



## 2015 Annual Report

Completing its seventh year, Community Council's impact continues to grow through outreach to, and engagement of, citizens in its citizen-driven study/action model for community improvement!

Community Council's role is community-building—bringing people together to learn about their community, identifying common needs, interests and challenges; engaging in problem solving; and acting to make positive change through advocacy. Since 2008, Community Council's study process has provided the structure to deal with pressing concerns. Public involvement enables the process to be used time and again to meet multiple challenges.

### STUDY PROCESS COMMITTEES: PROGRAM, STUDY, AND IMPLEMENTATION

#### Program Committee

The committee, which reviews all of the submitted study topics ideas, winnowed the many issues before them to two potential study topics for the Community Council Board's adoption. The Board adopted *Education as a Path to Economic Growth*. The framing question for the topic is: "How can we strategically invest in education as a way to drive economic growth in the region?"

Led by Jeff Reynolds, the 2015 Program Committee members were:

Doug Boedigheimer	Rosendo Guizar	Laura Norris
Mike Denny	Cheri Heafy	Andrea Ruiz
Kerstin Fenton	Mark James	Sonya Taylor
Darcey Fugman-Small	Kip Kelly	
Yaritza Garcia	Cathy Lee-Haight	

#### Study Committee: *Education as a Path to Economic Growth*

The question the committee is addressing is "How can we strategically invest in education as a way to drive economic growth in the region?" They are looking at the issue from a number of perspectives, including a review of current programs dedicated to anticipating and supporting growth potential and education/skill alignment, and assessment of the current education trends in the context of employment needs and growth opportunities. The Committee began meeting weekly in late September. Their work and study report will be celebrated at a luncheon in June 2016.

Led by Jan Foster, the Study Committee members are:

Katherine Boehm	Randy James	Kimberly Rolfe
Brian Burns	Kathy Jansen	Joshua Slepín
Glenn Carter	Bill Jordan	Michael Smith
Lisa Chamberlin	Julie Mae Longgood	Darlene Snider
Dick Cook	Becky Martin	Barbara Stubblefield
Chris Crowder	Dennis Matson	Danielle Swan-Froese
Mike Denny	Brad McMasters	Matt Tucker
Jock Edwards	Trish Niemi	Nick Veluzzi
Jessica Gilmore	Steve Owens	Jessalyn Waring
Jim Gilmore	Jim Peterson	Andrea Weckmueller-Behringer
Joshua Gonzales	Pete Peterson	Kristi Wellington-Baker
Steve Hudson	Beth Powers	Tracy Williams
Mark James	Arleen Rice	

**Study Committee: *Enhancing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities***

The Study Committee met weekly from mid-September 2014 to early April 2015, celebrating their work and the release of the Study Report at a luncheon on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Study Committee heard from various experts on the challenges and opportunities of different aspects of outdoor recreation, including environmental, economic, community and individual health. The Committee developed recommendations, including: the creation of a centralized, comprehensive outdoor recreation information portal, the elimination of barriers such as cost so that the outdoor opportunities are available to low-use groups, the creation of a network of connected trails throughout the region. The complete Study Report, including all of the recommendations is on our website: [www.wcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.wcommunitycouncil.org).

Led by Adam Kirtley, the Study Committee members were:

Kate Bobrow-Strain	Kerstin Fenton	Judy Mulkerin
Jon Campbell	Patrick Flood	Becca O'Connor
Barb Commare	Tricia Harding	Sue Parrish
John Culhane	Holly Howard	Kevin Pogue
Bill Erickson	Cathy Lee-Haight	Jim Robles
Lacey Evans	Kevin Mills	Pete Rhode
Alex Ewoniuk	Amy Molitor	

**Implementation Task Force: *Enhancing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities***

The Task Force took the recommendations from the Study Report and developed steps for each recommendation and then compiled the recommendations into five groups for advocacy. They will continue their advocacy for implementation of the recommendations through the fall of 2017.

Led by Kate Bobrow-Strain and Kevin Mills, the Task Force members are:

Greg Brown	Mike Denny	Tim Parker
Jon Campbell	Holly Howard	Robert Rankin
Barb Commare	Amy Molitor	Gary Robertson

**Implementation Task Force: *Improving Food Security***

The Task Force continues to work with community organizations whose missions align with the recommendations from the study. Many of the recommendations are large-scale projects, including such things as the performance of a statistically sound study to determine the food security needs in the region, and creating opportunities for all food chain players to connect around issue of food insecurity in order to coordinate services. They will continue their advocacy efforts through the fall of 2016.

