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01/10/2012 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2012 MEETING

In attendance: Paul Bayer, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Pete Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel, Brucie Moulton.

Guest: Heather Remoff, Fiscal Resources.

The minutes of the December 3 meeting were accepted as presented.

Census survey:

Copies of the just-printed survey were distributed. The survey will be mailed around January 20, before postage goes up. Jane will write an item for the Arlington Advocate, reminding residents to respond to the survey.

Josh is putting the survey into the Survey Monkey so that people can respond on-line.

Bruce F. will compile the comments that come in on separate pieces of paper or by e-mail.

Brucie M. will collect the task group sign-ups that arrive on paper and add them to the file of sign-ups that arrive on-line.

Warrant articles:

Jane brought the draft of the water bodies article, which asks for \$50,000 this year. The three environmental committees and the Con Com all meet later this month and all will be asked to co-sign it.

Public art is now considered under the Zoning Bylaw under signage, defined as "anything designed to attract the eye." The Standing Committee agrees that art should not be considered signage.

Other matters:

Fiscal Resources is exploring how Arlington's tax base can be broadened. Heather brought drafts of a series of articles on "Ideas for Growth" and asked for input. Joey and Paul suggested that, to avoid influencing responses to the survey, the articles should not be published until after the survey deadline (March 15), or, better yet, after the Town election (April 10).

Andrew presented the draft of a questionnaire for the Neighborhood Newsletter, as part of an effort to explore the possible benefits of, and savings from, community-based rather than commercial automobile insurance. The consensus was that such a questionnaire could well come from the whole Standing Committee rather than just Andrew's Business task group.

Coming Events:

January 16, 7 p.m., at Town Hall: Martin Luther King observance: pot luck dessert and speaker.

January 17, 7 p.m. at Library: hearing on a grant for rain gardens on public land.

February 4, 7:30 p.m. at U-U Church: concert to benefit efforts to save the Silver Maple Forest.

March 29, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Auditorium: Candidates' Night.

March 31, 10-2, Town Hall Auditorium: EcoFest, with local farmer Charlie Radoslavich as speaker.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 8. Topics to include a request for CDBG funds to support Vision 2020's planning role.