



Community Council

2018 Annual Report

This Annual Report marks the end of Community Council’s first decade of bringing residents together to build a more vibrant and resilient region. Thank you for entrusting us with the important mission of fostering a trusted gathering place where people engage in dialogue, inquiry, and advocacy to build a vibrant region for everyone.

Program Committee

In 2018, we facilitated a Program Committee, made up of community members, who were tasked with identifying the most pressing issues facing our region. Based on a series of in-depth conversations and research, the committee determined that affordable housing is a paramount concern in our region. Engaging community members in the process of selecting a study topic is rewarding because they take a hard look at our region’s biggest challenges, and lay the foundation for community involvement right at the beginning of the process.

Led by Debbie Dumont, the 2018 Program Committee members were:

Emma Case	Heidi Meliah	Mari Prieto	Joy Smith	Jim Wilson
Sharon Clinton	Michelle O’Connor	Mike Rizzitiello	Laurel Sweeney	
Chris Crowder	Steve Owens	Toby Salazar	Ynez Vargas	

Study Committee: Affordable Housing Opportunities

The *Affordable Housing* Study Committee began meeting weekly in late September and will complete its work in early April. The Affordable Housing Study Report and recommendations will be released at our annual luncheon in June. Advocacy for the implementation of those recommendations will follow.

The Study Committee seeks to answer the question, “How can our region meet the need for safe and affordable housing?” To answer that question, the study committee considers the need for affordable housing in the region, the broader dynamics of economic growth that impact wages and housing costs, the production of housing locally, and barriers that people face when trying to access safe and affordable housing. For the first several months the study committee meets weekly to learn from resource speakers, such as planners, service providers, developers, lenders, and government agencies. Subsequent weeks are spent drafting the study report, developing conclusions, and crafting recommendations for positive change.

In our continued effort to increase our ability to include diverse populations in our process, for the first time this year we offered Spanish translation and interpretation, and childcare at our Study Committee meetings.

Led by Meagan Anderson-Pira, Study Committee members are:

Cindy Boen	Tom Glover	Cheryl Pira	Dick Swenson
Louise Bourassa	Renee Harms	Laura Prado	Roger Trick
Micki Breitenstein	Norma Hernandez	Nadean Pulfer	Kelly Trop

Brian Burns	Gretchen Hormel	Gustavo Reyna	Yesenia Trujillo
Elizabeth Chamberlain	Brian Hunt	Jon Rickard	Bob Waring
Larry Clinton	Paul Ihle	Nancy Riggle	Andrea Weckmueller-
Sharon Clinton	Becky Kettner	Mike Rizzitiello	Behringer
Sheryl Cox	Sierra Knutson	Peter Rohde	Kathryn Witherington
Erendira Cruz	Ted Koehler	Toby Salazar	Ellen Wolf
Mike Denny	Tim Payne	Terri Silvis	Michele Wyres
Mike Fredrickson	Deborah Peters	Barbara Stubblefield	

Education as a Path to Economic Growth

The Implementation Task Force (ITF) began its third year of advocacy in 2018 and will complete its work in the fall of this year. The ITF continues to focus on a number of key recommendations, including the creation of a regional educational attainment alliance. This effort seeks to engage education, business, non-profit, government, and community leaders throughout the region in the development of a coalition that will align educational goals and amplify effective programs for greater impact. The successful implementation of this recommendation will result in a lasting alliance of leaders and working groups that will steward broad educational goals, such as equity, access, and attainment. This subcommittee has conducted extensive research of successful models, established a partnership with United Way, who will act as the backbone organization for the alliance, and met with educational leaders to invite their participation – all of whom are ready to engage.

The Implementation Task Force continues to advocate for a number of other important recommendations, including the expansion of early learning opportunities, the building of stronger relationships between educational institutions and the arts economy, and expansion of opportunities for trauma-informed practices and culturally responsive training.

Led by Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer, the Implementation Task Force members are:

Matt Bona	Gretchen Hormel	Nelly Pilaes	Blanca Tello
Samantha Bowen	Helen Kim	Beth Powers	Amanda Trejo
Tony Cabasco	Maria Marin	Maria Remington	Nick Velluzzi
Ben Case	Steve Owens	Katy Rizzuti	Jessalyn Waring Bruce
Emma Case	Jaenemy Perez de Luengas	Andrew Rodriguez	Heidi Wilson
Chris Crowder	Deborah Peters	Kim Rolfe	
Diana Evenson	Jim Peterson	Darlene Snider	

Enhancing Outdoor Recreational Opportunities

In early November, we celebrated the work of community members' three years of advocacy efforts in support of the recommendations that emerged from the *Enhancing Outdoor Recreational Opportunities* study. The community had a lot to celebrate, especially with the completion of the Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan! The Plan is a blueprint for a regional non-motorized transportation and trails network designed to enhance outdoor recreation, improve health and wellness, and stimulate economic development. By bringing together over 30 planners, resource managers, government officials and other partners across multiple jurisdictions, this advocacy effort has built the foundation for a permanent resource that will be an asset for generations to come. You can read the entire Plan, its history, and learn about current milestones at www.bluezonetrails.org.

