

Advisory Body Survey Summary

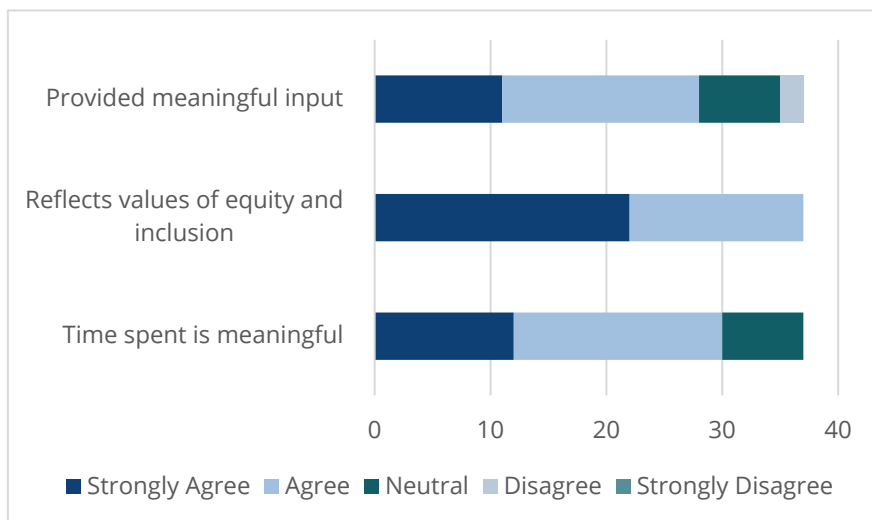


In 2025 the City Council asked staff to evaluate how the City is engaging with the community around council policy decisions and develop recommendations for opportunities to improve the experiences of volunteers and effectiveness of this work. As part of the process, staff surveyed current members of Council Appointed Advisory Bodies on their personal experience and seek recommendations to enhance engagement. We received 37 responses from members of 11 advisory bodies.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Advisory Body members were asked to consider their experiences and evaluate if they felt they had provided meaningful input that shaped a policy or decision, if their body reflected values of equity and inclusivity, and if the time they spent felt meaningful and valuable.

Most responses were positive, with 75.6% sharing they Agreed or Strongly Agreed that they provided meaningful input during their advisory body experience and the time spent was meaningful and valuable. 59.5% Strongly Agreed that their body reflects the values of equity and inclusivity.



Two respondents scored that they did not think they had provided meaningful input on policy and decision making; however, of the 28 people who provided comments, nine respondents gave statements about feeling their input was not impactful. The comments included respondents questioning whether their feedback was used, concerns about being included too late in the process, and a lack of alignment with Council work plans or understanding the process for providing input to Council.

NEW METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT

The survey included four new suggested engagement opportunities and asked respondents to consider their effectiveness in creating meaningful input to guide policy and decision making, equitable and inclusive engagement, and impactful participation and experiences for members.

Community Collaborators

Most responses to this recommendation were positive, with over 75% of respondents indicating that this option would be Somewhat or Very effective at meeting the three engagement goals. The one Very Ineffective response had a clarifying comment that questioned whether these collaborators would be advising the Advisory Bodies.

Community Connectors

Most responses to this recommendation were also positive, with close to 80% indicating they believed this option would be Somewhat or Very Effective at meeting the three engagement goals.

Community Academies

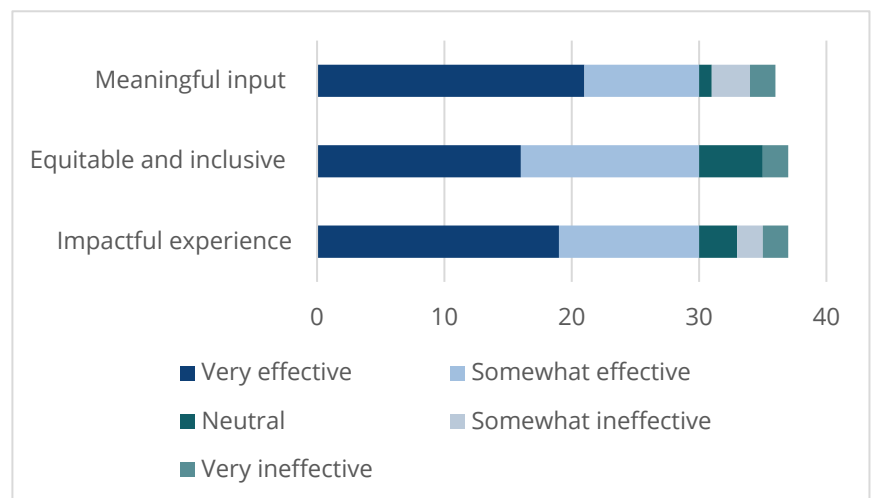
Most responses to this recommendation were also positive, with this option receiving the highest Very Effective rating (56.7%), for a total of 82.8% when combining Very and Somewhat Effective. Some people felt this would be ineffective in providing meaningful input to guide policy. However, it may not have been clear to all respondents that the intent of this recommendation is to create a better-informed community that will then be better able to provide meaningful input through other engagement methods.

Multi-disciplinary Advisory Bodies

Most responses (81%) felt this could be a Somewhat or Very Effective method for achieving all three engagement goals (meaningful input; equitable and inclusive; and impactful experience).

There were a few Very Ineffective ratings for this option: however, respondents noted questions about how the multidisciplinary bodies would be formed and whether there would be sufficient cross-

departmental staff support. Another respondent was also concerned that aligning Advisory Bodies according to Focus Areas would still result in siloing.



CONCLUSION

The responses received from this survey were consistent with the feedback received from other focus groups and stakeholder conversations. Respondents value the opportunity to provide community perspectives and feedback to City Council and staff that support policy and decision making; however, the current system does not always feel effective.

Additional tools and methods of community engagement would increase opportunities for community members to provide input, but some refinement, particularly for the concept of multi-disciplinary advisory bodies, would help determine when and how to use each tool.