

After the group activity, participants were asked to respond individually to the following four questions:

- How will you contribute to making the civic engagement initiative successful?
- List three things that will demonstrate this process is different than the past.
- What will be the two most important measures of success?
- List ways in which City government can be held accountable. List ways in which community members can be held accountable.

1. **How will you contribute to making the civic engagement initiative successful?**

- Will stay engaged – in person, online, communicating with council members, tracking ongoing developments; will encourage fellow community members, peers, colleagues to do the same; will share information with community.
- Work to ensure that others who participate show respect for everyone’s opinions and contributions.
- Organize youth and parents to participate and encourage effective youth/adult partnerships. Talk to my Student Government Association; my Government class; on morning announcements at school.
- Involve new people and make sure information is distributed.
- Helping those who may not speak English to find a proper channel. Help to work on including voices, viewpoints of underrepresented and immigrant groups.
- Will invite city council members to meet with my fellow community members.
- Taking into account and listening to the needs of the community. Demanding what I need and what affects my neighborhood.
- I will never complain unless I can offer an alternative solution.

2. **List three things that will demonstrate this process is different than the past.**

- More diverse interest and input from individuals/communities
- More avenues for outreach; better use of technology, different meeting days/times/venues; community ambassadors; city more consistently reaches out to residents.
- Sustained effort to ask for participant feedback.
- The civic framework will be laid out at the beginning of the process in a transparent way; adopted by city/commissions as a whole; framework will be flexible throughout and open to changes as the process unfolds; many ways to participate and that all feedback offered is taken into consideration.
- Open involvement in discussions; opportunity to voice concerns; implementation of community contributions in principle statements.
- Youth involvement

- Participants go home feeling they have been heard; council members and commission members feel they have learned something new; citizen feelings of ownership.
- Implementation that restores trust in the process and produces better decisions; empowering broader audiences/city cohorts; city residents begin to speak of this process as a useful, trusted tool; need to align the process with strategic ends specifically.
- Communication; more information; inform in advance.
- When Spanish-speaking communities have more access to the information related to these meetings; more interpreters; and are informed of the meetings' results.
- That the city is taking into account the opinion of the community and their demands; that residents of Alexandria know what the process is before; that the process that is followed doesn't only benefit the city without also benefitting the residents.

3. **What will be the two most important measures of success?**

- Overall public satisfaction with both the process and its results.
- Increased/diverse participation levels and quality of participation; new forms of documentation that provide a record of our engagement process for each project; Citizen participation will reflect the demographics of the area to be affected.
- Citizens have a sense of ownership for the quality of life in their community.
- Transparency in stating the objectives of civic engagements, and the steps being taken to achieve those same objectives.
- Community evaluations of how well projects perform in meeting their intended objectives.
- Community satisfaction with the city's public engagement strategy.
- Seeing public comments actually change plans.
- Larger numbers of citizens participating in Alexandria activities. Fewer people complaining that they were 'left out' of decision-making process.
- Citizen input in staff reports.
- Tracking participation; community involvement/feedback put into practice once draft is complete. Implementation.
- People trust the process. Input and interest from many quarters included.
- Communication and information through different means, such as schools, centers, etc.; and the information to be translated into Spanish.
- Presence; general knowledge of the project by the community.
- Have projects that are most beneficial to all people, independent of race.

4a. **List ways in which City government can be held accountable:**

- Continuous assessment and requests for public feedback.
- Hire an ombudsman (independent); provide critical independent analysis; not treat residents as impediments to preconceived plans.

- Documentation of alternatives considered and reasoning/justification for the options ultimately chosen.
- In diversifying means of communication and engagement with all members of the community.
- No pre-determined outcomes; meetings are held at times and in locations that are convenient and accessible to large segments of the community; all meeting locations will be easily accessible via mass transit, walking, biking, etc.; decision makers will be present and engaged throughout the entire planning process; city will communicate to citizens what is at stake in the decision making process.
- Giving sufficient time for citizens to be informed and be active participants before a plan is adopted
- By listening to the community; by promising to act or not to act on suggestions and keeping their promise.
- Follow the guideline/framework identified.
- Improve information so it is easy to know what's going on at any time.
- Everyone should know what/how input was used.
- Listen to our needs. Give us the opportunity to voice our concerns.

4b. List ways in which community members can be held accountable:

- Seek information on more issues; study information carefully; discuss issues with colleagues and neighbors
- Listen to fellow community members, let others be heard with respect and participate
- You can't complain if you haven't participated!!!
- When members come up with questions or ideas, ask them to take the lead in researching or putting together an event. The goal is to not just have more people 'present,' but to have people willing to take action. Community members should be held accountable also, and we can do so by documenting participation levels, and having folks follow through with feedback when the city responds to their requests or concerns.
- City staff holds neighborhood ambassadors accountable.
- Organize diverse groups to participate; know neighbors who are different than you; set aside set agendas.
- Invest in your neighborhood; adopt something.
- Create flyers to post around the community; morning announcements during school; reach out to community members, barber shops, churches, etc.
- Don't just say no. Bring alternatives to the table.
- Do appropriate research before speaking; provide education to others; provide forum for citizens to participate in process.
- Volunteer; help with the meetings; get more information; give our opinions.