

Vision 2020 Standing Committee

Minutes for meeting of Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Committee members present: at the meeting were Chair Juli Brazile, Sue Doctrow, Amy Goldstein, Mary Harrison, Joey Glushko, Josh Lobel; also in attendance Elisabeth Carr-Jones.

Absent from the meeting was Annie LaCourt.

The meeting was called to order at 730PM in the Arlington Senior Center, lower level conference room.

Meeting handouts: Most people appreciate having copies of handouts available at the meetings. Joey and Juli will continue to bring copies of documents even if they have been emailed in advance.

The minutes of August 18, 2015 were approved as written.

The minutes of the Joint Task Group/Standing Committee meeting of August 26, 2015 were approved as amended. Since four members of the Standing Committee attended the joint meeting that constituted a quorum of our current seven members. We will continue to have the Standing Committee post minutes of the joint meetings.

Living Brochure: Several members were able to attend the initial planning meeting for partners on September 9th. Juli Brazile and Sue Doctrow joined the project publicity committee; Annie LaCourt signed up for the evaluation committee; Mary Harrison will attend some of the steering committee meetings. The workshops start in October and we'll have dates and topics available to share with all our task groups and committees soon.

Our first performance will have a theme we choose, in consultation with True Story Theater. We voted to select January 28, 2016 as our performance date since that allows us to publicize the survey, which will be in households by then. We agreed that directly using topics from the Survey 2016 would not be appropriate in case it influenced how anyone answered the survey questions.

We have the community group table in the lobby of Robbins Library for the month of January. We can use the table to publicize our Jan. 28 performance, remind people about the survey, inform people about upcoming Vision 2020 projects and events, such as EcoFest in March. We will want to have a graphic that captures Vision 2020's structure. Annie prepared an initial concept that we used as a poster at Town Day and we can expand that idea. The library will want us to have a table cloth, clear signage and will allow us to put items up on stands or easels on the table. We need someone to take the lead on pulling the ideas and materials together.

Vision 2020 will have the chance to design workshops or performances that tie in to different town goals. Some ideas will pull together multiple goals, such as a workshop to provide training for people who want to run for Town Meeting, or Town Meeting Members who want to practice their speaking skills (Governance Goal) and the Diversity Task Group would want to do outreach for the workshop with a goal of increasing the diversity of Town Meeting Members (Diversity Goal). Juli should talk to the Moderator and get his ideas and support. There has been a What is Town Meeting event in the past, in addition to the annual orientation for new TMMs.

Communication: We discussed proposed revisions to the Vision 2020 main page on the Town website. 1) Revise the introduction to mention the “incubator” concept and list some examples of committees or commissions that were launched by Vision 2020 (Suggest: Human Rights Commission was proposed by the Diversity Task Group; several education related groups spun off from the Education Task Groups in the 1990s; this needs to be researched and written up). 2) List active task groups first, alphabetically then below a line include the “some task groups don’t have regular meetings...” and list them, alphabetically so we only use that language once. 3) Suggested that when we do a graphic like Annie’s concept, it should color code to indicate groups that were incubated by Vision 2020 in some way. 4) Found a typo that Juli will fix. Joey Glushko needs to determine how much she can edit herself and what needs to wait for Joan Roman, who is on leave.

At the Joint Task Group meeting in August, we discussed the problem of identifying groups as part of Vision 2020 on their external websites. Joey reminded us that the Town’s Communication Policy speaks to that point. Mary Harrison said the policy also requires groups to add Joan Roman as an admin., which Diversity just did for their new website. The easiest suggestion to address the first issue is to have all external sites add a box with the Vision 2020 logo, say something about being part of Vision 2020 and link back to our main page on the Town Website.

Action: Juli will send an email to the Task Group Chairs asking for their input on the first suggestion, letting them know about the admin requirement, and attaching a copy of the Communication Policy.

Survey 2016: Josh Lobel provided an update on the discussion on the survey software group. With Adam Kurowski’s help, the group has listed software requirements and will probably see some software demo’s this fall. We should assume that we are using the old software as we plan the 2016 Survey, but Josh holds out hope that we may have new software in time for scanning. Annie submitted a request to the Capital Planning Committee for \$3000.

Council on Aging wants to ask questions about services for younger seniors. Adam Chapdelaine may have questions about transportation related issues. We may want to include questions about online vs. paper surveys for our future planning. We may want to include questions about the purpose and size of precinct meetings. Amy Goldstein prefers “Community” meetings, but there was some sense that a precinct meeting focused on the warrant was an important meeting to bring residents and their town meeting members together. Community meetings might be useful in the fall to determine if a neighborhood felt that there was a concern that might lead to submitting an article for the warrant. Sue thinks Joe Connelly at the Rec. Dept. might be interested in asking dog park questions as they plan a possible second fenced exercise yard.

Action: Amy will draft some starting questions about Community Meetings and Precinct Meetings.

Action: Sue will talk to Joe Connelly about dog parks.

Action: Juli will follow up with Council on Aging and Adam Chapdelaine, and forward the 2015 Survey to Sue and Amy.

Advisory Board: Juli has not been able to talk to Kevin Greeley about who the Selectmen would like to serve on the Advisory Board so she has not been able to start scheduling meetings. This agenda item was tabled.

Budget: We approved a few expenses from Town Day: \$10.63 and \$5.96 for the poster and tags to mark the new tents in the storage room; \$121 to the Reservoir Committee to assist them paying for their new brochure. The brochure is available all year at the Res for visitors to use. The other funds will come from an account they have with the Land Trust.

Meeting Dates: We agreed that most months we can meet on the 2nd Wednesday. We set the following dates, including some special dates to avoid Veterans' Day in November and Town Meeting in May.

2015: October 14 November 4 December 9

2016: January 13 February 10 March 9 April 13 May 12 June 8

The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be on Wednesday, October 14, at 7:30 PM. Joey will need to confirm what meeting room and let us know.

Minutes submitted by Juli Brazile