

Arlington's Uncle Sam Committee Meeting Minutes

Town Hall Annex, November 29th, 2011. 8PM

Attendees: Laurence McKinney, Mike Ruggieri, Hugh McCrory

Previous Meeting:

Handed out and approved the minutes from the previous meeting (Aug 29th 2011)

Town Day Uncle Sam survey results were distributed and discussed.

They will be posted on the Towns website once an electronic copy is forwarded.

LMK : To send an electronic copy of Town survey for WebSite.

HMC: To post the copy on the Town Uncle Sam webpages.

Uncle Sam Wilson Plaza:

LMK informed the meeting that he had communicated with the Dallin Museum folks & Dan Johnston regarding a partnership between the Uncle Sam committee and the Dallin Museum.

LMK also spoke about conversations he has had with the members of the original Uncle Sam committee members and the experiences they have had in relation to Uncle Sam fund raising efforts.

Fund Raising:

Fund raising ideas were discussed at length, both longer term and shorter term plans.

Resolved to focus on the short term fund-raising. This will require the following :

A two page plan detailing the short term approach for an initial fund-raising goal.(LMK)

Estimates for an official Uncle Sam Website (HMC)

An initial review and maintenance of the shrubbery and plantings at the Uncle Sam Wilson Plaza as it currently stands. (MR)

Arlington Center Mass Ave Intersection DPW work:

HMC discussed the published plans (in brief) that are being considered for the bicycle path at the Arlington Center Mass Ave intersection. The committee will need to stay abreast of these plans and work in cooperation with the DPW's plans and how they affect/not affect the Unice Sam Wilson Plaza. HMC to provide more details to the committee by next meeting. HMC also mentioned there is a public hearing planned by the DPW.

Adjourned 9:30.

Attachment: Town Day 2011 Survey Results Document.

Results of the Town Day Uncle Sam Plaza Poll

With thanks to the 87 helpers who filled out all or part of the questionnaire

Did you know Uncle Sam was born 100 feet from here? Y (46) N (32)

A majority knew that Sam Wilson did, in fact, live near the statue.

Did you know Sam Wilson watched the Revolution begin? Y (18) N (58)

Sam Wilson saw it all - and his father was later wounded at Bunker Hill. One thing we'll be concentrating on will be young Sam's witness to the local events of 1775.

I learned about it in School? (26) Reading? (17) Friends? (8) Internet ? (4)

The Arlington schools are doing a good job. We were glad to see this.

I heard about the Plaza Project from the *Advocate* (25) *Town Meeting* (12)

This is new to me; I'm hearing about it for the first time (40)

This was particularly good for us. Between Town Meeting and The Arlington Advocate nearly half had already heard about it. We're making good use of the local media.

Uncle Sam Plaza would be good for *Arlington* (6) *Tourists* (11) *Both* (71)

This is the most significant finding. Despite resistance of the Town to promote or fund any form of tourism year after year the citizens speak. This is the largest single response.

Funding? Town (17) Arlington Businesses (33) Popular "buy a brick" (29)

State promotion (18) National promotion (6) All of them (38)

There's a general consensus that this is something that we can do on a local level if the Town, our local business community, and interested citizens all pitch in.

***I'd like to see:* Contemporary Landscape (11) Historical Landscape (55)**

Better Lighting (34) Benches, etc. for sitting (49) Attractive Planting (32)

Historical Plaque (41) Water Feature (23) Tourist Information Board (29)

We agree with the historical theme, maybe bringing it back to 1775. The themes of history and places to sit down were foremost, with better lighting, nice plantings, and an information board following. I guess we can forget about the waterfall. (just kidding)