

Attendees:

1. Welcome: Rachel gave introductions  
Introductions from Nick: Why did you come today?  
Rachel: I serve on this commission because I want it to be a nice place to live for everyone  
Judy: Exciting to see community members come out and dialogue with us  
Beth Schonman: Right to rights  
Sylvie Scheibel: Interested in finding out what this is about  
Jeff Johnson: City Council  
Heidi Hovis: Believe that community engagement is important  
James Khat: Appointed by the mayor to HRC  
Kara: Here out of curiosity  
Margaret: Here out of curiosity—want to see what is happening in the community
2. Civic engagement presentation—30 minutes
  - What is civic engagement and why is it important?  
What do you think about when you hear the word civic engagement?  
Discourse, community involvement, community participation, engaging with election officials, making connections, participation in government and governance, advocacy, participating, getting involved, being informed, advocating for policies and projects that will improve the community  
This is what we are about! We want our voices heard so that our democracy is stronger and we can improve peoples' lives this way  
“The intentional effort of a government to facilitate meaningful dialogue with all members of the public in its work and in the development of policy”
    1. Facilitate meaningful dialogue
    2. PolicyWhat's the point of doing it---responsibility to their constituents, learn what they want, get ideas, strengthen democracy  
Developing authentic relationships with people  
Meaningful engagement—Authentic relationships—Confirms consent—All ideas are considered—Builds trust—strengthens democracy  
  
Civic Engagement Plan: Strategic plan within Dayton's Diversity and Inclusion Council  
Moving state government to a model known as “meaningful engagement:  
Agency support  
Networking, coordination, sharing, communication  
Training  
Community conversation  
  
Agency, Mission, Vision, and Values Statements should align with civic engagement

Civic Engagement Training, engagement group, public meetings and engagement processes

- State of Minnesota and Civic Engagement  
2018 Civic Engagement Summit: Wed June 6, 8:30-4 pm, Metro State, St Paul  
Registration still open: <http://bit.ly/CESummit2018>

Want to cut the size of government so that I can decide for myself what to do  
School boards—want to get involved in the schoolboards—do what's right for kids

- How to engage with government?  
How would you get involved with government—local level (City Council)—then work your way up, go to council meetings  
Do community service on community boards and commissions and task forces  
Join a board, commission, task force, advisory group, review panel, etc.  
Participate in public meetings and events.  
Develop relationships and engage with elected officials and administrative staff.  
Vote!  
Lobby for a cause and advocate for something that you believe in by talking to government officials that way  
City website lists all of the boards and commissions—application forms are available on the website: fill them out and print them off, mail them in
- Questions and discussion  
Good news: St Cloud City Council never turns down applications to serve on commissions—glad that they are applying!  
Great opportunity to understand government's process and why the library is the way it is, why the police force is where it is  
Library board is a big deal—experience is never wasted—will also develop a lot of relationships with people on the city level

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Role of Civic Engagement Director—to support the engagement work that is happening across the state—engaging folx on the ground

Make sure everyone is connected and not siloed in their work—support role  
Training involved

3. Q & A 10 minutes

4. Report from Judy- 5 minutes

Human Rights Commission has a working group on housing and homelessness  
2015: The Human Rights Commission held two public forums in this room—overflow turnout—told us a lot about the importance of housing and homelessness in the community—formed a working group—did a lot of work: research, networking, forming partnerships—Housing Pillars: Greater St Cloud: 9 pillars that are aspirational goals for community improvement: Housing pillar: all people have access to a full range of

housing options (no exceptions)—United Way has been taking the lead on working on this goal

3 current initiatives:

- Inviting Center City (non-profit in Duluth)—brought chronic inebriate house to East St Cloud—going to make a 2<sup>nd</sup> facility to build a second facility; city starting a needs assessment to determine what homeless demographic this facility might serve—under review and study
- Working with Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne on housing support—provides scattered site housing with support from landholders who are willing to provide affordable housing to people who are low income—provides funds to support the landlords, guarantee rent, and provide medical, addiction treatment, mental health treatment, or other causal factors impacting housing/employment issues
- United Way formed a Homeless Solutions Team that has worked on a housing bill that would go to the State Legislature in 2019—Jerry Relph agreed to carry this bill to the legislature to create more affordable housing in the greater St Cloud area
- As these initiatives development, there will come a point where we will need public support to do emails, phone calls, City Council meeting support, to get this bill passed—also need to work with St Joseph, Waite Park, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids—we would like our City Council to help us move this forward on the Housing Pillar

Q: Homeless people on the committee?

A: It is very difficult to be homeless, figure out how am I going to get food, clothes cleaned, apply for a job—would be wonderful to have a homeless person on this housing task force—there are representatives for the homeless, who work in the trenches for the homeless

Q: Place of Hope—represented?

A: Yes—and other providers as well, to exchange information—team has collected a great deal of data. All shelters are full, waiting lists, HRA waiting list goes back ten years. There is no denying that there is strong evidence of a significant need. Voices of the Homeless (sponsored by St Cloud State Social Work Department)—gives homeless folk a voice

Pathways for Youth (Cooper Avenue North—couple blocks north of Division):

Youth for Christ building: St Cloud Rotary: serves homeless youth 16-24, opened today first homeless youth walked in today

If anyone would like to serve on the Housing Working Group—contact Judy and sign up! We need help!

5. An invitation from the audience to join the commission

5 commissioners currently volunteering—we can have up to 7—if you are interested in serving, application is available online

Q: Jeff Johnson: Area Cities meeting (Joint Powers Board)—Jeff invited Judy to speak at Joint Powers with Jerry Relph—very appropriate to speak about this in one of these

meetings—invitation accepted—some cities more open to the homeless support than others

Q: Jeff Johnson: Council meetings: want an open forum—meetings are chaotic, but this is a critically important part—we should show up and debate on everything; we do listen—Complete Streets—advisory tech program: City puts in bike lanes, sidewalks, etc where appropriate—25 people came to speak for and against, Jeff was on the fence—the debate helped Jeff break the vote—Dr. Smith and Dr. Tracy Ore—tipped Jeff’s vote into passing the ordinance

6. Adjourn: 6:47 pm