

## **Deliberation Day 2007 Report**

### **Falls Church City: What Are We Becoming?**

Date of Event: March 17, 2007  
Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School  
Falls Church, Virginia

Sponsored by

Citizens for a Better City  
Falls Church League of Women Voters  
Village Preservation and Improvement Society

#### **Deliberation Day suggestions ranked by average weighted score**

**(Weights: Most Important =3, Less Important = 2, More Information =1, Unimportant = -2, Bad Idea=-3, No Opinion = 0)**

#### **MOST IMPORTANT**

1. Vote (2.91)
2. Volunteer for boards and commissions (2.57)
3. Take responsibility to organize be pro-active get neighbors and young people involved join community groups attend and make voices heard at City Council & boards & commissions; write letters and make phone calls (2.53)
4. [Have more] transparency advertising; ensure the community is well-informed and has a chance to provide input to decisions; build trust (2.52)

#### **LESS IMPORTANT**

5. Reach out to newcomers and neighbors to publicize City Council meetings work sessions etc. (2.37)
5. Better use of city website; use a "board documents" system for policy and background material; add discussion boards (2.37)
7. Develop welcoming package and activities -- use current residents in outreach to new residents including renters (2.36)
7. Recruit for city boards and commissions (2.36)
9. Hold education forums on city issues; City Hall Open House or road shows (2.35)
10. Look far ahead in order to maintain a distinct character and charm for the city (2.34)
11. Support community & neighborhood organizations; neighborhood representative to City Council and staff; make participation easier; create a database of neighborhood associations (2.29)
12. Make sure most groups are represented (2.26)
13. Welcoming activities in new buildings and other locations to provide information about civic opportunities (2.24)

13. New development should provide diversity services and convenience without destroying village feel (2.24)
15. Community/neighborhood representation and involvement early in planning process; [and in] architectural changes -- take care of the neighborhoods (2.22)
16. Volunteer and shop in the city and encourage others to do so (2.21)
17. Have more events like Deliberation Day (2.18)
18. Drawings do not always reflect reality; careful consideration of new development; enforcement of plans (2.15)
19. Address [city boards and commissions] integration problem -- get boards and commissions together on regular basis (2.13)
20. Enhance usefulness of work sessions (seating and microphone) (2.11)
21. Outreach to under-represented areas of the city (2.10)
22. Be communal - look at things in terms of the communal goal e.g. personal decisions for renovations and change affect the community (2.08)
23. [Produce a] "How-to" participate in city meetings [guide] (2.04)
24. Community involvement fair or Farmers' Market stand (2.02)
25. Stimulate public interest in transportation (1.97)
26. Community organization board members should get involved in city decisions (1.91)
27. Re-institute Focus or other city newsletter or other venues for city & school information and for creating a city identity; more publicity than "It's on the website" (1.87)
28. Create something unique such as arts presence to market the city (1.86)
29. Involve high school students; look for alliances with schools (1.84)
30. Integrate [community organization work with that of] city boards and commissions (1.77)
31. Define members from emerging populations and charge [city] leadership to begin dialogue; need a public diversity advocate which would bring opinions otherwise unheard to the table (1.71)
32. More civic associations at neighborhood level (maybe along model of earlier years with three elementary schools) (1.70)
33. Encourage small (neighborhood) groups that promote city businesses to new residents (1.68)
34. School open houses for community (1.61)
35. Create a "Committee of 100" modeled on Arlington that facilitates communication between residents and government (1.57)

#### **MORE INFORMATION NEEDED**

36. Form citizen design committees; traffic committees (1.38)
37. Create a blog set up by city groups jointly such as VPIS LWV and CBC (1.33)

38. More public hearings on Saturdays (1.29)
39. Yahoo group-type communication among neighborhoods (1.29)
40. Build a swimming pool for the entire community (1.18)
41. Appoint captains to collect public opinion (0.83)
42. Look at Lasso Online (George Mason H.S. student newspaper) (0.77)

May 11, 2007  
City of Falls Church, Virginia

Deliberation Falls Church City

[www.dfccva.org](http://www.dfccva.org)

*A chance to be heard and a reason to listen*