



**POPS Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary**

September 8, 2016

7:00pm-9:00pm

Fairlington Community Center

In attendance:

POPS Advisory Committee

- Caroline Haynes, Park and Recreation Commission
- Jane Siegel, Planning Commission
- Dean Amel, Urban Forestry Commission
- Heather Cocozza, Sports Commission
- Claire O'Dea, E2C2
- Lisa Grandle, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Toby Smith, At Large
- Carrie Johnson, At Large
- Janet Kopenhaver, Arlington Commission for the Arts

Absent:

- Jane Rudolph, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Jim Feaster, NCAC
- William Gillen, APS
- Elizabeth Gearin, Park and Recreation Commission

Department of Parks and Recreation Staff:

- Erik Beach
- Irena Lazic

Public:

- Richard Epstein



Summary:

On September 8, 2016 WRT facilitated a meeting with the POPS Advisory Committee to get feedback on the actions and action steps to support Strategic Direction 7: Fiscal Sustainability and Strategic Direction 8: Operations & Maintenance.

To begin, DPR addressed some concerns they had heard about the relationship of Arlington POPS to the 2005 PSMP and the difference between an update and a new plan. There are many ideas and policies in the 2005 plan that will be carried forward and sometimes updated to reflect progress or new circumstances. In addition, given that 10 years have passed and new issues and opportunities have emerged, new elements and policies will be added to push the county forward in its mission to provide excellent public spaces.

WRT gave an overview of the other work that has been ongoing alongside the writing and editing of the Strategic Directions, including the Level of Service analysis, benchmarking, and site evaluations of 10 representative public spaces in the county. WRT clarified the logic of the planning process, which has enabled the Advisory Committee to provide input on components of the plan that have been more quickly developed, rather than more linear, in order to keep the process going while the more time-consuming elements are worked on in the background. WRT then shared a draft final plan outline, which includes context about the county, the 2005 plan and its successes, and the large amount of input that went into the creation of the 8 overarching themes—or Strategic Directions—around which the plan is organized.

A request was made to remind Committee members each time of the 8 SDs so that the discussions are more grounded in the specific needs and goals of Arlington. WRT then presented a brief overview of the SDs and the specific public input that led to each SD.

Specific feedback from the Committee follows.

SD 7: Fiscal Sustainability

Committee members agreed that a new action step should be included speaking to the need for adequate public spending on public spaces and the efficient and wise spending of those public funds. Additionally, an action step could be added relative to the pursuit of state and federal funds. Some members also expressed the need for a nonprofit foundation or other mechanism by which people can bequest or donate money to public spaces. There are a few smaller avenues for this right now but an umbrella organization would enable a more streamlined process. The group also discussed the need to re-evaluate the County's naming policy to make it more comprehensive.

SD 8: Operations & Maintenance

The Committee discussed multiple issues related to stormwater management systems and their upkeep, noting that maintenance staff is not necessarily give special training to manage green stormwater infrastructure or ecologically sensitive areas that might require extra attention. It was agreed that this section needs to address stormwater management systems.