

Please share your thoughts on Davidson Coffee Chats and Meeting Schedule

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What are your thoughts on the meeting schedule and coffee chats?. Please complete the survey.

Summary Of Registered Responses

As of July 9, 2018, 10:26 AM, this forum had:

Attendees: 56
Registered Responses: 11
Minutes of Public Comment: 33

This topic started on May 11, 2018, 8:58 AM.

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

Average Priorities

Monthly coffee chats at Davidson Town Hall (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

Quarterly coffee chats at another location (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

Quarterly coffee chats at Davidson Town Hall (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

Answered 5
Skipped 6

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

Answered 7
Skipped 4

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

Please share your thoughts on Davidson Coffee Chats and Meeting Schedule

What are your thoughts on the meeting schedule and coffee chats?. Please complete the survey.

Answered 9

Skipped 2

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Individual Registered Responses

Robert Cameron (registered)

May 11, 2018, 11:08 AM

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

My Priorities

Monthly coffee chats at Davidson Town Hall (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

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Quarterly coffee chats at another location (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

No response

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

I don't have any magic solutions, but I am frustrated at Coffee Chats over the past year, which have devolved from previously being open and inquiring

exchanges, to being dominated by a small, vocal group with a narrow agenda. Possibly limiting the amount of time that is spent on a given topic would help?

Possibly limiting remarks by each individual to one, maybe two, to avoid speakers repeatedly, beating the same poor defunct equine beast.

Whatever the solution, please keep Davidson from being driven by decibels, whatever the topic, thanks.

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

No opinion.

Mike Roman (registered)

May 11, 2018, 2:08 PM

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

My Priorities

Monthly coffee chats at Davidson Town Hall (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

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Please share your thoughts on Davidson Coffee Chats and Meeting Schedule

What are your thoughts on the meeting schedule and coffee chats?. Please complete the survey.

Quarterly coffee chats at another location (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

The location is not as important as having a location large enough to accommodate everyone who wants to come.

(The coffee and casual environment of the Egg was nice).

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

My top priority was monthly chats as opposed to quarterly to provide more opportunities to get together. Since I work during the day, it's impossible for me

to get to the 9:00 AM meetings. If they alternated and were only held quarterly, that would only leave two available meetings per year.

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

Sounds good. Again, since I work about an hour commute away until 5:00, the previous 4:00 work sessions were always impossible to get to.

Name not shown (registered)

May 12, 2018, 8:06 AM

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

My Priorities

Quarterly coffee chats at another location (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

Quarterly coffee chats at Davidson Town Hall (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

Until 18 months or so ago, coffee chats were a great informal forum where folks could gather with their Davidson neighbors and town officials and staff for collegial and respectful information sharing and discussion.

The chats produced some terrific ideas while strengthening community bonds. Thanks to a small, outspoken, rude group of individuals, however, these chats devolved into forums for pet issues and disrespectful treatment of fellow citizens and town staff. I'd recommend first off that you (Rusty and the board) reset the intended tone and purpose of these meetings back to their original concept, and that you then actively require all attendees abide by such standards for open communication, collaboration, and decorum. I'd also suggest that rotating the chats to a different part of town each quarter would help engage a broader range of citizens.

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What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

Whether in coffee chats, regular board meetings, or other public forums, the sessions of the last 18 months have been characterized by disrespectful, one-sided, and often just plain rude and mean behavior by a small number of individuals toward their fellow citizens and town staff. Citizens have been slandered (based on lies, not facts) from the podium. Hard-working staff has been repeatedly mocked with "songs" and props. Rusty, I highly doubt this kind of behavior would have been tolerated in the lost Davidson paradise of your father's tenure. I appreciate your having led public comment policy changes to address the behavior, yet then I watch as you do nothing as it continues to happen -- always from the mouths of the same half-dozen or so people -- in meeting after meeting. Rusty and Board -- please stop permitting a small group of loud, mean people to dominate these forums and set town priorities around their pet issues. There's another 13,000 of us who, respectfully, would like to return Davidson to a place where neighborliness, kindness, and decorum define the town's character.

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

6pm start time is good. Please also set a reasonable END time (I'd recommend 7:30) and MANAGE to it, for the sake of citizens, staff, and yourselves. A 4 hour town meeting is not a format that enables regular engagement by the average citizen. Rusty and some of new board indicated when elected that they'd manage these meetings down to reasonable duration. Yet the last 6 months have seen by far the longest, and least productive, board meetings in years.

