

Post Harborside Chat Event Report
Cosmopolis, WA – December 9, 2023

The Harborside Chat, held on December 9, 2023, at the Cosmopolis Lions Club and organized by The Dialogue Project of the Dispute Resolution Centers of Grays Harbor and Pacific County, facilitated discussions on vital local issues. This document reports the event’s outcomes, and the participants’ expressed interests and needs.

Highlights

- Participants hailed from Aberdeen (54.55%) and Cosmopolis (36.36%), with a single attendee from Grayland.
- The majority (92%) of attendees were over 50 years old. Forty-five percent were between 60-69.
- 45% of respondents to the demographic survey, 60% identified as female and 40% as male,.
- The ethnic composition was 91% White, with 9% of respondents identifying as Hispanic, White, and of other mixed ethnicities.
- Eleven community members attended, 30% of the intended capacity.

Participant Responses and Top Interests

Community Member Responses	Number of Votes
Housing for all	6
Integrity * Decrease alienation * Lions Club – long-time presence in the community * City Hall – integrity gone, no real care * Divided Community – how do we repair? - close election races - folks voting or note? * How you follow “Golden Rule” – Public Integrity	5
Health Care Access	4
Mental Health Services – physical settings in G.H.	2
Communication – where? * Convey needs/events * Websites not updated Local community – improvement with communication/city council	2
Healing * Being trauma-informed * What happened vs what’s wrong with you * Opportunities to heal - hurt during pandemic, potentially escalated hurt	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - get sense of belonging and connection back - volunteering to feel connected and identify with others like oneself (food bank or GH Rise Coalition) 	
After-school care, Employment for High School students, Access to food for kids - Resources	1
Better paying jobs. Training opportunities	1
More Diverse Access to Job Training/Skills	1
Inclusivity	1
<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Inaccurate information being relayed to the public * Digital Divide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - folks are not all online – need paper format to receive local information * Misinformation of basic needs – water, utilities, emergency services * Transparency and needs more immediate communication * Clarify rumors – need truth from authority * Inclusivity of voice from all community members being “from here.” 	1
Medical Providers – in remote areas (Grayland, Westport, Ocean Shores, etc.).	0
Access to Resources/Learning	0
Mentors for Kids	0
Credit issues/control of Banks/Financial Institutions	0
<p>Respect Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Look at dedication of others’ work in the city – appreciation and respect * Lack of representation of city members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - where are they? We’re here. - walls built, folks don’t want to listen - affects outlook and adds to frustration when folks don’t listen 	0