COMMUNITY RELATIONS ASSESSMENT

Responding to the community’s desire to explore options for the advancement of UA as a place that is welcoming, cohesive and inclusive
Community Relations Assessment Workshops

MAY 18 & JUNE 5, 2019

- **Workshop Facilitator:** Floyd Akins
- 85 attendees
- **Report:**
  - Identified series of ideas that would have a positive impact if implemented
  - Recommended Council should further consider creating an advisory board
TEMPORARY COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 16-2019 – the charge from City Council

- **Assessment** – review workshop findings, existing community relations initiatives, groups and strategic plans, research other communities
- **Findings** – brainstorm ideas and develop initiatives that would be a good fit for UA
- **Recommendation** – bring back to Council a recommended structure and purpose for consideration

MEMBERS

- **City Council**: Michele Hoyle, Jim Lynch, Sue Ralph; **Equal UA**: Nick Fortkamp, Marianne Mitchell, Michelle Montgomery; **Upper Arlington Library**: Jenn Faure; **City Administration**: Police Chief Steve Farmer, City Manager Steven Schoeney, Community Affairs Director Emma Speight
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

"The Community Relations Committee will promote understanding, mutual respect and a sense of belonging among all residents to affirm the value of each individual and foster a culture of shared community."
DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN UA
Community Relations is how we define ourselves, present that to the world and evolve, by taking an active interest and role in fostering the wellbeing of all in Upper Arlington.

MISSION
Together, we will work to nurture our deep sense of community and neighborliness through activities designed to enhance understanding, appreciation, communication and mutual respect for all members of our community.

VISION
Upper Arlington is a community that actively welcomes, supports and treats all people with integrity, fairness and respect.
COMMITTEE FRAMEWORK

- 7 members, 4-year terms, selected by City Council
- Supported by City Manager, Community Affairs Director (non-voting)
- Comprised of mixed representation to include cultural/ethnicity/gender diversity, youth, new resident, civic involvement, business, schools, library
- Role does not include forming policy or dispute resolution
- Affiliated groups to include:
  
  Equal UA, Library, Schools, Realtors, Leadership UA, Senior Center, Fire/Police, Asian American Community Services, Kiwanis, Rotary, The Stand Project, Faith Leaders, UA Civic Association, Chamber, Education Foundation, Community Foundation, private & parochial schools, Syntero, Metro School, etc.
PROPOSED GOALS

WELCOME | CONNECT | BELONG

- Develop programs to welcome new and existing community members
- Develop community initiatives to promote belonging and connections
- Facilitate creation of an online “one stop” tool for connecting residents with desired resources
PROPOSED GOALS

EDUCATE | INFORM | ENLIGHTEN

- Create new and support existing programs designed to educate, inform and raise awareness (speaker series, etc.)
- Launch a community initiative themed around “we all belong” (or similar)
- Promote UA regionally to change perceptions and present UA as a welcoming environment
- Establish aspirational core values that support respectful dialogue
- Provide training opportunities for community organizations
Plan and implement activities and events that provide opportunities to gather in support of the mission

Provide opportunities for community members to gather and share experiences and ideas

Build on existing community events and programs to create invitations, connections and opportunities to celebrate

Celebrate and share stories about UA residents and groups
NEXT STEPS

◉ Final phase of engagement – share and prioritize goals
◉ Seek Applicants to Serve – open invitation to all citizens
◉ Council to guide, Staff to prepare legislation to form the Committee
◉ Committee to be established Spring 2020
◉ Committee to report annually to Council, any required funding to be determined annually
◉ Council to consider work/progress of Committee and determine next steps at the close of 2023 (4 years of implementation)
INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT OF AFFILIATED GROUPS

- How do the mission/vision/goals of the Community Relations Committee align with your group?
- Is your group interested in participating?
- Who might serve as your group’s liaison/community relations champion?
- What are you already doing?
- What would you like to do?