

Committee for Community Involvement

July 15, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

Time: 6 p.m.

Held via Zoom

CCI Attendees: Karen Bjorklund (Chair), Pat Erdenberger, Bill Merchant, Brent Parries (Vice-Chair), Gordon Slatford

CCI Members Absent: Marrion Kaufman (due to computer issues), Amy Nichols, Danielle Weber

Attending PGA Staff: Ed Nieto (Liaison to CCI)

Public Attendees: Stephanie Carkin

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome, Introductions

Chair Bjorklund welcomed CCI members and PGA staff.

Ed Nieto informed members that a second CCI candidate would need to be interviewed in August. CCI interviewed and voted to recommend approval for a previous candidate for the ninth and final CCI position at the June 2025 CCI meeting. The second candidate applied after the application deadline was extended by a fellow community engagement team member without the knowledge of the other members. Both candidates were informed of the situation.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Pat Erdenberger motioned to approve the June 2025 meeting minutes, and Bill Merchant seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. July 22, 2025 Community Leaders meeting update

Mr. Nieto notified CCI members about the number of registrants, logistical updates, and a format change, keeping each of the five commissioners at separate tables throughout the entire meeting instead of rotating from table to table as originally requested.

Members agreed to hold a 15-minute caucus after the meeting for CCI members to share notes and create a summary. They also suggested additional questions and minor changes to the evaluation form draft.

5. Work on pursuing a definition of “neighborhood livability.”

The group discussed creating a definition for “neighborhood livability” as part of efforts to establish enforceable standards in zoning ordinances, while noting the challenges of defining and measuring “livability” across different rural and urban areas in Clackamas County.

Pat Erdenberger suggested that “community” might be a more appropriate term to consider, while Gordon Slatford added that personal feelings play a role, suggesting that requiring applicants to

submit a “livability impact statement” could help quantify qualitative factors.

Public attendee Stephanie Carkin expressed concerns about the variability of individual perceptions and the difficulty of using them to create objective criteria.

Chair Bjorklund emphasized the need for practical, legally enforceable criteria that could be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance.

Mr. Nieto suggested developing universal criteria for “livability” that could be applied across different community types, while Vice Chair Parries emphasized the need for clear definitions to support livability assessments in planning processes.

Chair Bjorklund suggested that a decision on how to proceed be made at CCI’s August meeting.

6. CPO Volunteer Recognition Efforts

Under new business

Committee members discussed former CCI member Rick Cook's start up initiative to recognize volunteers monthly at County Commissioner meetings. Chair Bjorklund relayed that the CPO Summit had also discussed the need for exploration of impactful ways to recognize CPO and Hamlet volunteers; and said a discussion at a future CCI meeting could be useful.

7. Update on PGA newsletter to CPOs

Mr. Nieto shared the planned distribution methods for the quarterly newsletter for CPOs and Hamlets. He also agreed to send drafts of all newsletter articles involving CCI in the inaugural newsletter to Chair Bjorklund and Vice Chair Parries for review.

The group also discussed the need to find a balance between giving Mr. Nieto flexibility to write while ensuring the content accurately represents the Committee's views without assuming editorial control.

8. Possible new business to consider for future CCI agendas

No items discussed due to time constraints.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 6 – 8 p.m. via Zoom.