



Vision 2020 Standing Committee

Minutes

Date: November 4, 2015

Time: 730PM

Location: Town Hall Annex, first floor conf. room

In attendance: Juli Brazile, Annie LaCourt, Amy Goldstein, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Josh Lobel; guests in attendance were Elisabeth Carr-Jones (prospective committee member) and Lylee _____ (Arl. resident, attending Tufts Univ.).

Absent from the meeting: Sue Doctrow

Introductions were made for those in attendance; the minutes for the meeting of October 14, 2015 were reviewed, and approved as amended.

Survey 2016 Questions: A draft survey form, and progressive drafts of proposed survey questions have been circulated. Extensive discussion of the survey questions proceeded. Here are some highlights:

Survey Title Area: The format would follow will follow the example of past surveys. Color selection will be made from examples that Juli will send out for our review. The title on the upper left will show: "Help Shape the Future: Meeting Community Needs."

Action: Juli will send out samples of the colors for committee review/selection.

Demographics: Clarification of the age group breakdown was done in a manner to meet the age requirements that Council on Aging was looking for, and yet would make comparison to past demographic data feasible. We confirmed that "Town Meeting Member" would not be a data item.

Council on Aging (CoA) Questions: The questions submitted represent the CoA content; concern was expressed about the overlap of CoA services/programs and Senior Association programs. There was suggestion to broaden the wording of some of the questions - which would bring valuable information to both groups. The question about a multi-generational building will not be part of the survey (*Question D* on the draft survey). The last question (*Question E*) will be reworded, or even refocused. Annie LaCourt pointed out a missing element in the questions: what are the diverse information services that the CoA is able to provide for helping families address issues and find the services that support them and their aging elders.

Action: Juli will continue to meet with the CoA to develop their survey questions.

Dog Park Use ...: The format of this question will be redeveloped to match other question formats. We discussed the use of the acronym OLRA, as preferred by the Park/Rec Commission, throughout this question; some of the committee preferred using "Dog Park". The title proposed for the question is "Fenced Off Leash Recreation Area for Dogs (OLRA)"; in speaking of the Thorndike Field program, the sentence will read "...open from 6am-9pm daily, and is *used throughout the day.*" (The italics show new wording.)

Action: Juli will reformat these questions to correspond to format of other questions.

Precinct Meetings: *Question B* will be reworded: "Which of the following motivate you to attend a precinct meeting?" An additional response will be "To ask questions or give comment on Town issues?" There will be no grading on the available responses; the respondent may select all that apply. *Question C* will be reworded, to remove confusion in gathering information for scheduling of precinct meetings.

Arlington Human Rights Commission: A new (5th) question was added to the draft. *Question D* was reworded, and contains the core elements defining human rights which the group supports. In line 1 of *Question D*, the word "takes" will be replaced with "responds to".

Preference for Future.....Surveys: *Question A* will read: "Have members of your household responded to recent Annual Town Surveys?" and *Question D* will read: "What format do members of your household prefer (and there are three options for response)?"

There seemed to be space available to have a few more questions/additional topic added to survey content. Josh raised the potential of school related questions; it was thought that such questions should be deferred to a future survey. Joey raised the question of a possible transportation or Economic Development question topic - a late inquiry from the Planning Dept.; the committee thought this was possible, limiting it to 3 questions, and requiring a very fast turn-around for submission of any new questions for the survey. Joey would forward these comments to the Planning Dept.

Budget: A budget page was submitted; pending requests were to set aside up to \$300 for Diversity for an April forum on the topic of "Implicit Bias" and to set aside \$220 for Governance support of Candidates' Night in March. These were approved. Joey alerted the Committee to support for information and recruitment participation at the March ECOFest event; specific amounts are not known yet, but the group supported the concept.

Task Group Reports/Discussion: On going updates will be listed on the Standing Committee agenda so that the Standing Committee can be aware of the activities of the Task Groups.

Living Brochure Update: Juli distributed correspondence from Christopher Ellinger of True Story Theater, summarizing 11/3 discussions of the workshop topics (see handout). He and his group will come to present a two-hr. workshop at the working task group meetings; he request the topic selection and dates be arranged. The details of the Nov. 15 fundraiser is included in the message. The Vision 2020 Robbins Library display for January will have the theme "What would you like to make happen?" A team is needed to work on this display.

Action: Volunteers are needed for the Nov. 15 Kick-off Faire
Volunteers are needed to work on the Library display; installation should be during the first week of January

Advisory Board Planning: A scheduling "doodle" will guide the decision of a meeting date. It is likely to be in the evening, or first thing in the morning - approx. 90 minutes in duration. It will be the first opportunity for the Advisory and Standing Committee to meet together; it is an opportunity to get a feel for the partnership. Juli has requested input for the creation of the agenda.

Action: Decide meeting date/time for joint meeting of Standing Comm. and Advisory Board.
Create agenda for the meeting.

New Business:

1. The Committee approved the loan of the portable microphone to the CofC for "First Night" events on December 4.
2. We received a request from Rebecca Choi of the Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition (AYHSC) to be a resource for their program. We will look further into how Vision2020 might fit their program(s).

The next meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for Dec. 9, 730 PM in the Town Hall Annex, first floor conf. room.

Minutes submitted by
Joey Glushko