

What is the most important thing that ought to be done in Falls Church City?

Citizen and community involvement (15)

Encourage voting; encourage participation in/on boards and commissions. Critical thinking and rational thought are always good, combined with the ability to withstand urgent-sounding pressure from special interest groups. Equally important is continual awareness of our responsibility to future generations in Falls Church.

Reach out to all new people through orientation meetings three - six months after their arrival, including going to condo associations to meet with their newest residents and invite folks/ reps. from each condo/neighborhood to join a Committee of 100 (arbitrary number?) to represent and communicate with, their particular condo/neighborhood.

Include neighborhoods before decisions are made that will impact them. Will clearly get better buy-in. Just an aside: those advertising boards outside stores look so cheesy it makes Falls Church look tacky! When we first moved here 14 years ago I thought they were tacky and homemade - not an image of neat stores.

Make the development process more transparent. Public input is very late in the process. We have a lot of opportunities to LISTEN to developers and Council and very little opportunity for INPUT. Council needs to LISTEN at work sessions,

Better sense of city. Communication better, clearer, more open and positive. Encourage citizens to look for stores they would like to see here; INVOLVE them in such ways. We are responsible, too, and should feel that.

It is important that citizens and city leaders are informed about the issues and have the facts to base options, access opinions, and make decisions. The B&Cs can play an important role in that education.

The city must create avenues of discussion with all members of its growing diverse populace. For example, provide translators at public meetings and surveys in different languages.

Develop a network of neighborhood representatives to gather and disseminate City information. Pattern after the Recycling Block Captains network established by Annette Mills.

Communication by individuals in government. City Council members assigned to different parts of the city to give and receive information. Community Meetings, Focus, etc.

The city needs to find a way for staff and city council and citizens to work together better. Often it seems the city staff is at odds with the city's comprehensive plan and vision....

Increase participation by residents in the decision making process (must ensure that these people get the information needed to make the decisions).

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in Falls Church City?***

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Keep developing consensus for a common vision/mission. There will be growing pains and objections along the way, but the results should be good if care is taken to do it right.

Thanks for asking; this seems like a great community; I am too new to have formed very strong opinions.

Inform/involve new and old residents about/in their local government.

Improve community knowledge and participation in council meetings and events.