Led by Genie Crowe, the Task Force members are:

Susann Bassham	Janet Ockerman	David Shannon
Casey Burns	Beth Powers	Beth Thiel
Allison Davis-Gingell	Donald Priest	Dan Thiessen
Dewight Hall	Mari Prieto	Jessalyn Waring
Jeff Mathias		

**Implementation Task Force: *Improving Communication between Citizens and Government***

The Task Force celebrated the completion of the three-year period of this study, including the two years of advocacy, at its Full Circle Celebration on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Task Force members looked at various governmental websites, read budgets and other documents, attended public meetings, and visited with many public employees and officials. They learned about creative ways governmental entities are trying to better communicate with their constituents. The Implementation Task Force Final Report can be found on Community Council's website: [www.wcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.wcommunitycouncil.org). The resources listed in the index of the report are a great resource for community members and government officials.

Led by Bob Withycombe, Task Force members were:

Punkey Adams	Carolyn Keyes	R.L. McFarland
Douglas Carlsen	Ted Koehler	Dick Swenson
Cindy Godard-Gross	Sarita McCaw	Robert Zagelow
Aubrey Hill		

### **COMMUNITY INDICATORS PROJECT**

Community Council continues to work towards the development of an indicators system that meets the needs of the region. An indicators system - a means to measure community conditions - is the fourth piece of Community Council's study process. In collaboration with the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust, Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, and Blue Mountain Community Foundation, two meetings were held in 2015 to get community input. At the second meeting, on December 17<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Lori Pflingst, Director of Research for the Washington State Budget & Policy Center, took more than 100 community members through a data walk - explaining what data tells us about our community. More community meetings will be held in 2016 to obtain more community input.

### **OUTREACH**

Community Council had over 400 people attend the *Enhancing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities* Study Report Luncheon on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Marcus Whitman Hotel. Many of the attendees had never heard of Community Council and its work.

The Full Circle Celebration for the *Improving Communications Among Citizens and Government* study was attended by over 50 people, all were appreciative of the great work of the Implementation Task Force members.

### **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Officers for Community Council's Board of Directors in 2015 were:

Roger Esparza, President	Yolanda Esquivel, Secretary
Jeff Reynolds, President-elect	Brian Anderson, Treasurer

Directors serving, with the officers, during 2015 were:

Kate Bobrow-Strain	Alex Ewoniuk	Sergio Hernandez
Jan Corn	Melissa Gardner	Randy James
Mike Denny	Jessica Gilmore	Chris Kontos
Brian Dohe	Dewight Hall	Bill Neve
Debbie Dumont	Cheri Heafy	Mari Prieto

### **STAFF**

Mary Campbell served as Executive Director. Zoë Erb served as the Study Coordinator from January through May. Kirsten Telander and Cynthia Selde served as part-time study coordinators from June through October. Emily Ford, a Whitman Fellow intern, served as the part-time Assistant Study Coordinator for the *Enhancing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities* Study Committee through the spring, when she graduated from Whitman College. Catherine Veninga became the Study Coordinator in September. Rachael Rapp, a Whitman Fellow intern, began serving as the Assistant Study Coordinator in September. She will complete her internship in the spring of 2016.

### **2014 COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Our generous donors, grantors, and sponsors allow us to continue this effective citizen-driven study/action model for community change.



**Community Council**  
**Statements of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2015 and 2014**

	2015	2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 135,778.60	\$111,092.31
Grant & Accounts Receivable	1,270.00	250.00
Temporarily Restricted Cash & Investments	3,234.00	28,022.20
Equipment-Net of Depreciation	855.94	997.53
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 141,138.54</b>	<b>\$140,362.04</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 124.46	\$ 289.31
Other Current Liabilities	2,537.29	1,837.73
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,661.75	2,127.04
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	135,242.79	110,212.80
Temporarily Restricted	3,234.00	28,022.20
TOTAL NET ASSETS	138,476.79	138,235.00
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 141,138.54</b>	<b>\$ 140,362.04</b>

**Statements of Activities**  
**Unrestricted and Temporarily Restricted Funds Combined**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014**

<b>STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>External Support</b> (Contributions & grants)		
Individuals	\$ 26,813.62	\$ 25,221.00
Corporations	6,270.00	8,300.00
Foundations	95,384.00	106,800.00
Special Events	8,370.00	13,120.00
Sponsorships	14,250.00	7,250.00
In-Kind Donations	40,617.19	24,850.46
Total External Support	191,704.81	185,541.46
<b>Revenues</b>		
Interest Income	69.98	50.74
Total Revenues	69.98	50.74
<b>Total External Support &amp; Revenues</b>	191,774.79	185,592.20
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel	120,186.45	112,389.78
Occupancy	5,962.78	8,118.00
General & Administrative	14,350.53	14,177.42
Marketing & Promotion	9,425.34	8,910.39
Program Materials & Other Costs	41,607.90	25,451.80
Total Expenses	191,533.00	169,047.39
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 241.79</b>	<b>\$ 16,544.81</b>