

VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2017

2017 JUN 21 AM 10:16

Members present: Natalie Leino, Chair; Kevin Dorn, Doug John, Jennifer Page, Carol Trager

Members not in attendance: Allen Babroudi, Perry Haynsworth, Mary Power.

1. The Meeting was called to order by Chair Natalie Leino at 7:15 p.m.
2. Minutes: The Minutes of the February 27 meeting were reviewed and approved with the following amendments:
  - 2.1 Perry Haynsworth should be credited with having written the minutes;
  - 2.2 The statement, "200 people had signed up" should be revised to read, "We had issued 200 tickets."
3. Discussion: Talk of the Town
  - Hearty congratulations were extended to Carol and her team. The program was deemed a resounding success both by our VIC members and by the audience at the program (audience informal enthusiasm and comments, and more formally through the feedback sheets.)
  - The group agreed we would like to aim to hold the event again next year given the positive response.
  - The feedback was very positive and wonderful suggestions for future speakers were offered in the feedback sheets.
  - The group discussed various questions/comments related to the event for those planning next year's event to consider.
    - There seemed to be no difference between the "reserved" and "not reserved" seats. Does this matter?
    - Should we have the speakers uniformly either all speaking from the stage or all from the floor, or does this matter?

- The “sound” quality was identified as an issue on the feedback sheets and corroborated by VIC members in attendance.
- Discussion about one presenter’s comments on President Trump: Some members of the audience were offended. We should include in the “program” a disclaimer stating that the views of the speakers do not reflect the views of the committee or the Town.
- The group discussed that it would be good to have a policy against inviting any current politician or candidate as a speaker/presenter.
- No explicit interaction between audience and speaker: Was this ok?
- Moderator asked only one question of each speaker. Should we suggest that s/he ask two questions of each speaker in the future?
- Should we obtain from each speaker a title or a topic of their talk, which would then be announced in the “program.” (but is not revealed earlier in the publicity.)
- We agreed that there was a very nice mix of presenters; quite varied.
- We entertained the possibility of having one or two children as speakers between the main speakers.
- There may have been a problem with the Schools’ email notifications to Parents about Talk of the Town as multiple committee members with students in the school system did not get the emails.
- Carol and her team were again roundly congratulated.

#### 4. Future membership of the Vision Committee: A proposal

- This year three members’ terms with VIC are up: Doug, Carol, and Allen. Each has expressed the likelihood that they would decline to be reappointed though would like to continue working on Meet Belmont events.
- A discussion ensued regarding the idea of an organizational model that permits these two events to continue running, led by the people who have run them this year, even though that

leadership would not emanate officially from the Vision Implementation Committee. The leadership of these two events, though no longer members of VIC, would recruit additional people from “outside” the VIC. VIC would still be involved, as VIC members would volunteer to be “links” to these projects, so that the relationship (and some oversight) would be maintained. Natalie noted that she would continue to be involved in the planning of the Meet Belmont events while remaining on the VIC.

- This model is similar to how Sustainable Belmont started: it was initially organized by the VIC leadership that had produced the Environmental Fair, but gradually new leadership grew from within S.B. and ultimately it became a community organization with no formal link to the Vision Committee. “Meet Belmont” (Information Fair) has gradually been moving in this direction as well, although the leadership for it still resides within the Vision Implementation Committee.
- This model would allow for the continuation of both Meet Belmont/Information Fair and Talk of the Town, both events initiated by the VIC but now seeking to encourage leadership from both within and outside the committee. Given the amount of time planning these events takes up, it also frees the VIC to continue developing new strategies for implementing the Vision.
- Side-bar query re Meet Belmont/ Information Fair: how to encourage the exhibitors to help more in promoting the event?
- Talk of the Town and Meet Belmont/ Information Fair: the “new” organizing committees would both need a liaison with VIC.
- Would we need an “events subcommittee” of VIC to provide coherence/“fit” between these events and the VIC?

5. A new and growing population in Belmont
  - It was noted that there is a large and growing Asian community in Belmont. Belmont is now approximately 30% Asian. VIC needs to find ways specifically to help build connections and ideally to have representation from this community on the VIC. It was noted that the Belmont Chinese American Association had a table at Meet Belmont last August (2016), and that they were very engaged in bringing Belmont newcomers to the event and helping with translation when necessary. . Natalie stated that she would reach out to the head of the Belmont Chinese American Association to see whether he knew of any potential applicants for VIC appointment?
6. The group discussed the ongoing Meet Belmont podcast. It was agreed that now that Talk of the Town was over, more efforts would be put into advertising the podcast, and at the next meeting we could engage in a more robust discussion about where the podcast was heading/what next steps could be.
7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Page,  
Secretary Pro Tempore