As Community Council stepped away from this broad effort, we were delighted that partner entities will continue to support and develop the great work that has begun. The Blue Mountain Land Trust continues to expand its environmental education programs, and has created the Blues Crew, a volunteer trails maintenance program, which has already been wildly successful in opening up previously impassable trails in the



Community members gathered to celebrate the Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan.

Umatilla National Forest. The Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, which played a leadership role in the development of the Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan, will regularly convene the region’s planners and resource managers so that they can continue to share expertise and collaborate on regional projects. You can read about these impacts, and more, in the Final Report of the *Enhancing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities* Implementation Task Force, which can be found on our website: <http://www.wvcommunitycouncil.org/study-implementation>. The advocacy work achieved in support of the *Enhancing Outdoor Recreational Opportunities* study recommendations is a great example of how Community Council acts as a catalyst for far-reaching and lasting change.

Led by co-chairs, Kate Bobrow-Strain, Mike Denny, and Kevin Mills, Implementation Task Force members were:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Greg Brown | Cathy Lee Haight | Tim Parker |
| Jon Campbell | Kyle McFarley | Lauren Platman |
| Holly Howard | Amy Molitor | Gary Robertson |

Community Health Conversations and Indicators

In 2018, we convened a series of Community Health Conversations, designed to engage community members in conversations about the wellbeing of the region that are grounded in data. This project built on two earlier and related projects: the Data Walks that used economic, demographic, and social indicators to guide community discussions of our region’s quality of life, and Community Conversations, which identified a vision for the future and priority areas. That data, what we referred to as Community Health Indicators, were shared at four identical meetings held in Walla Walla, College Place, Milton-Freewater, and Dayton.

Community Health Indicators were developed in close coordination with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, and respond to the five priority areas identified through our Community Conversations: Education, Strong and Diverse Economy, Health and Wellbeing, Natural Environment, and Safety. In order to generate a sense of broad-based community-ownership, the indicators were developed through a collaborative process that engaged community leaders, local experts and interested community members. A total of 12 outreach meetings were held to gather community input and verify data choices. Because they encompass multiple sectors and were generated with broad community input, the Community Health Indicators serve as the basis for both Walla Walla and Columbia counties’ Community Health Needs Assessments. The Needs Assessments highlight critical areas for attention and action, and provide input for local Community Health Improvement Plans.

The goal in developing the Community Health Indicators is to have a set of indicators that will serve as a planning tool, based on the community’s vision for its future, and as an evaluation tool to measure progress toward community-identified goals. Through periodic review of the indicators, reassessment of the data, and re-engagement of community members, the Community Health Indicators will inform community action. Community Council plans to use the Community Health Indicators to regularly engage the community in developing a community roadmap – reflecting on where we have been, where we are now, where we want to go and what critical areas need attention if we are to get there.

2018 Community Support

This work is made possible because of the generous support of our volunteers, donors, sponsors, and grantors, including our 2018 Title Sponsors:

Associated Veterinary Medical Center	City of Walla Walla
Baker Boyer Bank	Coffey Communications

Board of Directors

Officers for Community Council’s Board of Directors in 2018 were:

Katie DePonty, President	Bill Erickson, Secretary
Cheri Heafy, President-elect	Ben Currin, Treasurer

Directors serving, with the officers, during 2018 were:

Maria Alonso	Trevor Dorland	Randy James
Katherine Boehm	Debbie Dumont	Keith Nerdin
Sharon Clinton	Roger Esparza	Jeff Reynolds
Mario Delgadillo	Rick Griffin	Kim Rolfe
Mike Denny	Sergio Hernandez	Ynez Vargas
		Kristi Wellington-Baker

Staff

Mary A. Campbell, Executive Director	Catherine Veninga, Study Coordinator
Ruthell Martinez, Advocacy Coordinator	Georgia Lyon, Whitman Community Fellow

Community Council		
Statements of Financial Position		
Unrestricted and Temporarily Restricted Funds Combined		
December 31, 2018 and 2017		
	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 240,986.11	\$ 189,568.09
Grant & Accounts Receivable	-	2,000.00
Equipment-Net of Depreciation	895.50	1,588.27
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 241,881.61	\$ 193,156.36
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,732.29	\$ 1,281.25
Other Current Liabilities	9,945.67	4,484.73
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11,677.96	5,765.98
NET ASSETS	230,203.65	187,390.38
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	\$ 241,881.61	\$ 193,156.36
Statements of Activities		
Unrestricted and Temporarily Restricted Funds Combined		
Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017		
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES		
External Support (Contributions & grants)		
Contributions & Grants	\$ 237,211.75	\$ 241,366.64
Special Events	13,040.00	9,750.00
Sponsorships	45,000.00	18,250.00
In-Kind Donations	24,228.75	23,235.60
Total External Support	319,480.50	292,602.24
Revenues		
Interest Income	231.82	38.12
Total Revenues	231.82	38.12
Total External Support & Revenues	319,712.32	292,640.36
Expenses		
Personnel	215,412.96	150,920.22
Occupancy	6,962.08	7,027.22
General & Administrative	16,991.98	12,705.68
Marketing & Promotion	15,073.60	13,080.54
Program Materials & Other Costs	22,458.43	24,419.33
Total Expenses	276,899.05	208,152.99
Change in Net Assets	\$ 42,813.27	\$ 84,487.37