



Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020
Time: 7:30 – 9:00 PM
Location: Remote participation via Zoom

Committee members in attendance: Greg Christiana, Kelly Lynema, Sue Doctrow, Juli Brazile, Scott Lever, Michael Brownstein, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Alex Bagnall

Members of the public: Elizabeth Dray

Minutes

1. Introductions

2. Approve minutes

Minutes were not discussed. Elizabeth noticed that minutes from June (?) have not yet been posted on the website.

3. Discussion of Town Meeting

- a. Updated language in the Envision Arlington in Article 7 from Town Meeting. Bill Berkowitz suggested minor changes to language to strengthen the notion of community, which was accepted as an administrative change.
- b. Police Civilian Advisory Board Study Committee (Article 6)
Scott initiated discussion of the process for nominating someone to the study committee. Juli suggests coordinating with other nominating bodies when announcing a call for applicants. Elizabeth suggests taking a leadership role in embracing the diversity requirements of the approved article.

Upon closer reading of the approved language of Article 6, the voted language indicates that the Standing Committee must choose a member of our committee, not someone we designate. This is different from the language of the warrant article which states: "voting members who shall be appointed to the committee by: the Envision Arlington Standing Committee (1); ..." The actual voted language states: "Voting members: ... One (1) member of the Envision Arlington Standing Committee as determined by such commission;"

- c. Applications including interest and background, vetting, calls or invite to Standing Committee meeting
- d. Sue asks whether "member of the Envision Arlington Standing Committee" can be an associate / non-voting member in order to

consider a broader, more diverse candidate pool than the Standing Committee alone.

- e. Juli will contact Town Counsel, Doug Heim, about the intended language and whether we can appoint someone from outside the Standing Committee.

4. Discussion on the Annual Town Survey

Scott discussed the final stages of planning for the Survey. He's involved in the review process with volunteers. Kelly points out that it would be best to get the survey finalized, approved, and go to print before the holidays. Kelly says that we're not accepting any more questions, and looking to cut questions.

There was discussion about QA2, and the distinction between questions that ask "you" (the person filling out the survey) vs "your household." Elizabeth suggested a clear visual cue, e.g. bolding, to call out the change in scope from one question to the next.

Juli, Elizabeth, and Greg pointed out concerns about some APS questions, specifically QC2 about use of hybrid/remote models for snow days, that it may be too open to different interpretations to be useful, and maybe deserves its own school-centric survey to cover with sufficient nuance.

Kelly points out that we need to start ramping up on outreach and communications about the survey, and that starts with a press release. Sue volunteered to help. Kelly asked if anyone has a copy of the census insert from last year, which Elisabeth may have.

Juli suggested considering looking at last year's language for demographics, etc.

Kelly says we received 4,582 survey responses last year.

Scott discussed the desire for reusable elements of the survey year after year rather than producing it essentially from scratch each year.

5. Advisory Committee Meeting

Greg discussed the plan to postpone the advisory committee meeting which was initially scheduled for next week, and that he and Scott would like to postpone to February:

Michael says we should focus on having a clear purpose so that we can have a stronger outcome. Agrees that this is a more pragmatic approach.

Kelly says the meeting will be limited to one hour, and we'll need to provide attendees a packet, and there will not be much time to present material; she recommended the focus should be on discussion and outcomes.

Juli mentioned that we should ask the various boards (Select Board, Fin Com, School Committee, etc) to designate a representative.

Greg to reach out to Kristin DeFrancisco about rescheduling for February.

6. Budget Update

None.

7. Meeting dates for 2021

Consensus for second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. Kelly will schedule on zoom.

8. New Business

None.