

Welcoming Community

March 19, 2022

Facilitating: Chris Gilbreath

Note-Taking: Jessica Jetter

Attending: Kaili Campbell, Heather Hernandez, Daniel Kluth, Erik Gonzalez, Jane Mack, Mark Libby, Deborah Mackinnon, Douglas Hallock, Jeff Hixton

1. What do you believe are the problems we are trying to solve?

- New community members feel that it is difficult to reestablish here. Some people feel lonely after moving here.
- Many businesses are owned by people who don't live in Kingston and do not participate in local community organizations.
- Diverse cultures are not well represented in our Kingston community.
- Public art helps to welcome people, Kingston could use more of this! (Urbanists Collective can help with this)
- There is not enough public information about the resources and recreational opportunities for new people moving here.
- Need to welcome homeless/at risk youth (Coffee Oasis is working on this).
- Businesses can welcome more commuters to get additional business.
- Students of color not feeling welcome here in their own community (evidenced by Kingston High School walkout on 3/18/22)
- Kingston can work on welcoming not just new members to our community, but also welcoming people who are already here and are underrepresented in our community (e.g. diverse cultures, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, etc.).
- Kingston may not have an ESL program or translators available in schools. The variety of dialects compounds the problem.
- While communications between the School District and community organizations are strong, a lack of communication between students and the community at large is apparent.

2. What are some of the possible short term solutions (1-3 years) to the problem(s)?

- Coffee Oasis could host an arts night or festival to share talents (Heather is a great singer!)
- Welcome Wagon Baskets program (with cooperation from local realtors or under Chamber leadership).
- Chamber needs an office on main street for a visitor center.
- Chamber is working on an interactive digital kiosk on the ferry ramp.
- Chamber has an online events calendar to advertise local businesses and events.
- Host more music and art celebrations in Kingston that are multicultural and diverse.
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- Incorporate more diversity into Kingston events like pie in the park, Juneteenth celebration, Fourth of July celebration.
- Dedicating some of the Kingston chairs for underrepresented groups (consulting with and working with representatives of said groups to determine how the chairs should be decorated).
- Work with students to develop new ideas around increasing and celebrating diversity in our community through art and other community organizing.
- Art projects with youth at KHS should help to integrate the community.
- Rotary to invite students to express their concerns regarding walk-out related issues. A student forum or town hall could possibly help to build connections with the students
- Coffee Oasis has resources to offer in connecting to youth and providing youth services. A youth Community Meal could start a dialogue.
- Urbanists Collective is releasing a resource directory for youth. May have funding available for a Zene featuring Kingston youth.
- Coffee Oasis can provide services to youth and also can provide support.
- Kingston Youth KCAC presentation May 11, 2022 6:30pm via zoom.

3. What are some of the possible long term solutions (4-10 years) to the problem(s)?

- See above

4. How will the people and organizations represented here be involved in working on these solutions in 2022?

- [Coffee Oasis](#), [Urbanists Collective](#), [Kingston Chamber of Commerce](#), [Kingston Community Advisory Council](#), [Kingston Rotary](#), [Kingston Cares](#)

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