



Envision Arlington Standing Committee

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Time: 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Location: Conducted on Zoom

Attendees: Juli Brazile, Caroline Murray, Alex Bagnall, Michael Brownstein, Jagat Adhiya,

Guests: Len Diggins, Johanna Meyer

Minutes

1. Meeting Minutes Approval

October Minutes approved with corrections. 5-0

December Minutes approved as submitted. 5-0

February Minutes approved with corrections. 5-0

April Meeting Notes approved. 5-0

We discussed using transcript and ChatGPT to facilitate minutes creation if no one is taking notes.

2. Budget Approvals

One new expense is the \$200 Spy Pond Cmte tree planting project as Brad Barber requested. 5-0

Town Day Booth Fees \$225 – 3 booths. 5-0

3. 2023 Survey Discussion

Len: Start earlier. It's only because Johanna and Caroline stepped up that it happened at all.

Johanna: Themes provide structure, but it's hard when legitimately important questions outside that theme need to be included.

Caroline: What can we do at Town Day to publicize?

Johanna: Have pancake breakfasts at schools or in the community to engage more people in taking the survey.

Jagat: Can we decouple the timing from the census and divide the work more with Planning so we are working on the questions and the Planning Department is administering the survey?

Juli: Don't ask open-ended questions or have a plan to process them. Someone has to read them to tag them by topic for review by the right people if they are there.

Juli and Johanna will develop a timeline/structure document for the 2024 Town Survey. Planning may want to take on the survey, but we should assume we are taking the lead until that decision is made.

4. Reservoir Report on Task Group Questions

Johanna Meyer, a member of the Reservoir Committee, presents the committee's primary goals, which include treasuring the natural aspects of the reservoir, encouraging community enjoyment, supporting native species, controlling invasive species, and participating in planning for developments in harmony with the environment.

The committee acknowledges the need to evaluate their goals in terms of milestones and mentions that their monthly meetings and workdays serve as regular activities. They also engage in education events and participate in other reservoir activities. The discussion highlights the importance of aligning with Envision Arlington's (EA) mission, which includes harmony with the environment, well-being, and preserving natural resources.

Regarding communication and engagement, the committee sends out meeting minutes and newsletters via email. They also maintain a website, a Facebook page, and a blog to share updates and events. They recruit members through online advertising on platforms like Facebook, Nextdoor, and Meetup. The committee desires more support and cross-pollination with other groups in town, suggesting a meet and greet for group leaders. They propose the idea of a newsletter or event calendar to share information and collaborate with other groups in Envision Arlington. Johanna also touches upon the success of posting events on the town page and the potential of utilizing the underused Envision Arlington Facebook page for cross-posting and increasing engagement. The Facebook group currently has 56 members but has the potential for growth with active cultivation and sharing. The committee considers connecting with other task groups and utilizing various communication channels, including Facebook.

5. Mission Discussion

The discussion is deferred to the next meeting.

6. New Business:

Alex Bagnall brings up a new Artificial Turf Study Committee appointment under Article 12. The committee has a one-year timeline, so they want to make the appointment sooner rather than later. The discussion revolves around finding the right person for the position. Suggestions include contacting Sustainable Arlington and task group chairs to

solicit applications. Town aims to have all appointments over the summer so the committee can start its work in the fall. The group agrees to email the task group chairs and potentially the Standing Committee to invite applications. Ideally, the goal is to finalize the appointments by June but no later than July. Michael will contact the task group chairs about nominations for this appointment.

Next meeting: The June 20th meeting is rescheduled for July 12.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.