

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?

More events like Deliberation Day (28)

It was great but we need to engage more of the population. There are no shortcuts but to get people involved in a sustained and meaningful way.

Citizens want to be listened to, they want to voice their opinion, and they are tired of developers dictating how the city should be, with little consideration for those who live in it. When I read that a developer says that FCC should be more dense, and another one is planning 700 more living units within 2 blocks of my home, I want to scream that all we'll get from it is more traffic and more road congestion and more overcrowded school, but I want that to be heard, and considered when the city is making the final decision, especially if I am not alone with this opinion.

Weekend City Council Meetings are a good idea. All the other ideas are good also, but the reality is that relatively few people will involve themselves in any of these activities. Nevertheless, it is important to support as many of these activities as possible to encourage citizen participation. Different fora provide motivations to different types of people. I can't begin to guess which method or forum would be best to encourage public participation.

It was a great idea to convene people - I'm sorry I could not attend in person. Events like that make people feel heard and engaged, and generates ideas like these. You probably will attract the same small group of people, who are already engaged, but you will also get some newcomers and it's symbolically important to make citizens feel involved in their government.

It should raise awareness that good schools and good City government don't happen by accident, people have to be involved and stay involved to keep it that way. People have a lot of good ideas and talents that can help us solve some complicated problems. This can give the City Council the consensus it needs to make tougher decisions sooner.

Deliberation Day was a good event to spark interest in community involvement. I don't know if the participants will follow up because it takes a personal commitment to be and stay involved. Hopefully, some of the participants will join B&Cs or get informed and involved in City government and issues in other ways.

The Deliberation Day which was held probably drew a number of people who had never participated in any City activities. They learned that there are ways to have a say. However, no matter what you do to advertise and get the word out about such meetings, there are those who just will not attend. Why, I don't know.

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Events like these would function best, if the most common contribution- the ability to vote, is stressed. The end-goal of any Deliberation Day forum should be, "a better Falls Church City". The only tool that all residents share is the power to vote in officials who can best prepare to meet this goal.

The idiom, think globally, act locally, applies here. Falls Church and its leadership must be in front of the deliberation process. Many new residents come from non democratic countries and have never participated in the democratic process. They look to us to guide them.

Small groups give individuals an opportunity to develop relationships. Like the family unit, a neighborhood relies on good personal relationships to build a town, village or community.

See what the people want, the opinions of the new additions to the city are all over the board. We can decide together as a community what additions we believe will be beneficial to Falls Church, and what decisions won't be.

Continue to recognize the valuable contributions of young people (as you did on Mar. 17) by inviting them to participate and giving them active roles to play. They are important so keep making them feel important.

Actions usually happen by those who most strongly believe in a cause/project. Events like DD can help to form cohorts of people who are interested in similar projects so that they can focus their efforts. It's a good idea -- keep it going!

I think Deliberation Day was a positive event and I think a second one would be even better attended. People seemed eager to participate and share ideas. When ideas are implemented, people will get even more interested.

I loved Deliberation Day. I have lived here only two months but learned so much! We just have to continue to promote the idea of community involvement. Keeping the high school students involved was an excellent idea. They were great!

Have more events -Publicize MORE -Connections- encourage people to encourage their friends to get involved and share their opinions, because those opinions ARE valued.

They allow people who may be existing in their own echo chamber, to hear what other people think. That's a good thing for moderating the tendency toward extremism.

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I think it is critical for achieving a working consensus in our community as to our future. Oftentimes the loudest voices do not represent majority opinion in this city. Periodic forums like Deliberation Day are important to this process. However, it would be very productive if the various community organizations can come together under some umbrella-like organization to dialogue about how to reach a consensus on issues of critical importance to the community. We need to listen more effectively to each others views with the goal of achieving workable agreements.

They give people the chance to be heard in a large group and not have their opinion split between numerous boards and commissions.

Any event that will raise public awareness to our problems and challenges will be helpful. We can try to involve more and more citizens in the total process.

People need to feel that their participation will make a difference. Continue to reach out to those involved, encouraging them to make little changes.

Events like Deliberation Day and this resulting survey can greatly assist citizen involvement in major decisions by City leaders.

Reinforcement of belief that we are not alone in valuing our sense of community and wishing to preserve the values for which we have striven over the years (55 for me).

Provide a place to voice concerns and hopefully be heard.

Right now, it's clear that these events inform our people.

Have more 'town meetings'

Keep people communicating about the issues.

Gathering people to debate the issues is always important