relational relationship with the place to be good stewards

Questions #2: What do you think of when you hear the word “operations”? Committee members shared the following notes:

- The day to day enactment of stewardship

Question #3: What are the elements that make up a vision statement?

- European centric concept
- It is not community accountability
- For the organization, it is a moral compass

The virtual YHF Committee Meeting Recap on Feb. 1 concluded at 2:07 pm.