



## Vision 2020 Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex, first floor conference room

Present: Juli Brazile, Sue Doctrow, Annie LaCourt, Amy Goldstein, Jen Toole

Absent: Scott Lever, Elisabeth Carr Jones

Visitors: Brucie Moulton (Sustainable Arlington), Chris Rowell

**1. Welcome and membership update** – We introduced ourselves. Jen Toole was officially appointed by Jenny Raitt, Director of Planning; confirmed by the Arlington Redevelopment Board; and sworn in by the Clerk.

**2. Approve minutes of September 7, 2016** – Minutes were approved with minor changes.

**3. Town Day debrief** – Town Day went well, though it was suggested that we plan it earlier than August next year to line up volunteers to manage moving the equipment. Juli discussed suggestions from visitors to the booth on various issues in town and has passed them to the appropriate people (e.g. DPW).

**4. Task Group reports or discussion** – We took some agenda items out of order to accommodate our visitors.

**Education Task Group** - Scott Lever has discussed this with Kathy Bodie, Jennifer Susse and others. Nov 16 was selected as the date to screen "Most Likely to Succeed" at AHS. The school department will likely screen it earlier, too. Juli reported on a brainstorming meeting about Gibbs School rehab and gave an overview of the ideas. At the meeting, Kathy Bodie asked Juli to talk about the plans for education conversations, beginning with the film screening and there was much interest. Scott would like to get our Facebook page/group set up to publicize the event; we are awaiting okay from the Town to launch the page/group.

**Arlington Public Art** decided to switch from monthly to quarterly meetings.

**Sustainable Arlington** – Brucie described the project with Mothers Out Front to tag gas leaks throughout town (the oldest was discovered in 1996). These have been mapped by HEET-MA. The launch event at Town Hall featured remarks by the Town Manager and Audrey Shuman of HEET-MA. Sustainable Arlington also had an event with True Story Theater on nature and trees.

**Living Brochure Project** – Juli said that Christopher Ellinger suggested a True Story Theater workshop on making meetings more dynamic and Juli reviewed his notes on the idea. Brucie said it sounds like a skills development workshop and suggested that all Task Groups and other volunteer groups might be included. True Story Theater's upcoming fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, Nov 6th.

**Volunteer Event in April** – True Story Theater's upcoming fundraiser is scheduled for the weekend before election. A wrap-up event for the project is scheduled for April 27 (Lyons Room at Town Hall). Volunteers to tell their stories are needed for both the Nov 6 and April 27 events. The April 27 event might double as the annual volunteer appreciation event (instead of the June breakfast).

**Details on Gift Account** – Juli is trying to get more clarity on how the gift account is regulated because a reimbursement request by the Reservoir Committee was rejected.

**Spy Pond Committee** is planning water quality treatment that uses Round Up. Concerns had come up on the Arlington List and there was a need to allay fears by explaining that the program was well-thought out and necessary.

**Diversity Task Group** – Amy mentioned that Bruce Hoppe, the organizer of this year's Porchfest, emailed her about next year's plans. They would like to know if Vision 2020 wants to get involved, and is interested in a theme involving Arlington being welcoming to LGBTQ and people of color. On suggestions from the group, Amy will connect him with certain organizations such as the Diversity Task Group, Human Rights Commission and Queer Mystic.

**5. Survey 2017 preliminary plan** – Scott had suggested two people with statistical expertise and they indicated to Juli that they might be able to edit questions. They suggested websites that have information to help us guide question design by town entities. Nat Strosberg liaised with the Bicycle Advisory Group who would like questions relating to bringing bike sharing (either Hubway or their competitor Zagster) into Arlington and potentially Lexington. Charlotte Milan suggested questions about composting to find out who is composting their kitchen waste, which comprises a major portion of our trash, by weight, and what are the barriers preventing people from composting. Sustainable Arlington and the Energy Working Group would like questions around home energy usage, how many are switching to gas or other options, to be linked to the gas line leakage project. Eric Helmuth confirmed that the CPA committee would like to include questions. Juli noted that she will reach out to Jenny Raitt about the Town Manager's interest in having questions on Arlington's commercial district.

**6. Planning for Advisory Board, Oct 26** – Planning for Advisory Board Meeting (Oct. 26). Juli gave some history of the Standing Committee composition and the recent changes that led the Advisory Board. She distributed a draft planning document that we would provide to the meeting attendees in advance and it was discussed and will be updated. Current Goals will be reviewed and updated; Annie noted that many of the projected Goals were accomplished, while others are no longer relevant. Approximate priority for Goals to be network mapped: Business, Culture and Recreation (to be split up), Communications, Diversity, Environment and Fiscal Resources, Community/Service. We will also review plans such as the film screenings to stimulate community discussion and problem-solving ("Most Likely to Succeed", on education; "One Big House" on residential zoning). We will also discuss the need for a community engagement tool such as [agora.com](http://agora.com).

**7. New Business** – none

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Submitted by Sue Doctrow