

**BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

2018 FEB 13 AM 9:31

PRESENT: Members present: Chair Natalie Leino, Jennifer Page, Gang Zhao, Erica Zidel, Juan Montoya, Perry Haynsworth, Mary Power. Members not in attendance: Doug John (sitting on temporary Town Committee studying potential expansion of BOS meeting at same time), Kevin Dorn

I. CALL TO ORDER

Natalie Leino called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF 9/26/2017 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of August 22 were approved unanimously.

III. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee members welcomed new members Erica Zidel and Juan Montoya and all briefly introduced themselves.

Natalie and Jennifer Page briefly summarized the history of the VIC and described some of its main events and projects to date. Natalie described the annual Meet Belmont Community Information Fair and the newer Talk of the Town event that are both widely seen as positive additions to the Town. Natalie noted that former committee member Carol Trager will focus on the Talk of the Town event for next March. Natalie also described the podcast series with Belmont Media Center, which was in response to VIC survey comments in which respondents sought information about town affairs.

IV. MEET BELMONT COMMUNITY INFORMATION FAIR DEBRIEF

Natalie remarked that the Community Information Fair went very well with approximately 400 attendees. Last year Natalie and former committee members Alan Babroudi and Carol Trager along with an additional community volunteer organized the event. This year, Natalie, Allen, Carol, and Doug John took the lead, with assistance from the rest of the VIC. Committee members voiced a desire that the Information Fair have a permanent home. The Committee discussed the risk that without establishment of a group dedicated to Fair, the VIC will not be able to continue its charge to focus on identifying a range of ways to implement the Town vision. Natalie suggested the possibility that the BOS could appoint a small committee dedicated to the Belmont Information Fair. Comments from members included that creating a focused group could create new ways to expand on the Belmont information Fair concept, finding additional ways for residents to "meet Belmont", that it is a signature event, and that the organization of the fair can take up to 20 hours a month during the few months leading up to the August event.

Each member voiced agreement for the idea of creation of a dedicated committee separate from the VIC so the VIC can continue fulfill its charge to help the Town achieve the Working Vision for the Town. The VIC agreed that the next step is for the chair to email the Board of Selectmen with this suggestion to get their input/ideas.

V. DISCUSSION REGARDING BUSINESS COMMUNITY PROJECT

The committee then turned its discussion to the idea of engaging with the business community. The VIC members reviewed a range of Town reports from the early 2000s looking at business representative concerns about the Centers. Jennifer commented on the BEDPG report and will share it because it also speaks to business issues. She and other VIC members felt it was important to carry-on the vision by being supportive of retail needs and opportunities.

VI. NEXT STEPS FOR MEET BELMONT PODCAST

Since the podcasts focus on general committee activities the VIC is looking for ways for them to be more prominently available online as a continued resource for residence. This will be discussed further offline with next steps brought back to the group.

VII. DISCUSSION REGARDING MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2017-2018 YEAR

The committee affirmed that it would like to stay with the current meeting schedule of the fourth Tuesday of the month.

VIII. GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING

Natalie mentioned one idea that has been discussed in previous meetings is a review of nearby towns' structures regarding vision topics. It was agreed that this would be a topic for the next meeting.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Power