

Community Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes

August 20,2025

Attendees in person and via Zoom: Erin Siebel, Silvia Araoz, Falguni Dharodiya, Bryn Johnson, Jenny Haase, Tara Bradshaw, Linda Peterson, Kelly Challburg, Melany Moras and Shivam Shah

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The Draper City Community Engagement Committee meeting covered administrative matters, community partnerships, and upcoming events. Members discussed potential collaborations with organizations like Utah Foster Care and Meals on Wheels, cultural recognitions including Hispanic Heritage Month and Diwali, and community-building initiatives such as the Draper Wellness Coalition and World Kindness Day activities. The committee also shared updates on new local businesses, reflected on the recent pie baking contest, and coordinated volunteer opportunities for upcoming events including the Arts across Festival.

Next steps

- Linda to create a page on the Draper Wellness Coalition website featuring community resources and services
- Linda to forward the Soo'nkahni Preserve information to Jim for website inclusion
- Committee members to brainstorm World Kindness Day activities for October meeting
- Kellie to send Arts Festival sign-up sheet by end of day tomorrow
- Committee members to sign up for 1-2 hour shifts at the Arts Festival prize table on September 13th
- Committee to plan pie baking contest improvements for next year including better organization and judging process
- Committee to consider creating a community talent sharing program
- Committee to explore ways to support/prepare for potential issues in the community
- Committee to develop a community building initiative starting in the new year
- Committee to create a "Love Draper" campaign with shirts and resident story videos
- Committee to explore ways to support Utah Foster Care's Care Communities program
- Committee to consider supporting Meals on Wheels with employee and volunteer routes
- Committee to investigate teaching English opportunities in the community

Summary

Meeting Minutes Approval Discussion

After a brief inspirational thought "kindness begins with me," Erin motions to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, which Tara seconds, noting that the minutes were created using AI from Zoom recordings, resulting in a more thorough but occasionally "wonky" format.

City-Organization Partnership Opportunities

Bryn discusses potential partnerships between the city and local organizations, particularly the Interfaith Coalition and Utah Foster Care's Care Communities program. She explains that Utah Foster Care is listed as a resource on the Utah Department of Health and Human Services website, suggesting it has government affiliation. The group considers how the city might share information about these organizations, with Linda suggesting they could highlight different service opportunities during the upcoming service week. The committee agrees this approach would be appropriate and notes the overlap with the Draper Wellness Coalition's efforts to share community resources.

Draper City Meals on Wheels Partnership

Linda discusses a potential partnership with Meals on Wheels, proposing that Draper City Hall become a drop-off location with employees covering three days a week and committee volunteers handling the remaining two days. The commitment would involve about an hour during lunch breaks to deliver meals to 5-6 houses in Draper, providing important social contact for recipients. Several committee members including Erin, Shivam, and Melany express interest in volunteering, with Friday and Monday suggested as potential volunteer days. Linda also plans to add these resources to the Draper City website to make them more accessible to the community.

Cultural Holiday Content Planning Calendar

Linda discusses upcoming cultural and holiday recognitions, including plans to reuse a Hispanic Heritage Month video, create a graphic for Women's Equality Day, and develop a video about the Soo'nakahni preserve area for either Indigenous Peoples' Day or Native Americans Day. The team considers spotlighting someone with Native American heritage to make community connections and plans to create content for Diwali and a combined Halloween/Dia de los Muertos video. They discuss reaching out to contacts for additional ideas and resources, particularly for the Dia de los Muertos celebration which the library has featured in the past.

Draper Wellness Coalition Community Initiatives

Linda discusses the Draper Wellness Coalition, which includes partners like Salt Lake County health services, the senior center, library, and hospital, and suggests committee members could volunteer at events such as the upcoming prescription drug take-back event where naloxone kits will be distributed. She also proposes a community-building initiative starting in the new year that could include branded shirts and videos spotlighting residents' stories about coming to Draper. Linda

emphasizes that research shows people who feel connected to their community have better health outcomes and youth with community attachment tend to avoid risky behaviors.

Immigrant Support and Community Engagement

Shivam and Kellie discuss community engagement ideas, including teaching English classes and sharing talents, though Melany notes the local church no longer offers English classes despite still having a sign. The conversation shifts to supporting immigrants in Draper, with some members expressing concern about ICE activities and wanting to help people feel welcome and safe. Shivam mentions his connection to Adam Craig, an attorney who does pro bono work on immigration issues, and shares that there have been recent deportation flights from Salt Lake to Texas or Mexico.

World Kindness Day Planning Initiative

Jenny announces that World Kindness Day is November 13th, with Kindness Worldwide week running from November 8-15th, and suggests having the Mayor sign a proclamation at the October 21st City Council meeting. The group discusses potential activities to support the initiative, including service projects like the upcoming volunteer event at the senior center on September 13th, and agrees to brainstorm more ideas at their October meeting. Kellie emphasizes that the goal is not just a proclamation but to foster community connection, and the group discusses how the city communicates about events through text messages, emails, social media, and potentially the Draper Forward publication.

New Draper Business Updates

Kellie shares updates on new businesses in the area, including Brookers Ice Cream, which recently opened and is doing well, with Melarie's daughter working there and bringing home ice cream every night. She mentions that Thirst, a soda shop, is opening on Friday in the location where a coffee place used to be, and Salsa Leedos is taking over the Guadalahonky's restaurant space after about 30 years of operation. Kellie suggests having a "Welcome to Draper" sign for new business openings to help them feel connected to the community, and notes that Plunj, a cold plunge business, will be opening on September 3rd near Aubergine.

Pie Contest Review and Planning

Kellie discusses the pie baking contest, noting that despite initial confusion about their responsibilities, the committee worked well together to make it successful. For next year, they plan to start organizing earlier, streamline the judging process for the large number of pies, and possibly form a dedicated committee with assigned roles. Kellie also mentions the upcoming International Arts Festival on September 13th, where they'll need volunteers to staff the prize table from 10 to 4, and promises to send a sign-up sheet by the next day.