

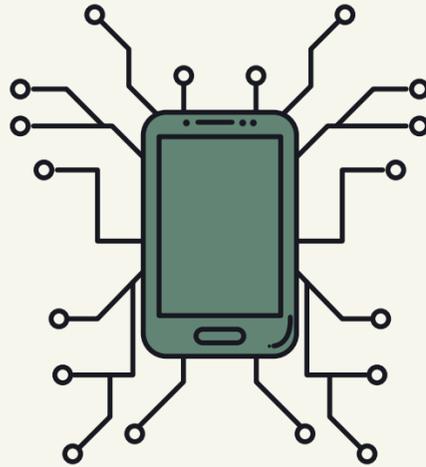
Increasing Volunteerism in Maquoketa

Group 5: Civic Volunteerism

Sarah Martin, Grace Lincoln, Anna Van Heukelom, Oskar Kaut, Abbie Boeding

Background of the Issue

Communication



- **Limited and infrequent** social media presence
- Information **inaccessible**

Population



- **6,000** citizens
- **Aging** population
- Lacking diverse input

Current State of the Issue

19%

Population over
65

16

Boards and
Commissions

14%

Position
Vancancy

BEST PRACTICES

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

Well-organized city
website displaying
volunteer
opportunities

AMHERST, MA

Casual, open
meetings between
the public and
government officials

CLARINDA, IA

"RSVP" volunteer
program for seniors

CARLISLE, IA

Citizen participation
time during city
council meetings

**BEST
PRACTICES**

MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

HOME ▸ DISCOVER CEDAR RAPIDS ▸ MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ▸ CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND MEETINGS

MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Civic Engagement and Meetings ▾

Adult Volunteers ▾

Group Volunteers ▾

Teen and Family Volunteers ▾

Internships ▾

MVP Contact:
Stephanie Schrader
Community Service
Coordinator

Civic Engagement

The City of Cedar Rapids is committed to government transparency, citizen participation, and clear communication. As a part of our public outreach, we actively seek to provide information to the public about city government and inform residents of opportunities to participate in public meetings.

There are a variety of ways for citizens to stay engaged in the community. Residents are encouraged to attend public meetings, which are posted online [here](#). Residents can also [subscribe to City news](#) to receive email or text notifications of public meeting postings, news, or calendar events.

Participate in Council Meetings

[City Council meetings](#) are generally held the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in the Council Chambers on the third floor of City Hall unless otherwise posted. Contact the City Clerk's Office at [319-286-5060](tel:319-286-5060) or cityclerk@cedar-rapids.org.

Serve on City Boards and Commissions

Participate in City government by serving on one of the City's many [boards, commissions and advisory committees](#). These advisory groups partner with the Cedar Rapids City Council and City staff to guide the future of our community. Service on a board or commission is an excellent way for citizens to become involved in the operation of local government and to contribute to the quality of life in Cedar Rapids. Contact the City

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BEST PRACTICES

Policy Recommendations



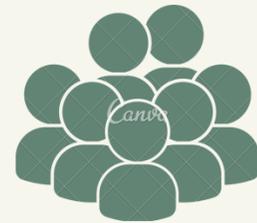
Create a **civic engagement and volunteerism tab** on the city website



Implement a **city mass notification system** via text and email with important information



Develop a **virtual option for city commissions** and continue a virtual option for city council

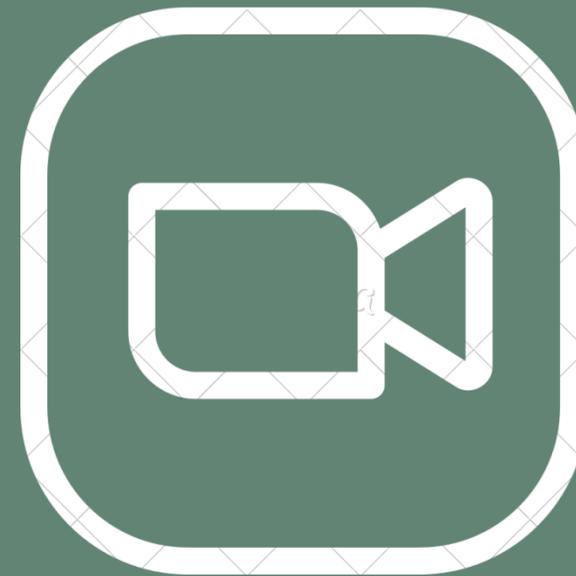


Host a **community engagement event** to recruit volunteers and encourage networking

Next Steps



Determine **website control** and request admin changes



Implement **zoom option** for city council and commission meetings



Determine **who controls information** included in the **city water bill**



Create a **list of all orgs** that need help recruiting volunteers

Survey Questions

1.Have you ever volunteered in the Maquoketa community? Y/N

2.If not, what factors have kept you from volunteering? Select all that apply: Transportation, Time commitment, Child Care, Other, N/A

3.If you selected "Other" for question 2, explain. What other volunteer opportunities should be available?

4.Would you benefit from a Zoom/hybrid meeting format at City Council and Commission meetings? Y/N

5.Have you been made aware of volunteer opportunities in the Maquoketa community? Y/N

6.If you answered "No" above, would you be more likely to volunteer if you were made aware of the opportunities? Y/N/NA

7.How do you currently access information from the Maquoketa community? Select all that apply: Online, Newspaper, Flyers, Social Media, I don't currently have an effective method

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