

**COUNCIL MEETING GOAL 7**  
**INDEX CARDS**  
**October 28, 2009**

Each presenter, and others in attendance, invited to identify one priority or key area and write it down on an index card. The completed index cards were posted on a display board in the front of the room. The bulleted statements below reflect the comments provided on the index cards.

**ARTS**

- Alexandria cherishes the arts for their own sakes and values the extraordinary economic and nurturing impact they have on the City. Truly, arts build community.
- GOAL: To continue current arts funding through the recession, and expand former levels or more, as soon as possible – Reason: The arts are **the** major attraction in this city; One of the major economic engines of the city are the arts. THE ARTS (and other major elements of the city) should be conceived as a separate goal with the criteria indicated by “Goal 7”.
- PRIORITY – Adopt the Public Art Master Plan authored by the ACA
- Include a consolidated Art League school facility as a component of the Waterfront redevelopment as a way to sustain a major cultural component of Alexandria and as a positive economic import; Continue accessibility to affordable classes; And, increase the Art League’s capacity to make the creative experience available to all – through classes and outreach programs.
- With respect to Scottish Heritage: Please continue the supportive attitude which we have shared over the years on recognizing the Scottish heritage of Alexandria in areas of the arts, diversity, history and culture.

**HISTORIC**

- Invest in historic properties, Arlington has.
  - Leveraged \$200,000 in Federal mandated grants that . . .
  - Resulted in 235 tax credit rehab projects that. . .
  - Gave citizens \$7 million in state tax credits and that. . . Resulted in the creation of almost 90 more jobs than new construction projects. Arlington has – Why not Alexandria? – Continue to work on and complete the Alexandria Historic Preservation plan.
- Measureable outcome: Develop a preservation and interpretive plan within 3 years for both Ft. Ward and Freedmen’s Cemetery. Objective: Develop a preservation master plan for Alexandria.

**HOUSING**

- Council adopts policy that follows recommendations of Affordable Housing Initiative Work Group (Report delivered May 2009.)
- Think outside the box when reviewing ways to accommodate affordable housing in the City.
- Continue supporting the low income residents of Alexandria via rent subsidies –

- The City needs to identify **all** needs, regardless of ability to fund and then evaluate and prioritize these needs/issues. This will probably require the city to establish a tax rate that will adequately support the needs. The City should then restore the tax rebate to save those who cannot support higher taxes. We should more carefully and broadly consider higher density at transportation hubs with reduced parking requirements to allow more affordable units. This will require courage to cope with response from NIMBY residents.
- Objective – To ensure that our senior citizens are nourished, have transportation, have companionship so that they can continue to live in Alexandria in their homes with dignity and purpose – so we can meet Goal #7.
- Affordable housing for people in 30% to 50% poverty.
- Look at local laws and regulations, ordinances, and practices that create barriers to creating and preserving affordable housing.
- Offer a diversity of housing choices for individuals who have an extremely low income and establish a target of placing at least ten CSB clients in newly-created, low-income housing by 2013.
- Potomac Yard land buy – City should get as much as possible. (Housing from ARHA to workforce). For density given on site; More production of units vs. contribution of dollars for large projects.
- Create and plan for livable communities that are accessible and affordable to persons of all ages and abilities.
- Trade density for affordable housing.

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

- Strategic Objective: Poverty in Alexandria is reduced.
- Hiring youth with volunteer capacities to meet social service needs for immigrant youth.
- Continue to maintain services that help to maintain a sense of belonging for children from the many diverse cultures in Alexandria. (These goals should also support programs that help to decrease the achievement gap).
- City Council should focus on and support programs that can define goals and **concretely report** achievement; Create a matrix of programs that work with families and children in Alexandria so that all families and programs working with families can see who offers what services to what people; Healthy families Alexandria has set goals defined and with numbers we want to reach by a set date. We report yearly on how well we are doing.
- Tax assistance for the neediest citizens.
- Completion of the development of the CSB's electronic health record as an initial step toward enhancing the integration of behavioral and primary health care in Alexandria.
- Focus on Prevention Programming.
- City Council should ensure that all city departments and ACPS provide programs and services addressing critical human needs with cultural competence and a commitment to accessibility, within 3 years. Measurable: Quantity needs and constituents; Implement compliance plan under law (Title VI of Civil Rights Act)

- Goal 7. For Alexandria CSB: Establish recovery group and ensure that 100% of CSB programs employ best practice and/or evidence based services by 2013.
- Increase and strengthen prevention and educational service dedicated to supporting the mental health of the community.
- Implement the Targeted Area Plan for substance abuse prevention and treatment in Arlandria by 2013.
- Focus on: Basic Human Needs; Prevention Programs - Gaps in service
- Our first recommendation to the City Council for city agency hiring managers to be cognizant of the growth in the Francophone and East African community in the area. Having an eye out for French or Amhanc speaking job candidates, especially in the City's human services agencies might be effective for the city than being forced to hire someone who speaks either language just to meet the demand.
- Alexandria provides services that are accessible and moves people to self-sufficiency.

### **LIBRARY**

- Continue to provide staff and materials necessary to maintain in a first class library system. This is hard to do without proper funding.
- Alexandria Library System – Goal #1 – To have open and accessible technology available to the public. The Alexandria Library provides services to all Alexandria residents, including children and adults, traditional and nontraditional users, including those with disabilities, regardless of where they live in the City. To do that, it is essential that the library buildings be open and adequately staffed at convenient hours to meet the needs of the variety of diverse lifestyles represented in Alexandria. Being open includes 24-hour access by Internet in which patrons communicate with the library and make use of an extensive array of databases and other services. Other methods of being open include providing services through one stop library shops; Kiosks that offer downloadable and other library materials at transportation hubs and commercial centers.

### **SENIORS**

- Look at policy and services in relation to the impact on all of us as we age/seniors and boomers assuring a livable community for all. Example – Timing of crosswalk lights to benefit young and old.
- Council and City Staff – Keep the needs of the elderly in mind in all decisions – But specifically: Make Alexandria a “livable” city – for ALL ages; Provide transportation that is affordable and accessible; Provide support services to enable the elderly to continue to live at home; Enable “affordable” assisted living; Enable the development of an action plan to better meet needs of the elderly!

### **MULTIPLE**

- Keep diverse population in Alexandria thru Affordable Housing; Provide basic human needs thru good jobs and training; Food; Healthcare.
- People with limited English proficiency and low education levels are constrained in their ability to participate and prosper in the modern economy; Childcare options do not meet the need of parents, Childcare must be affordable and accessible; Housing affordability must be priority to allow elderly and single

mothers to remain in the City; Data is needed to effectively track women's progress in the City and private workforce.

- During these economic crises times, there are more jobs lost than ever before. With job lay offs and less income coming into the household, it yields more abuse and domestic violence arises more in the households. My suggestion is Alexandria should put into place programs that would assist people who were laid off in order to prevent the increase of domestic abuse and violence. Redella and Alicia – Due to the economic crisis more people will apply for Affordable Housing Section 8 Voucher Program. Objective – Increase funds to Section 8 Voucher Program.
- Define caring and inclusive to incorporate renters. Make sure that social services is outcome – driven.