

Vision 21 Implementation Committee Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2005

Accepted September 29, 2005

Present: Jennifer Page, Austin Bliss, Victoria Haase, Paul Santos, Vince DeNovellis, Sara Oaklander, Donna Brescia, Meg O'Brien, Ann Rittenburg

Absent: Paul Solomon

1) Administrivia:

- Donna will be taking minutes; we share taking minutes
- Minutes from 8/10/05 were reviewed, Motion to accept minutes from August 10, 2005 meeting made by Sara, Paul Santos second –

VOTE: All in favor

2) Elections of Officers:

- We reviewed and agreed on following regarding terms of officers:
 - there will be no term limits for officers;
 - officers are elected annually;
 - we cannot bind someone who is vice chair to role of Chair upon end of term of Chair.
- Qualifications required (to run, to vote):
 - anyone who is an appointed, voting member of the committee can run to be an officer
 - anyone who is voting member of the committee can vote in the Officer elections

Nominations of Officers for 2005-2006:

- Chair:

- Sara Oaklander nominated Jennifer Page for office of Chair, Jennifer accepted nomination

- Vinnie requested nominations be closed
- **Vote:** Unanimous vote for Jennifer as chair.

- Vice Chair:

- Sara Oaklander nominated Meg O'Brien for Vice Chair; Meg accepted nomination.

- Ann Rittenburg nominated Sara Oaklander who declined the nomination
- **Vote:** Unanimous vote for Meg as vice-chair

3) Update on co-sponsoring “No Place to Hate” forum with Belmont Against Racism

- We have not yet responded to their request. Responses to Jennifer's email asking members if we should co-sponsor indicated that we should probably discuss this at a committee meeting, rather than through email.
 - o Discussion about why people may have hesitated:
 - Is the scope of the forum too basic? Difficulties/confusion expressed about use of term "hate".
 - We need to discuss what it means to "co-sponsor" and a process that we follow when asked: (i.e.: discussing an action together, what is agenda of forum, etc.)
 - Review of criteria established by the VIC21 to determine whether or not to co-sponsor
 - o Victoria suggests that we should add to the criteria that any request will be brought to the committee as a whole and the committee shall discuss and vote on sponsorship option at a meeting. All agreed;
 - o We want to make sure some VIC members can attend whatever event we are co-sponsoring;
 - o We need to make sure we can meet the expectations implicit in "sponsorship"
 - In future: Chair shall say that he/she needs to take this discussion to a committee meeting for discussion. If not enough time, then "perhaps next year"

- Discussion as to whether we should support this forum:
 - o Comments:
 - This event appears to be in concert with our mission
 - We need to know that some members from the committee will attend and report back
 - A report on the forum, from the participants, should be part of the record of our next meeting

- Sara Oaklander moved that we co-sponsor the event, Ann Rittenburg seconded.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

4) Need for representative from the VIC to Regional Transportation Plan

- Regional Board has asked for representatives from neighboring towns
- Belmont has been asked to send 5 members
- o VIC has been asked to send someone –
- o Tom Younger will be chair of the group
- o It is important for us because one part of the Vision says we will be involved in regional planning – very possible it will be meaningful to us in implementation of the Vision
 - Waltham development, Alewife development, 40B development, Cambridge development are all likely to be part of the discussions of this group
- Paul Santos: This may give us an idea of how we might work with regional groups, in light of Katrina -- we know of no regional emergency plans

- Vinnie DeNovellis volunteered to represent VIC; Donna and Austin will be “back ups” to Vinnie

5) Meet Belmont:

- Comments, suggestions, materials –
 - o Air conditioned space would be nice
 - o We should use our banner at future events
 - o Donna read comments received from the questionnaire sent to participants. The responses to this questionnaire were also sent to the Belmont Neighbors Network. Thoughts offered were:
 - Child care so parents can really spend time there
 - Marketing to older people
 - Marketing to long-term residents as well as newcomers
 - Participation from more religious groups
 - Invite Belmont Movie Theater to be there

6) Sustainable Belmont

- Forum planned for October 18 – energy costs and what homeowners can do in terms of energy conservation, etc.
 - o Motion to reimburse travel expenses for speakers at the Oct 18 event by Paul Santos. (Money to come from funds raised for Environmental Fair last year)

VOTE: All in favor

7) Continuing review of Vision –

- Jennifer continued her presentation from the previous meeting on how the work of the committee was initially established and developed. She described how results of the 2000 survey of townspeople plus “value added” (i.e. our own experiences and values) lead to development of the Vision, which was approved by Town Meeting in 2001 and how the Board of Selectmen then established the Vision Implementation Committee.
- The new committee identified 7 or 8 issues in the Vision they felt would be important to focus on initially; members wrote out why they felt these issues would be important to work on, eventually winnowing the list down to 5 priorities: education, environment, supporting business, regional planning, and becoming a welcoming community. The Board of Selectmen approved these priorities.
- As a first step the Committee developed an information booklet for newcomers and then began to explore how to work with the business community.
- Given that the current committee has a significant number of new members, Jennifer suggested that we next examine closely the vision itself and grapple with some of the seemingly competing priorities (e.g.: being business friendly and preserving small town atmosphere) before determining how we will set our goals for this year. We may also wish to examine how we might determine if changes to the vision are appropriate in the near future.

Motion to adjourn at 9:08p: unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Brescia
Secretary Pro Tempore