

Comments gathered from the Table Facilitators

The most common: “I had fun!”

“It was a really meaningful event.”

Two councillors were very difficult to deal with. I had to really keep one of them to the time allotment

We were able to relax with the timing and ended up simply spending 8 minutes in a free-flowing discussion.

“Perhaps have shorter periods of time with each councillor. Instead of 30 minutes, have just 20 or 25 minutes. That way the councillor can visit more tables. This may have been a little biased on our part because we often only had 2 questioners. Maybe more people with more questions would need the 30 minutes.”

“When Reed said that we were switching things up so the councillors could ask questions back to the citizens, it seemed weird and almost counter-productive. The councillors were more interested in what the citizens wanted to know, or what the citizens wanted to ask the councillors.”

“People found the event very useful. I enjoyed myself.”

“A well worthwhile exercise and I was happy to be able to be a part of it.”

“I enjoyed myself and thought it was a positive step towards building trust.”

One wished that there was more emphasis on the elected officials asking the citizens questions or engaging them more.

Comments gathered from two Councillors

“It really worked well.”

“This is worth doing again.”

They seemed to appreciate the timing and, as well, the opportunity to ask the citizens questions and engage them. “This is my kind of thing” said one.

Recommendations

1. That this method of community engagement be recommended for regular Council use in place of the usual Town-hall events.
2. That when used the Micro Town-hall structure would include some kind of preparatory hand-out to the elected officials (well in advance of their first event after being elected) that gives a brief background and method description and includes the opportunity for them to ask the electorate questions and to engage them in a group discussion on issues of importance.
3. That one of our Table Facilitators be recommended to the city as a potential leader of these and other such events as she is a trained Open Space Technology facilitator.