

# 「HIGHLIGHTS AND HURDLES IN HAMLETS: IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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- Dell Rapids, SD – Population 3,800
  - Growing community, proximity to Sioux Falls (largest metro in South Dakota)
  - State of South Dakota Total Population < 900,000
- Small State with isolated geographical communities
- South Dakota City Managers Association – Our Local organization of 35 professional managers and growing
  - State is slowly moving in the direction of accepting professional management.

# Small Community Specialists

- It is truly us and only us – We are “Small Community Specialists”
- The list of responsibilities is virtually endless; City Manager, Clerk, Zoning Administrator, Floodplain Administrator, Economic Development Director, HR Director, IT Director, Parks and Recreation Director, Utility Manager etc...
- We are the hired professionals. We are the experts.
- We don't have the luxury of delegating these duties.
- With the multitude of responsibilities comes the stress and pressures of making and recommending decisions.

# ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY TO MAKE THE DECISIONS

Community Deliberation and Engagement to inform decisions.

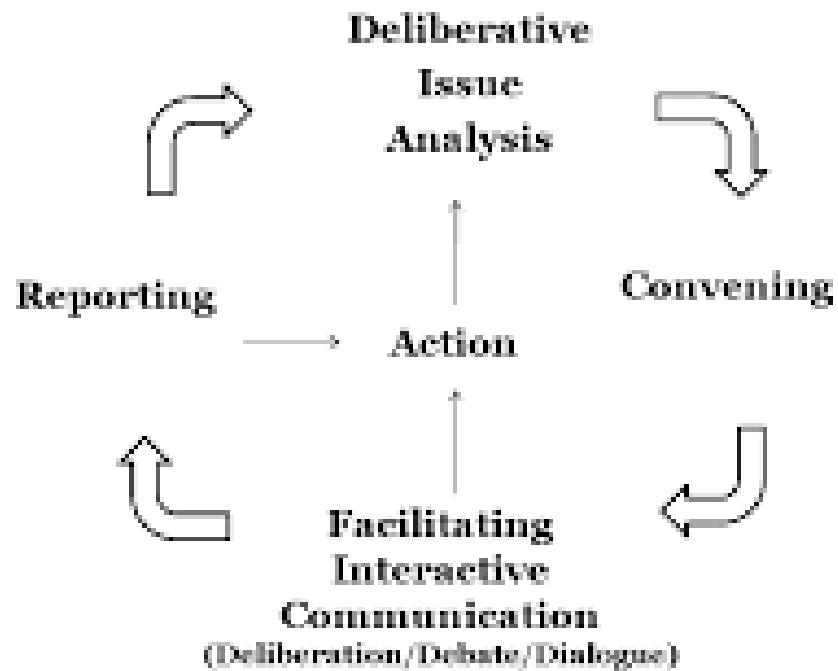
Remove pressure from decision making.

Create community ownership in issues.

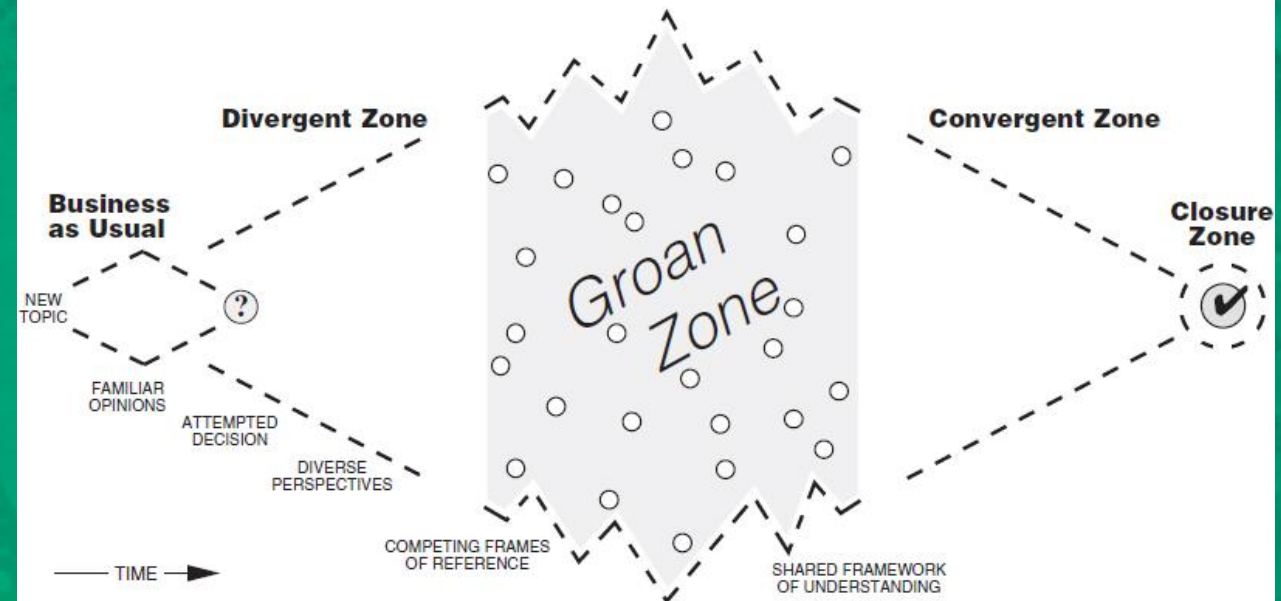


# DELIBERATIVE ENGAGEMENT IN THEORY

Figure 1: The Cycle of Deliberative Inquiry



## LIFE IN THE GROAN ZONE



Carcasson, Martín (2012). The Cycle of Deliberative Inquiry: Re-conceptualizing the Work of Public Deliberation. Jean Goodwin (Ed.), Between Scientists & Citizens.

# Create a Culture of Engagement and Deliberation

- Budgeting
- Ordinance Development
- Future Planning
- Wicked Problems
- Perceived simple issues (i.e. Main Street Parking, Choosing playground equipment)
- Create a culture by starting simple and building collaborative environment between City Hall and our communities.



# WE ARE ALREADY DOING THIS

- We don't have the option to not engage – We can't hide.
- Goal to continue education in facilitation techniques and processes.
- I personally am in the early stages of implementing more engagement in my community.
  - Engagement builds trust, respect and support for our decisions.



# THANK YOU

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Questions?

**ICMA** | conference