

Vision 2020 Standing Committee Minutes

Date/Time: **Wednesday, October 14, 2015**

Meet: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at Town Hall Annex, first floor conference room

In attendance: Juli Brazile, Annie LaCourt, Amy Goldstein, Joey Glushko, Josh Lobel, Mary Harrison, Sue Doctrow

1. Introduction and agenda review. Minutes of September 15, 2015 were approved as amended.

2. Survey 2016 Questions: Draft questions from each category listed below were discussed. Questions seeking demographic information found in individual drafts will be moved to one “Demographic” section at the beginning of the survey.
 1. Dog Park Questions. Drafted by Sue Doctrow with input from Leslie Mayer (Park and Recreation Commission Chairman) and Joe Connelly (Director of Arlington Recreation). *Goal: To assess the importance of the existing dog park to residents and their support for a second one.* Discussion involved suggestions for reorganizing the questions and rewording. Question 2 might not be needed because the outcome might not influence policy. There was concern addressed by several people about whether the term “OLRA” would be understandable to most people, though the concerns of Leslie and Joe that nobody be given the impression that a “dog park” would take up an entire park are appreciated. We should try to find a way to balance both concerns. An important issue not in the original draft is that lighted, well-used facilities in a park can make the entire park safer at night. Sue drafted the survey questions and will prepare the next draft for review by the entire SC.
 2. Census Survey Questions. Drafted by Joey Glushko. *Goal: To assess interest in the survey and the barriers preventing the majority of people from selecting online (versus paper) forms of response.* Questions were regarded as being well designed and concise. Question 3 might not be needed because of the view that people who fill out surveys probably already assume that their voices will be heard. Perhaps this could be made more specific, that is, to pertain to the Vision2020 survey only, not all surveys. Another issue discussed was whether it was useful to give, in the introduction, an example of an issue that was answered in the survey in the past and resulted in a change in policy. One concern was that this might be interpreted as promising there will be a policy change based on the results. But, an argument in favor was that it makes the survey more real to people and shows them that the outcome can lead to something tangible. It was agreed that, if we use such an example in the Introduction, we should make sure the wording does not promise any particular outcome. Expansion of the library hours was mentioned as a possible example that could be cited in this introduction; the survey results, favoring library hours expansion, were cited as evidence for demand by the director of the library at Town Meeting, and funds were appropriated to expand the library hours. Joey will prepare the next draft for review by the entire SC.
 3. Precinct/community meetings. Drafted by Amy Goldstein and Sue Doctrow. *Goal: To encourage more people to participate in meetings on issues to be discussed at Town Meeting.* There was discussion of the differences between a Community Meeting and a Precinct Meeting. They are very different and this should be made clear. While some of us organizing them have used both terms together, in order to welcome people wishing to discuss other topics, it was agreed that the goal for Vision2020 with this question was to encourage more people to attend Precinct Meetings, that is, discussion of the Town Meeting warrant. One question raised was whether we need the question about how one learns about the meetings (Advocate, Arlington List, etc). This can be covered by a blanket question at the beginning of the survey. Amy and Sue will prepare a new draft for review by the entire SC.

4. Council on Aging (CoA). Drafted by CoA. *Goal: TBD*. There was much discussion. One goal appears to be identifying issues and needs of “young seniors” who are around age 60. However, there are too many questions and it would be better to separate questions about programs from those about facilities. Also, some issues (shoveling, etc) are outside the auspices of CoA though telling constituents about such existing resources is helpful. One question asks about people making plans for their parents, and this has privacy and related concerns, for example, the parents too will be reading the survey. “Disabled senior” should fall under demographics and the wording should be chosen carefully. An opinion was expressed that the question about whether the high school and senior center might be combined is premature for this survey, even though it is interesting. Juli will be discussing the next draft with the CoA.

In general, as noted in the individual sections, the people who made the original drafts will send revisions to all for further comments. Annie will take the lead on final formatting once the wording is decided.

3. Budget: Juli mentioned two requests: \$41.16 for Sustainable Arlington flyers, \$104.86 for Reservoir herbal sachet materials. These expenditures were approved unanimously.

4. Living Brochure Update. There was not a lot of time left because of the long discussion of the Survey questions but Juli gave a brief update. Our Performance is scheduled for January 28 and Juli suggested that we have a theme consistent with our current model, that Vision2020 is an incubator that makes new things happen. For example, “your dream can become the impetus for a newly formed Task Group”. In addition, we will need to plan the library table and the information gained at the Performance should help us focus on that.

5. Advisory Board Planning. We now know the composition of the Advisory Board (Steve Byrne will represent the BoS) so we can schedule a meeting. The Governance and Communications goals (that do not have active Task Groups) are likely topics. Because there was no time to discuss the Governance goal tonight, we will all send comments to Juli.

6. New Business. None.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45.

Upcoming Meetings – all at 7:30 pm, Town Hall Annex, first floor conference room

2015: November 4 (W) December 9 (W)

2016: January 13 (W) February 10 (W) March 9 (W) April 13 (W) May 12 (Th) June 8 (W)

Draft minutes by Sue Doctrow.