

Marijuana Study Group
October 17, 2018
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Arlington Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room
MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees: Sarah Augood, Christine Bongiorno, Mike Byrne, Andrew Bunnell, Kristina Cairns, Adam Chapdelaine, Paul Czech, Dan Dunn, Doug Heim, Joe Moen, Jenny Raitt, Erin Zwirko

Guests: Natasha Waden, Captain Julie Flaherty, Adam Kurowski, Representative from Apothca

Erin Zwirko began the meeting by introducing Adam Kurowski, the GIS Director, who had performed some additional GIS analysis for the Study Group and would show the results live. Erin also requested that everyone in the room and on the phone provide their thoughts about the proposed amendment in a round robin style. The members supported the direction of the proposed amendment, but had diverging viewpoints on what land uses should be within a buffer zone.

Some members of the group believed that the buffer should be limited to the state requirement of 500 feet from K-12 public and private schools. Other believed that there needs to be limitations placed on where marijuana establishments can locate. The research on normalizing behaviors is valid, and teenagers are the most critical cohort to protect. Following an analysis and an understanding of the best practices, the Study Group determined that including day cares in a buffer would effectively zone out the use from Arlington. Further, the Study Group discussed the age groups that would be most at risk and then Group determined that tweens and teens were most at risk. Therefore, the Study Group decided that day cares do not need a buffer.

Using GIS, during the meeting, the Study Group reviewed the analysis prepared by Adam Kurowski in preparation of this meeting. Focusing on public libraries and town-owned playgrounds and recreational facilities in addition to the school buffer, the Study Group looked at the impact on the business districts that where marijuana establishments could locate. After discussing a number of options related to the buffer, the Study Group determined that the school buffer should remain at 500 feet, the public library buffer should be 200 feet, and the town-owned playground and recreational facility buffer should be 300 feet.

The Study Group voted unanimously to recommend the zoning amendments as discussed during the meeting with the additional buffers.

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