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| **From:** | Corrina McFarlane |
| **To:** | CACH |
| **Subject:** | TO CACH for Wisdom Council vote Feb 4 |
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# TO CACH for Wisdom Council vote Feb 4

Dear CACH members,

Megan said in a community outreach meeting that if we wanted the Wisdom Council, we would have to lobby hard for it. Me, a "lobbyist"? I'm not wishing to indelicately "lob" anything into your careful and earnest proceedings. But we REALLY want the Wisdom Council process to happen in Santa Cruz as a city-sanctioned event, so what else are we to do?

"Experts - know how, citizens - know why, administration - knows process....We need a lot more *why*." -Tom Atlee, Co-Intelligence Institute

I invite you to pause and consider the opportunity we have now for OUR City to experience this model, applied to 2020 Homelessness. It has huge potential to shift dynamics when it is used to inform government bodies, big and small. Wisdom Council has proven itself over and over.

"...If you run the model, it works every time. It's not sometimes, maybe or random. It works every time. It offers us a *'tabula rasa' mega-brain with no preconceived notions."*

-Larry Morrell, Watsonville DF Participant 2020 (self-described "analytical left brain scientist" )

I have heard Don Lane say we have a divide between those who are informed and those who are not. Each time a new idea gains traction it is shot down by those out of the loop. You as a task force can come up with the silver bullet but if there is no buy-in from the community, you will have people dismantling it before you ever get to load it.

I know you are busy! If you don't have time to read the whole thing, please read this Co-Intelligence website one-pager: https://www.co-intelligence.org/P-wisdomcouncil.html

If you're still with me, the profundity of the Wise Democracy model is well-documented but difficult to convey in soundbites, this is my best try to keep it short:

Rogue Valley Wisdom Council (2003) Ashland, OR resulted in the rejection of a newly-minted city charter which had been passed down without citizen buy-in. It was the PROCESS of the Wisdom Council that resulted in a renewed vigor for a 100 year old

citizen charter with the energy of "We the People" and engaged the public, the benefits of which are still unfolding to this day. If you have the time, I urge you to read the whole story here:

https://www.wisedemocracy.org/rogue-valley-or.html

Similar results were had in Austria:

*"We can end the blame game and implement solutions.... Here [in this model] we utilize the power of diversity."* - Dr. Manfred Hellrigl (Vorarlberg, Austria). Skip to 33:01 to get to the meat of it. https://youtu.be/8HGRAjyHGcw

And just to be clear, when Dr. Hellrigl says "we offered our services at no charge," he means the State of Vorarlberg covered the expenses to bring the Wisdom Council to cities in the region, *not*, that there was no cost to doing it.

Tom Atlee/Co-Intelligence Institute (referenced above) brings attention to DF model in his democracy blog post:

“I want to share with you Rosa Zubizarreta’s remarkable insights into how a very powerful process works its magic. That process is Dynamic Facilitation and Rosa reveals its elegant recipe for transforming intense group conflict into creative group breakthroughs.” -Tom Atlee

I hope I’ve convinced you to take a deep dive and read the whole post here:

http://www.tomatleeblog.com/archives/175328168

If you vote to convene this Wisdom Council for *our* city, it means, Wise Democracy Santa Cruz County, will facilitate the multi-steps of a Wisdom Council Process:

- 11-16 people (randomly selected from county voter rolls)
- 2 days (Wisdom Council/Creative Insight Council)
- 1 evening (World Cafe: community engagement with WC deliverables)
- Official Invitation (with WC process/video) sent to “Responder Groups” = local govt, local non profits and neighborhood group forums

I know some of you have expressed your doubts, but, random selection is critical to the model. The individuals who find themselves invited, at first thought, might imagine (and often do) that they have little or nothing to contribute to the subject. At the end of the Process, they are asking, *where did you find these amazing people?*

While you might be thinking  “you need 16 experts' on homelessness to solve the homeless problem” or “you need experts to build a car”, the brilliance of the model is that it is tapping into innate wisdom and thereby produces surprising outcomes and solutions with which everyone in the room resonates. You might need experts to *build* a car, but a child *created* it in their imagination first.

Okay, I appreciate you being willing to let all this run through you!

Sincerely,

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