

Bellevue City Council Retreat January 24-26, 2024

Silver Cloud Hotel - Point Ruston

Tacoma

Retreat Report

Participants:

Councilmembers: Mayor Lynne Robinson, Deputy Mayor Mo Malakoutian, Dave Hamilton, Conrad Lee, Jared Nieuwenhuis, John Stokes, Janice Zahn

Staff: Diane Carlson, Nathan McCommon, Joe Todd, Genesee Adkins, and Charmaine Arredondo

Facilitators: Kara de Maine and Carrie Heron, Laverde Consulting

Desired Outcomes:

1. Re-form as a team with a focus on integrating new members.
2. Align on agreements for working with each other, including a shared understanding of the function of the council as a group and the expectations of individual councilmembers.
3. Review council vision to ensure directional alignment.
4. Complete a look back and celebrate accomplishments in 2023.
5. Review and endorse new Strategic Target Areas.
6. Review emerging themes informed by the community and recommended by the leadership team and identify priority themes that will inform the creation of the budget.

Notes:

Wednesday evening, January 24th

- Welcome from Diane Carlson, Acting City Manager
- Overview of the agenda and orientation to the work ahead.

Thursday, January 25th

- Opening activities
- Individual councilmembers shared a leadership value important to them in their work on the council.
- The council clarified agreements for how they work together as councilmembers, building on work the council did at 2023 retreat. What's working well? Councilmembers discussed items that needed clarity or were missing.
- The council discussed the pros and cons of changing the council's meeting day and frequency.
- The council discussed annual travel planning and identified some next steps for staff to collect data and come back with recommendations.

- Staff provided an overview of 2023 accomplishments, and a look forward at 2024 and policy issues that are expected to come to the council.
- The council affirmed their directional alignment with regard to their current vision. A small sub-team of councilmembers will review the detailed language in the vision statement and come back with a recommendation on potential future changes.
- Staff introduced the new strategic target areas. After discussion and clarification, the council worked in small teams to identify modifications to the target areas. Staff to incorporate the modifications and return documents to council for review.
- Staff introduced proposed budget themes for tomorrow's discussion.
- Closing - evaluation of the day, review decisions and action items.

Friday, January 26th

- Opening - overnight reflections
- Councilmembers built out a list of proposed actions for each budget theme. The council agreed on a short list of priority budget themes.
- The council and staff clarified action items and decisions.
- The closing included sharing a gratitude from council and staff.