

Follow up notes on the Brownfield Public Meeting

We are in the process of drafting a follow-up report, which will include a summary of the event, a checklist we used for organizing it, a compilation of the responses to the questionnaires, the powerpoint presentations, as well as the podcast, and lessons learned/recommendations for future events. Here is a snapshot of our follow up.

What went well

Our group felt that everything went smoothly for the Brownfields session, and that we as a group worked well together. All the panelists and guest speakers were available, prepared, and gave excellent presentations. We also felt that the format (guest speaker, followed by panelists, followed by questions and answer period and questionnaires) and venue (the Wilson Room in the Library) of the event worked well. The City Clerk Jannette Amini was very helpful in organizing the event and the caterer she arranged (Golden Rooster) provided excellent food and was punctual. We are very grateful to both her and Paul MacLatchy for their help. After the event, some participants, including panelists got together for lunch at the Sir John A. MacDonald pub, which was a great way to finish up.

What we would change

Timing and Publicity

We had hoped that we would attract more people to the event, though we did try to publicize it through the City of Kingston's Communication Department, which forwarded the information to all sustainability organizations, KEAF, and word of mouth. Were we to host such an event again, we would not opt for Saturday morning, but would choose an evening during the week. Further, we would rely more on a grassroots, hands on approach to advertise the event. We would also ensure that the City of Kingston bump information about the event to the front of its website close to the event, and put it on its RSS feed.

Technology

The library did have audiovisual equipment, but the library screen was broken, though they were able to provide a portable smaller screen, and there were only two mikes, which had to be passed around. So, we would secure stationary mikes for each panelists were we to do it again.

Next Steps

We received very positive feedback on the event and want to suggest to KEAF that it might want to consider hosting an annual or bi-annual event on an environmental issue.