

# **AMPUp Advisory Committee August 28, 2025 Meeting Summary**

**Attending:** Eugene Benson, Angelique Bradford, Rebecca Gruber, Lillian Hartman, Cheryl Miller, Arthur Prokosch, Steve Revilak, Tristan Roubenoff, Paul Selker.

**Staff:** Claire Ricker, Sarah Suarez.

**Consultants:** Steve Kearney (Stantec).

## **Review Minutes**

The committee approved the minutes of their July 2025 meeting. Mr. Benson abstained.

## **Stantec Update**

### **Survey Update**

Mr. Kearney provided committee members with an update on the mini survey, which has been available on the project website. There have been 266 responses to date. The survey provided a list of topics and asked people to pick the one that was most important to them. Housing and local businesses/jobs were the top two categories, with 28% selecting housing and 29% selecting local businesses and jobs. Biking and walking received 10%, recreation received 2%, sustainability and climate received 12%, DEI received 0%, and 19% percent of responses fell into the “other” category.

There was variation when the results were broken down by age group. Housing and local businesses/jobs were still the top priorities, but different age groups prioritized them differently. Housing was the main concern for respondents aged 20 – 39. Local Businesses/Jobs were the top priority in the 40 – 59 and 60+ age groups (though the 60+ group prioritized housing more than the 40 – 59 group). Overall, respondents showed strong concern about housing.

When asked how they found out about the survey, 13% of respondents found out through committee members, 28% found out through word of mouth, and 27% found out through email.

## **Visions and Goals**

Mr. Kearney would like to continue workshopping the visions and goals section of the comprehensive plan. Stantec is suggesting revisions based on public feedback submitted so far. They’re trying to make the goals more succinct and action-oriented.

Relative to the 2015 Master Plan, Stantec suggested some minor changes to the Historic and Cultural Resources section, but not significant ones.

The committee discussed the removal of the word “diverse” from the phrase “diverse cultural resources.” There are questions about removing the word, given the larger attacks on DEI happening today. There’s also concern that “diverse” could be interpreted in a variety of ways and a different word might better express what the goal is attempting to convey. Stantec will consider a different word choice.

The committee discussed changing the phrase “to meet, play, and grow” to “to socialize.” Mr. Kearney said this change was also based on public input, as residents of all ages wanted more spaces to socialize. The committee settled on removing the words “to socialize.”

The committee discussed use of the phrase “of all ages,” as this may not address the myriad of ways in which people could be different. Mr. Kearney says a good deal of public input has focused on having things available for younger kids. Committee members suggested removing that phrase from the goal, and going into more detail in the chapter text.

Natural Resources and Open Space is the next area. Mr. Kearney highlighted two items for discussion. The first involves resilience, and the second involves “treasuring” parks and recreation facilities. He suggested changing “treasuring” to “improve.” Ms. Gruber raised the issue of equity as there is a great deal of variance in tree cover and heat islands across town.

The discussion moves on to Public Facilities and Services. Mr. Kearney suggested removing two goals from the 2015 Master Plan: the one about balancing the need for revenue with new redevelopment (this would be more appropriate under Fiscal Stability), and the one about expanding recreational facilities (this would be more appropriate under Open Space and Recreation).

## **Next Steps**

Stantec will attend our Town Day booth, though they’re still working out the details. They may have a survey with a few simple questions, and something interactive. They’d like the activity to be fun, and to include something for kids. Stantec would like to have a few committee members volunteer for 1- to 2-hour shifts.

In terms of the overall planning process, we are in the plan development stage. We should plan to hold focus groups in September and October. There was a Sustainability focus group in August which was well-attended and successful. There will be a strategy workshop sometime in November to collect feedback on draft strategies for the plan.

## **Outreach Update**

Ms. Ricker says staff has been involved in setting up a number of meetings. She informed the committee that John Alessi will be moving on from his position as Transportation Planner, and she’ll handle items related to the transportation chapter. Ms. Suarez will share a document that lists events coming up over the next months so committee members can sign up for them.

## **New Business**

Mr. Roubenoff announced that he'll be resigning as chair and leaving the committee. He bought a house outside of Arlington and plans to move in October.

## **Open Forum**

There were no speakers for tonight's open forum.

## **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.