What’s Next, Alexandria?

A Community Conversation about Civic Engagement and Planning for the Future

Park and Recreation Commission
September 20, 2012
Why Now?

• Council directed staff to pause between small area plans to work with the community on Alexandria’s Principles of Civic Engagement
Objectives

• Engage the community in a discussion about past engagement practices and suggestions for improvement

• Develop common elements and a shared understanding of the planning process and plan documents

• Expand and improve the engagement toolbox to make it easier and more rewarding for people to participate.

• Initiate a community discussion about what’s next for Alexandria in terms of the principles that guide planning
Schedule

- **Sept. 2012** – Action Alexandria Poll
- **Nov. 2012** – Community meeting to discuss poll results, best practices, strategies and principles of engagement
- **Jan. 2013** – Community forum with speakers and discussion on key planning topics
- Additional community meetings as needed
- Online engagement to supplement meetings
- Staff, Boards/Commissions training to sustain the progress achieved and implement the City’s Principles of Engagement
Deliverables

• **Alexandria’s Principles of Civic Engagement**, including shared expectations for planning processes and plan documents, as well as a toolbox of civic engagement techniques and strategies

• A report summarizing areas of agreement on “What’s Next for Alexandria?,” principles for planning that establish a starting point for future efforts
How can members of the P&R Commission be involved?

• Provide feedback on the proposed outline of the civic engagement project

• Encourage participation in the poll and subsequent elements of engagement

• Promote the effort within your own networks and neighborhoods