

**What, if anything, can events like Deliberation Day do to engage more people, more effectively, in working together to solve common challenges -- acting individually, through community organizations and through decisions made by the city government?**

*Ideas to change Deliberation Day (44)*

Pick a topic and come up with some solutions. We do a lot of analysis, but not enough solution development. Also - the level of knowledge within the group at deliberation day was vast - somehow the field needs to be leveled before the event so everyone comes in with a basic understanding of the situation as it currently exists.

Have something like Deliberation Day with (say all 7th and 10th graders and their parents). For elementary grade students invite the TJ student council and all 1st and 4th grade parents to participate. Make it part of the curriculum. On a somewhat different matter, please help me understand commercial real estate in Falls Church City. Has anyone considered the need to provide affordable space for small businesses? I emphatically want to keep the PO and Brown's Hardware within the City. How can we do that? I see so much commercial space for rent throughout the city most of the time that I believe market forces are not the only influence on occupancy. I think the landlords have a dollar incentive to keep space empty until it is occupied by high paying renters, i.e., tax relief. Can anyone explain this to me?

Well first of it was the same faces there that participate in all our community events, and they all looked over 40 years old. We need to provide babysitting if we want to get young families involved. Perhaps share open houses with the schools and have a number of short deliberation day activities. That way you bring in a vital group of the community. We might try that with other groups as well. Of course all of this takes money, but it might be worth it.

I have served on a FC City Board for several years now and did not even receive notice (at least that I am aware of) that a Deliberation Day was being held. If you're going to engage people, do it broadly and repeatedly to bring together a varied and larger audience. Don't assume everyone has access to the internet -- remember all populations (including non-English speaking residents and residents with disabilities).

Deliberation Day was a fine morning in just about every way. I would suggest a smaller focus next time such as the city center. However, the full sweep is important, too, and it brings citizen concerns to the floor in a way that cannot happen at city council or school board meetings.

I think you did everything you could do. People have to want to come and engage. I thought it unfortunate that no dialogue was permitted between the attendees and the panel. The panel got to throw some outrageous statements out there that went unchallenged because of the format.

***What, if anything, can events like Deliberation Day do to engage more people, more effectively, in working together to solve common challenges -- acting individually, through community organizations and through decisions made by the city government?***

*Ideas to change Deliberation Day (44)*

Deliberation Day can schedule their meetings on days convenient to most parents. D Day fell on the day of the Odyssey of the Mind competition this year, and many many parents were not able to attend. Also, I did not even hear about Deliberation Day until the week before. The communication in this city is awful!

Poor ending--effort spent in groups not reflected in roundup at end. Left bad taste, "just another process," wouldn't bother again. Reformat time. More outreach through schools and that population. Encourage groups like FCLWV to publish their valuable info from study groups to address issues discussed at meeting and elsewhere. Taxes-why? Etc.

The exchange of ideas is crucial, and the make-up of the participants will more likely be ensured if the steering committee reaches out to people through the school parent population, and every possible communication possible, as happened for this part Del. Day.

Although, it may be unworkable I think it needed to be longer with more concrete results. Each group should have presented a highlight. There also should have been a quick introduction and ice breaker in the small groups - something that forces everyone to speak at least once.

Work to get more people involved so it's not just the same community leaders talking to each other. Help community organizations work together to make better use of volunteer resources. Publicize citizen advisory opportunities and make the work meaningful for those who do it.

When make rules, laws and other things, do it before the issues come up (zoning, lot sizes, building coverage of lot area, etc.) and then stick to the rules. On major changes, put them on the ballot so everybody will know how the government is changing our community before it is too late to keep FC the place it we moved into.

Those who attended the meeting should try to bring at least two new individuals, and keep repeating this. This should provide a much larger representation of the residents of Falls Church...

Encourage citizens, city leaders and businesses come up with the big idea than can bring everyone together in support of a planned long-term and continuing revitalization of the city that will help insure its economic feasibility and survival.

***What, if anything, can events like Deliberation Day do to engage more people, more effectively, in working together to solve common challenges -- acting individually, through community organizations and through decisions made by the city government?***

*Ideas to change Deliberation Day (44)*

Deliberation Day events should definitely continue. The first one was a success, though the idea-sharing process can be improved. Strategies are needed to engage residents who didn't attend. The organizers ought to consider ways of measuring progress towards goals -- a report card on effective citizen engagement. Thanks for this process.

Some people are intimidated by the thought of commitment to any civic group; if we can get a bring-a-friend-to-deliberation-day, it might expose the cheerier side of civic activities. Or not.

I think future DD's can build on the experience of this one; word of mouth will get even more participation next time. P.S.-next time, can we meet in individual classrooms and give more time to fewer questions?

We must really make an effort to reach out to the citizens living in the new structures and integrate them into our community.

Advertise in local paper, mail or hand out flyers, encourage neighbors and friends to attend and get involved

If an event is successful, build a buzz by getting participants excited about what they did and hold another forum in a timely fashion so that the memory doesn't fade too quickly.

EDUCATION: have event w/ knowledgeable speakers about urban development and green development, etc. And there's strength in numbers - so somehow encouraging high attendance! A tall order!

Focus the next Deliberation Day around a specific issue, i.e., City Center Development, etc.

Gather in more residents than the "usual and customary" individuals/groups that tend to participate routinely.

Provide guidelines, so that those who want to attend understand the expectation of attendance. Also, making the day more social.

Do not schedule it when many children and parents have already been scheduled to attend an academic enrichment competition.

**What, if anything, can events like Deliberation Day do to engage more people, more effectively, in working together to solve common challenges -- acting individually, through community organizations and through decisions made by the city government?**

*Ideas to change Deliberation Day (44)*

Though we don't want to overuse the DelDay model -- familiarity breeds citizen indifference -- I think it would be useful to have a DelDay-type event every two years or so, with a fairly open-ended discussion topic (like the topic for DelDay One), to give the citizenry a chance to learn and talk about issues that are important to them, in a setting that is less formal, and more interactive, than a formal government-sponsored meeting.

Make the activities more accessible to all. Web 'private' chats for those who can't physically attend?

Channel to existing methods of participation and enhancing those if needed - City this small needs more task forces, groups, organizations like a hole in the head.

Take one recommendation from DD; act on it; support it like crazy; show the community the results.

Make it a big deal at the community center. Maybe also have an organization fair at the same time.

More advertising -- flyers in storefronts vs. News Press oriented.

Start event later in the morning

Don't start events so early in the morning!

Provide more specific aspects of the main issue.

Ask Boards, Council, organizations to send a representative.

ADVERTISE MORE!!!! I would have participated but didn't know anything about it.

Such events need to be better publicized.

Strongly encourage each attendee to bring one other person.

Avoid Saturdays (please).

Connect with PTA as well to tap into what is the most active group of people in town

More outreach, more tangible results spelled out

***What, if anything, can events like Deliberation Day do to engage more people, more effectively, in working together to solve common challenges -- acting individually, through community organizations and through decisions made by the city government?***

*Ideas to change Deliberation Day (44)*

By just having this forum you create an opportunity for people who otherwise believe they have no voice in the City to come out and speak. Make this a quarterly event and move it around to various community spots – TJ, Community Center, Churches, etc.

Have a result of meetings. Make discussions more entertaining and less structured.

Don't know yet.