



**POPS Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary**

May 31, 2016

6:30pm-9:30pm

Arlington Mill Community Center

**In attendance:**

**POPS Advisory Committee**

- Caroline Haynes, Park and Recreation Commission
- Jane Rudolph, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Jane Siegel, Planning Commission
- Jim Feaster, NCAC
- Dean Amel, Urban Forestry Commission
- Craig Esherick, Sports Commission
- Claire O’Dea, E2C2
- Lisa Grandle, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Toby Smith, At Large
- Carrie Johnson, At Large
- William Gillen, APS
- Leo Sarli, Arlington Commission for the Arts- Alternate

**Absent:**

- Janet Kopenhaver, Arlington Commission for the Arts
- Elizabeth Gearin, Park and Recreation Commission

**Department of Parks and Recreation Staff:**

- Erik Beach
- Irena Lazic
- Bethany Heim

**Public:**

- Richard Epstein, Arlington Parks Coalition
- Lisa Nisenson



## **Summary**

On May 31, 2016 WRT facilitated a meeting with the POPS Advisory Committee to get feedback on draft strategic directions and input on a vision statement for Arlington POPS.

WRT began the meeting with an introductory presentation that included a recap of the community needs assessment tasks completed to date, an overview of the final plan's intended organization, and a process timeline including how future Advisory Committee and public meetings fit into the planning process.

## ***Strategic Directions***

Following the introductory presentation, WRT presented the Advisory Committee with eight draft strategic directions—the highest level policy recommendations of the plan. For each strategic direction, the Advisory Committee was presented with a summary of what the WRT Team learned through the community needs assessment that informed the strategic direction, the draft strategic direction language, and potential supporting actions that give a sense of the types of actions that might fall under each strategic direction in the final plan.

Overall, the Advisory Committee agreed with the framework the eight draft strategic directions will provide for the plan. The feedback received from the Committee focused mostly on phrasing and word choice. More specific feedback included:

- Emphasize land acquisition.
- Emphasize the role of planning and how POPS relates to other County plans / planning processes.
- Broaden statements so they refer to all County public spaces rather than just DPR spaces.
- Include location-specific actions.
- Be clear about definitions of terms.

The eight draft strategic directions were then shown side-by-side with the 2005 PSMP's objectives.

WRT will incorporate the feedback received from the Advisory Committee as it edits the strategic directions and fleshes out the rest of the draft action plan.

## ***Vision Statement***

WRT presented guidelines for vision statements, existing County and DPR vision statements, and example vision statements from other communities. The Advisory Committee noted that some of the statements from other communities resonated more than others.

The Advisory Committee then split up into four groups to brainstorm vision statements. A list of "words for thought" was displayed to the Advisory Committee as the small groups developed their statements.

The groups liked words such as: strong, civic, opportunities, commitment, stewardship, comfortable, safe, balance, broad, diverse, livability, green, pride, sustain, maintain, and improve. They did not like words and phrases such as: unique, extraordinary, and urban fabric.



Vision statements developed by the groups included:

- We have a strong civic commitment to improve Arlington’s public spaces to be inspiring and motivational that are challenging but achievable and appealing to as many as possible.
- Citizens are inspired to embrace and use the public spaces of Arlington County. Our public spaces will protect and enhance natural ecosystems, provide recreation, and create connections across the county.
- Develop a civic commitment to a comprehensive system of parks, trails, natural resources, open space and recreation facilities that sustains, invigorates and integrates our urban fabric.

WRT will incorporate the feedback received from the Advisory Committee and the ideas they generated into a draft vision statement for Arlington POPS.