

Vision Implementation Committee
Meeting of January 10, 2008
Minutes

Members Present: Austin Bliss, Vicent DeNovellis, Kirk Hazlett, Jennifer Page, Alfred Rubin, Paul Santos, Paul Solomon.

Members Absent: Joseph Crugnale, Sara Oaklander, Jay Szklut.

1. Administrivia

- 1.1 The minutes from November 15, 2007, as modified, were approved.
- 1.2 The next meeting of the Vision Implementation Committee will be on February 21, 2008.

2. Martin Luther King Breakfast

The Vision Implementation Committee is co-sponsoring the MLK breakfast on January 21. The organizers need help in setting up, childcare during the breakfast, and cleaning up afterward. Please coordinate with Jonathan Jacobi (Jacobi42@aol.com or 617-489-3740) if you can help.

3. Retreat Update

The Vision Implementation Committee Retreat is confirmed for Sunday, February 3 from 2-6 at All Saints Church (not First Church as originally planned). Jennifer will send out directions. Sara Oaklander will be responsible for inviting former members who might contribute to the Retreat. The Retreat is a public meeting open to all Belmont residents. We will need to post it.

4. Sustainable Belmont Update

4.1 Celebration Dinner: Sustainable Belmont will have a Celebration Dinner at Patou on Monday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. to mark three years of existence. The event is open to all, will be a buffet, and costs \$20 per person. Please reply to Jan Kruse if you can come and indicate how many reservations you'd like: sustainablebelmont@gmail.com

4.2 Continuity of leadership: There was a discussion of how to formally continue the status of Sustainable Belmont as a task force of the Vision Implementation Committee whenever the current co-chairs felt they need to move on. This resulted in the following resolution being put to a vote:

"In order to insure a continuity of leadership for Sustainable Belmont, the Vision Implementation Committee will continue to appoint the chair or co-chairs of Sustainable Belmont, a task force of the Vision Implementation Committee"

This resolution was approved by five votes, with two abstentions.

5. Meet Belmont

5.1 Survey Results: Austin Bliss presented the results of the Meet Belmont guest survey including a summary of the salient comments. We were particularly pleased to read the comments. The respondents praised the event in a variety of ways and offered helpful suggestions for future

planning. Their positive comments will surely be included in press releases for the next Meet Belmont. We also agreed to send the comments electronically to the organizations that had participated.

5.2 Tasks for getting started: form a committee, establish a date.

" Get from Laurie the original list of sign-ins, a few of whom volunteered to help with the next Meet Belmont. (Jennifer will contact Laurie, get the names from her and pass them to Kirk.)

" Contact attendees who volunteered to help with next year's Meet Belmont to try to recruit members of task force (Kirk)

" Place public announcement in paper asking for volunteers to help (no one volunteered)

" (Editor: post-meeting inspiration -- some attendees from 2006 also volunteered and were never called on; they should be contacted. - Jennifer?)

" Establish date with High School (Jennifer). We agreed that she should try for Thursday, August 21, 2008.

6. Welcoming booklets

6.1 Funding for original printing of welcoming booklets in 2002:

Discussion: Jennifer explained that the original booklets were funded by contributions from real estate offices in Belmont, each contributing some amount, maybe \$350 or \$400 each. All donors were thanked and acknowledged in the booklet. Several thousand copies were printed. The job was done at Minuteman High; labor was contributed without cost. We paid for the paper and the binding. (The binding was done commercially but arranged for by Minuteman at a good price.) Jennifer will search her records to confirm these guesstimates.

6.2 Revising vs. editing the existing booklet:

Discussion: Shall we try to expand, revise, and modify the existing booklet in terms of substance and format, or shall we simply edit for typos and make updates and corrections such as phone numbers? Shall we make an effort to get input from actual newcomers?

Three suggestions to get feedback from newcomers; all had merit.

" We could use the many suggestions for needed information from Meet Belmont survey.

" We could invite some newcomers to join us (or a few of us) to discuss and review the booklet face-to-face.

" We could send some survey respondents the booklet and ask for feedback in writing.

6.3 Tasks:

o Kirk will edit the old text and update; he will have a revised text to us by the February meeting.

o Austin will send raw data (including contact info) of survey to Kirk and to Jennifer

o Kirk will contact a few of the especially articulate respondents, inviting them to comment on booklet.

o Jennifer will contact a few others to discuss the booklet in a group.

- o We will draw on the suggestions from the survey to incorporate information respondents sought. (No one designated, but AI should be the watchdog for this!)
- o Jennifer will go through old records to determine how much each realtor was asked to contribute in '01 and how many booklets were originally printed.
- o Kirk will contact Minuteman to talk about timetable and price; he will also solicit bids from local printers.

6.4 Format: Paper vs. Disk

Discussion turned to whether we should print the booklets or circulate the booklet electronically, distribute as discs, put it on the web, etc ... as much less expensive alternatives to printing, but still print a few - maybe 100 or so for distribution. (Editor's comment: this is how the annual "Town Report" is handled for distribution to Town Meeting and the public.) No decision was reached.

7. Photo Contest

7.1 Discussion: We discussed briefly whether we should do the photo contest again. A question was raised about its effectiveness last year, since there were so few entries. Kirk felt that participation in such ventures builds and is willing to lead this project again. He felt it would not be a drain, as he has all the materials. It was generally agreed that if Kirk wants to do it, it should go forward.

7.2 Tasks:

- " Paul Solomon will investigate whether a thank-you note ever went to the printers from the Selectmen.
- " Kirk will contact Adine Storer regarding her suggestions for possible changes in the rules.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Santos and Jennifer Page, Co-Scribes