

## Meeting Recap November 6, 2023

We had a great meeting last week. It was standing room only and even with the impressive cross-section of Arlington organizations and interest groups, it was a fraction of those who might want to be involved. Thank you to so many groups who attended the inaugural meeting. It was great to see so much interest in honoring our history.

The powerpoint we used in the meeting is here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Hzgb\\_vYpxg9O6lZgpSd-9LTLrgppUPYF](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Hzgb_vYpxg9O6lZgpSd-9LTLrgppUPYF) Please let me know if you have any trouble accessing this. We plan to make the ArlingtonVA250 google drive a place where we can work collaboratively together online.

Here's a brief summary of what happened:

- After introductions, we presented a vision of the many types and themes of events that are possible and that they do not need to be limited to just the Revolutionary War era.
- Events can commemorate any or all of America's successes, failures, and continuing challenges and reflect the many voices in Arlington's diverse population.
- Some events elsewhere in the state have already begun and events are welcome through 2031 (250 years after the battles ended).
- We learned what state resources are available and what state grant opportunities there are.
- Then we spent some time discussing possible events, organizational issues, and who else to involve.
- We need a public-facing web presence, the state can provide page on its VA250 website consisting of
  - What is the Arlington story?
  - Places to see
  - Events

Here are the comments captured on the white board about events as we heard them from around the room:

- Events should be people focused
- We should celebrate our democracy
- Do we have anything we can re-enact?
- What about a military timeline demonstrating all the military engagements that Arlingtonians have been engaged in throughout the centuries
- A parade
- We should be at the county fair
- How will Joint Base Ft. Myer-Henderson Hall participate or the National Park Service?
- "Tech activities" will need to be included to draw kids' interest

- Use You Tube to stream or show recordings of events from 1951 to the present in snippets

Here are comments related to organization:

- What did Arlington do in previous anniversaries, for example 1976, 2001, and 2020. (AHS said it would assemble this)
- How will we organize ourselves?
- How can we leverage big companies such as Amazon, Nestle, and Boeing, to underwrite/sponsor events.
- How will we involve the universities that have a presence in Arlington, such as Northeastern, George Mason, Virginia Tech, and Marymount
- We have to involve the schools (AHS stated that APS has expressed interest but couldn't make the meeting)

The next meeting will be in the next quarter before spring and will be held in a community center with Zoom accessibility. Until then, AHS will:

- Continue reaching out to more organizations and meet with APS school officials
- Continue compiling a Revolutionary era timeline of county history
- Draft an answer to "What is Arlington's story?" for participant groups to review for use on a website.
- Begin working with "like-organizations" to form event committees and organizational functions
- Track event ideas
- Begin compiling a list of historic places to visit in Arlington for use on a website.
- Provide access to the ArlingtonVA250 google drive for groups to work collaboratively.

Please feel free to forward this email to other organizations who you think might be interested in participating in celebrating our country and county and let me know so I can follow up with them.