



## Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: September 18, 2019  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Location: Crafts Room, Senior Center, 2nd floor

### Minutes

Attendance: Juli Brazile, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Sue Doctrow, Scott Lever, Kelly Lynema

Guests: Len Diggins, Christine Michael, Farhanah Sheets, Beth Melofchick, Jo Anne Preston

1. Introductions  
For the benefit of our guests, there were introductions around the table.
2. Approve June minutes  
Approved unanimously.
3. Town Day debrief  
Juli shared several comments from Town Day: A 30 ft tent was suggested because of rain leaking in between the multiple tents; volunteers could wear T-shirts with our logo (possibly with task groups listed on the back, though they change); Spy Pond and Reservoir committees want to collaborate more with one another, e.g. on similar crafts; got lots of sticker responses and results are being summarized.
4. Discussion: possible formation of task group or working group on housing  
A draft summary plan for this group was submitted by some interested volunteers and was distributed by Juli for discussion. Does the housing topic fall under original 9 goals; it might fit the diversity goal, re whether all can afford to live here. Having a new group like this is relevant to our discussion of planning to use original town goals as an historical document but allowing for updated statements over time that reflect the town's current priorities. Should this be a task group vs working group (arbitrary names, but may have advantages or disadvantages). Juli has discussed this with Town Counsel. A task group is open-ended, generates its own mission, people come and go; working group is short term and has a specific purpose. Fundamental principle should inform all of these plans: the subject is housing in general, not just zoning and not just affordable housing. Jo Anne and Beth attended to know more about this potential group, e.g. Jo Anne: Who are the volunteers, have they

worked in housing? Beth: How would this be different from Residential Study Group. Jo Anne: Will this be open or appointed? Juli: These are all questions the Standing Cmte will need to answer before moving forward. Jo Anne said she goes to a lot of meetings related to housing so it would be good for it to coordinate with those. Beth: Would the group that she and Joanne worked on be welcome? Juli stressed that the Envision Arlington mission is to be sure that all voices are heard. Elisabeth and Scott both noted that it would be a mistake for a group that had a strictly “partisan” view to exist within Envision Arlington given our standard of swelcoming all views. Juli said her concept of the charge the Standing Cmte might give to such a group is: a Master Plan goal is increased density in the transportation corridor, so how do we do that best? Elisabeth suggested finding some of the people who spoke on the density articles (for and against) at Town Meeting and contact them to get their perspectives. Pat Hanlon is the liaison now between the volunteers and the Standing Cmte and will continue to discuss options with Juli.

5. Discussion: Survey 2020 topics

Juli listed several topics: barriers to composting, housing, neighborhood community building. Kelly suggested that the Energy Manager, Ken Pruitt, might have questions. Juli had previously shared Bill Berkowitz's email suggesting questions about people's participation in neighborhood or community groups. Jo Anne explained her own expertise in social sciences, including surveys, and said she would be glad to give us input on design of the questions. Len through connections with Sustainable Arlington and the Transportation Advisory Committee would ask where people go and how do they get there. Elisabeth said that, if so, they should think about what info they need since transportation was in the last survey. Scott suggested questions about how many work from home? Kelly said this could be added to the demographic questions.

6. Discussion: goals for the year, meetings dates for next year

Juli: updating the “Settling In” guide to Arlington (a now outdated paper pamphlet) that can be online. Scott said there is a group at each elementary school that organizes welcome info to newcomers to town and might be able to help.

Len: organize fall precinct meetings. They don't have to be planned by TMMs, can be other people. Envision Arlington can help by providing a list of meeting rooms.

Juli: find people with skills and ideas for web-based discussion or asynchronous communication. Kelly went to a “NH Listens” facilitator training workshop. They didn't have a good engagement tool to recommend, either too expensive or not moderatable (free ones are not good because you can't limit participation to Arlington residents). Christine asked what problems we are trying to solve with asynchronous communication. Juli: it would be nice to let people share ideas if they can't go to the meeting about the topic. To have a more structured way

to discuss a suggestion e.g. “why doesn’t Arlington do this?” Len asked if ACMi could record some of these meetings and offer a way to facilitate discussion on their website as a community service?

7. Vote: to approve Town Day expenses, review budget overview for the year  
Approved: \$210 for TD booth fees; \$200 for printing Reservoir brochures; \$220 for renting Town Hall for Candidate’s Night; \$500 for Precinct Meetings; \$215 for various materials for Town Day handouts; \$125 for sachets. We still have \$2400 left. Given the expenses of renting school space for precinct meetings, Juli reminded everyone that we have a gift account that can collect money that can go into a segregated account to save up funds over time and spend without worry about fiscal years.
8. Standing Cmte vacancies  
We have vacancies so are in recruiting mode. Christine Michael (TMM Pct 5) and Beth Benedikt (TMM, Pct 21) are thinking about applying. Juli will meet with Farhanah to discuss her possible application, as well. Juli might run for Town Clerk. If she wins, she will no longer be able to be Chair so we need to think about that during the year.
9. New Business  
None

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.