

"What Does Arden Look Like in Twenty Years?"

A Summary Report on the Advisory Retreat February 4, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Arden Advisory Committee hosted a retreat, on February 4, 2023, at the Buzz Ware Village Center titled, "What Does Arden Look Like in Twenty Years?" The goal for the retreat was "To begin to map out a path for the future for the Town on each of four topics discussed and gain insight into our collective goals". It was facilitated with by Tricia Arndt, from the DE State Office of Planning.

TOPICS

The four topics chosen by a survey of the participants were:

1. Community Involvement/Increasing Volunteerism & Social Engagement
2. Environmental Stewardship and Climate Impact Management
3. Aging in Place – Accommodating an Aging Population
4. Historical preservation/awareness/how to assure Arden's heritage in passed down.

Topic 1: Community Involvement/Increasing Volunteerism & Social Engagement

Vision-- To boost volunteerism and social engagement

Idea Summary:

- Train leaders on how to promote volunteer engagement in Town
- Create a database of willing volunteers and their skills
- Provide childcare during Town Meetings so parents can participate more easily; have a simultaneous Town Assembly for teens
- Engage new residents by creating a mentor program; invite newbies to Gild dinners or private homes
- Revive Merry-Go-Rounders
- Explore how to instill a sense of ownership/responsibility for the community

And many more....

Topic 2: Environmental Stewardship and Climate Impact Management

Vision-- To improve the land, water and air for our community and the region

Idea Summary:

- Provide native trees and plants for residents and offer to help plant them
- Provide wildlife-friendly lighting, composting bins and rain barrels to residents
- Have community-wide knowledgeable oversight of tree/forest health-- a tree council
- Require or encourage permeable paving on driveways and/or streets
- Create incentives for non-grass lawns

And many more....

Topic 3: Aging in Place-- Accommodating an Aging Population

Vision: To become an age-friendly community so that seniors can remain in the Ardens

Idea Summary:

- Demographics
 - Collaborate with Claymont Community Center and Ivy Gables to provide services
 - Support communal housing, co-housing and promote ADU's
 - Make sure the Ardens community buildings and commons are accessible for the differently-abled
 - Facilitate good-neighbor groups to check on residents
- And many more....

Topic 4: How to assure Arden's heritage is passed down/ Historical preservation

Vision-- To assure Arden's history and culture are fostered and made an integral part of who we are as a community

Idea Summary:

- Create an "Ardens 101" class and/or video for all new residents; and a kids' version of 101 too
 - Create signage for all historical places in Town so people know them; use QR codes to link to info on the internet
 - Create a Standard Operating Procedures manual for government; and do succession planning for important positions in Town
 - Create a "third place" in Arden such as a coffee shop for communing together
 - Expand hours, galleries, storage space and parking for the Arden Craft Shop Museum
- And many more....

CONCLUSION

The Community Planning Committee is now tasked with digging into the list of prioritized goals that came out of the retreat. CPC will refine and communicate the ideas of the retreat and will work alongside the other committees on realizing them. This will be a focus for the Community Planning Committee for this coming year and perhaps coming years.

To ask about the status of any of the topics covered by the retreat or to add ideas, please contact us at: Planning@Arden.delaware.gov.

The full minutes of the retreat are available online at the CPC webpage.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU

How can you best invest in the place you live? How can you encourage others to do so?

Is there anything you would like to add about these topics?

What legacy can we leave for the next generation of Ardenites?