

EDC MEMBER INPUT ON TOPICS FOR 2018

December 12, 2017

WHERE DO YOU THINK THE EDC CAN HAVE THE MOST IMPACT IN 2018?

- Attitudes and alignment about achieving a dynamic economy for Arlington
- Shift from attraction of big businesses to nurturing local businesses (esp. arts)
- Future technologies related to business and transportation in Arlington
- Strong and mindful presence when providing advice to the County Board
- Deeper coordination with Planning Commission and other commissions
- Understanding and coordination of public school issues
- Housing needs and economic development alignment
- Regional issues -- transportation, competitiveness
- Retail trends

WHAT ARE 3 AREAS OF ADVICE TO THE COUNTY BOARD THAT THE EDC SHOULD FOCUS ON IN 2018?

1. New and fresh ideas that counter “we don’t do it that way in Arlington”
Overhaul procurement system to advantage local businesses
Commercial real estate market
Streamlining the permitting process
Address issues in the context of what competitors are doing
2. Encourage creative solutions and contemporary thinking about issues
Have County use local banks and credit unions
Diversification of office space
3. Streamline processes
Stay competitive in technology
Sustainable revenue generation from business and personal travel

WHERE SHOULD THE EDC SPEND ITS TIME AND EFFORT IN 2018?

- Regional transportation
- Encouraging lively activity, urbanism, tourism and resident engagement
- Attracting new businesses and tenants that will shape the next generation and give Arlington a particular identity and focus
- Evolution of office market
- How to best use arts funding and time
- Make business recruitment program more fair
- Remove the punitive tendencies of the few that are involved in public process and engender political support for more cooperative business interactions with County
- Streamline public review and input processes
- Acknowledge and embed economic development needs in the decision making process
- Help fix Metro

HOW HAS THE COUNTY MADE PROGRESS OR NOT IN STREAMLINING PROCESSES? WHAT ARE YOUR SUGGESTIONS?

- Communication has improved
- One stop permitting has helped
- Still such demanding procedures for new businesses to go through
- All planning efforts take an inordinate amount of time
- Boot camp for staff and County Board; put them through process
- Look at school funding and overcrowding

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPEAKERS AND TOPICS

- Steve Moret – Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- Jason Miller – Greater Washington Partnership
- Michael Shuman – local economist and author
- John Milliken -- motivating and knowledgeable about Arlington dynamics
- Leaders of other ED organization in region (Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun)
- Leaders of news businesses in Arlington
- Learn and continue to evaluate Arlington's Competitiveness
- Solid evidence of why decisions were made to come or leave Arlington (including metrics)
- TED talk format for all the commissions, community and citizens

OTHER THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS?

- Comparison of strategic plans for neighboring jurisdictions
- Message to stop antagonizing the business community and Richmond
- Incubator for the street: encourage more pop-up retail opportunities in vacant spaces
- Promote and recognize business corridors