Name not shown (registered)

May 12, 2018, 9:11 AM

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

No response

If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

No response

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

No response

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

No response

joan adams (registered)

May 12, 2018, 11:12 AM

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

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My Priorities

Quarterly coffee chats at another location (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

I recommend that an apology be sent to The Egg for the rudeness of the people and the commissioners. Then, continue at The Egg. Also, suggest that people attending the meeting leave a tip for the workers.

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

No response

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

I feel that specific topics are better than an agenda. Also, commissioners need to introduce themselves. Guidelines for civility is not followed. The last participants in the "chat" had personal agendas. This was very disturbing.

William Boehmler (registered)

May 12, 2018, 1:35 PM

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My Priorities

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If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

No response

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

No response

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

Makes sense. Would allow most people to attend work sessions. May make the fourth Tuesday with citizen

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opportunity to speak run rather late into the evening.

Carol Jones (registered)

May 13, 2018, 5:35 AM

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

My Priorities

Monthly coffee chats at Davidson Town Hall (alternating 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. start times to accommodate schedules)

If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

No response

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

Q&A sessions should focus on specific topics and be announced prior to the meeting. This will allow citizens concerned about the specific topics to ask questions and listen to other comments about those topics. The loose structure and "no agenda" of the Coffee Chats have turned them into little more than complaining sessions for the "vocal minority."

Ask citizens to submit topics or questions via the website and/or the CivicMobile app, or provide a short survey form at the meeting. You'll then have a running list from which the Commissions can select a topic of discussion for the next meeting.

Commissioners can kick-off the Q&A session with a short overview of the topic, so that it sets the stage for citizens to provide their feedback, ask questions, and propose ideas. The Mayor (or facilitator) should ensure that both "sides" of an issue have exposure. Commissioners should be prepared to answer questions.

Commissioners and citizens who are speaking should be asked to stand up and speak into a microphone, so they can be both seen and heard in the taped video.

Schedule "Lunch and Learn" sessions at Town Hall, where people can bring their own lunch and spend time with a Board Member or a Department Head who can talk about a topic-of-the-day and get citizen feedback.

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

Scheduling all meetings at 6:00 p.m. gives those working 9 to 5 the opportunity to attend, but not everyone has a 9 to 5 work schedule or wants to be out after dark, especially when the meeting runs late.

Cathleen Santeiu (registered)

May 13, 2018, 5:39 AM

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

My Priorities

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No response

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

Provide a survey form at meetings to gather more feedback from citizens instead of relying on just the vocalized input.

Broaden and promote the use of the on-line "Open Town Hall" to collect questions, identify priorities, and gather more input from citizens.

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

What's the difference between a work session and a regular meeting? They need to be distinctly different, otherwise you will just be holding three meetings a month, with one being longer than the other two because of the added opportunity for citizens to speak.

The work sessions should be reserved to study, analyze, and clarify specific issues, and include public input. No decisions should be made except in regular meetings. Therefore, I think there should be no public input during regular meetings, just in the work sessions.

All work session topics should include use of the on-line "Open Town Hall" to gather more input than from just the same few vocal speakers.

Nancy Gardner (registered)

May 14, 2018, 1:32 PM

What type of meeting would be beneficial to you for an open Q&A session with our elected officials?

My Priorities

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If you selected "quarterly coffee chats at another location" as your top priority, where do you recommend holding these coffee chats?

Some place similar to the Egg so folks can enjoy beverages--and it adds to the informality of the sessions. But would like them to be monthly rather than quarterly.

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

Try to encourage some other folks besides the SD people to attend.

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What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

no opinion here

Name not shown (registered)

May 14, 2018, 1:39 PM

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No response

What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

No response

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

No response

Donna Pollack (registered)

May 14, 2018, 8:32 PM

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DCPC Fellowship Hall

DUMC Fellowship Hall

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What are your OTHER ideas for Q&A sessions with the elected officials:

I would prefer that at least two board members be in attendance. I do not like one on one meetings with a commissioner and citizen.

What is your reaction to the overall new schedule (work sessions on the first and second Tuesday, regular meeting on the fourth Tuesday, all with agendas, all with a 6:00 p.m. start time)?

I like the idea of having public comments at the last work session but worry about the timing of a vote if it is to take place on that same night.