



# Town of Vienna

Charles A. Robinson Jr.  
Town Hall  
127 Center Street South  
Vienna VA, 22180

## Meeting Minutes Town Council Work Session

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Monday, May 14, 2018

7:30 PM

Charles A. Robinson, Jr. Town Hall, 127  
Center Street, South

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### Work Session

#### 1. Regular Business

*Present:*

*Mayor Laurie A. DiRocco*  
*Council Member Tara L. Bloch*  
*Council Member Linda J. Colbert*  
*Council Member Pasha M. Majdi*  
*Council Member Douglas E. Noble*  
*Council Member Carey J. Sienicki*  
*Council Member Howard J. Springsteen*

*Staff present:*

*Mercury T. Payton, Town Manager*  
*Steve Briglia, Town Attorney*  
*Lynne Coan, Public Information – Communications & Marketing Manager*  
*Michael Gallagher, Director of Public Works*  
*Leslie Herman, Director of Parks and Recreation*  
*John King, Parks and Recreation*  
*Charles Lewis, Information Technology*  
*Cindy Petkac, Director of Planning and Zoning*  
*Carol S. Waters, Deputy Town Clerk*

#### 18-863

#### Movers and Shakers Music and Art Festival

*Mr. Payton opened the work session at 7:33 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming. Director of Parks and Recreation Leslie Herman reported that the Movers and Shakers group had approached her about doing a two-day outdoor art and music festival around the Vienna Community Center parking lot, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Station, Cherry Street, and Mill Street. Mr. James Cudney and Ms. Kathy Georgen were in attendance representing the Movers and Shakers. Mr. Cudney said that their focus is to promote visual art, public art, and literary art.*

*Participating in the art and music festival, proposed for September of 2019, the Movers and Shakers want to have juried artists only, i.e., nothing but items hand-made by artists who have been certified and approved through the jury process. The artwork could be pottery, paintings, wood-working, leather work, jewelry, photography, calligraphy, or whatever, but it could not be mass produced or bought from another source. The juried artists would have to pay admission fees for the vendor space and would have to be present in their booths during the event. Planning the event for September of 2019 would provide enough time to send out applications to the vendors, incorporate a stage, bring the show-mobile, and arrange for a variety of different types of music. They would also like to include a beer court.*

*James Cudney provided background information about the Movers and Shakers. He said they have a Steering Committee of about 25 people which has been around since about 2014, and they had decided to become a 501C3 Non-Profit organization. Originally, a group of people came together in 2014 to form a committee to come up with an idea for a memorial to the late Mayor, M. Jane Seeman, after Mayor Seeman died and donations started coming in from the public. Mr. Cudney said that group turned into a commission, and then they realized that they really did not understand how to purchase public art, and the commission made a recommendation to form the Vienna Public Arts Commission (VPAC). The Movers and Shakers branched off of the VPAC. Per Mr. Cudney, their group passed by-laws this year, have obtained their non-profit status, and are ready to go. May 31st is the kick-off mixer to join Movers and Shakers, and June 4th they will have the first "sort-of-official" organizational meeting. For the past year and a half, everything has been at the steering committee level. Members will elect a board of seven people from their group. Mr. Cudney also said that Movers and Shakers will have monthly mixers, membership meetings, and monthly board meetings. Linda Colbert from Town Council and Lu Cousins from VPAC are currently in Movers and Shakers.*

*Mr. Cudney went on to describe a "fantastic" four day art festival in Evanston, Illinois, noting its food court, beer garden, main stage, and its great economic benefit to local businesses. Annual art festivals in the Northern Virginia area were also mentioned and discussion continued about certified juried art. Mr. Cudney shared a map of the proposed festival venue which included the Fire Station parking lot. Council reminded him that the Fire Department parking lot would not be available for use on Sundays because of Bingo.*

*Craft breweries from throughout the region should be invited to the Movers and Shakers art and music festival, Mr. Cudney recommended. He reported that the breweries each have their own following and would help attract more people. He also suggested that the circular drive at the Community Center could be used for a food court, main stage, and the craft beer. Booths could be placed on Cherry Street. Council reminded Mr. Cudney that the Farmer's Market occupies the Community Center parking lot on Saturday mornings, but it ends at twelve. The logistics of how, when and where the proposed music and art festival could set up in that area were discussed. Mr. Cudney stated that if the Community Center venue does not work, they will have to go to a second choice, which may be Church Street. It was noted that the businesses on Church Street might not be in favor of adding another Town festival that closes the street and affects their operations. Council proposed moving the event to another date, but Mr. Cudney said that in their analysis, September 7th and 19th are the best weekends to have it in order to avoid conflict with other juried art festivals.*

*Mr. Cudney acknowledged that there are still a couple issues to work through, but he maintained that it is an opportunity to create a new event and raise monies for public art, performing art, visual arts, and literary arts, as well as to enhance the Town of Vienna. The Movers and Shakers would like to make this an annual Town event.*

*Council asked about the fixed expenses for the proposed new event, such as Police, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works Departments overtime pay, trash collection and portable bathrooms. A long conversation followed in regards all of the costs, time to break down the tents and clean up, and so on. Some Council Members expressed reluctance to subsidize the new festival, noting activities of other*

organizations in Town that pay their own way.

Kathy Georgen cited their budget estimates for the two-day festival, totaling \$9,500 to \$10,500, and stated that their initial proposal was to ask the Town for the entire amount. She explained that the Movers and Shakers are hoping to raise enough money from membership dues and sponsorships to cover the basics of the festival such as tents, permits, insurance, etc. but it would depend greatly on where they end up membership and sponsorship-wise. Ms. Georgen noted that the money raised at the festival would be earmarked for the programmed services; the public art itself. Ms. Georgen and the group also talked about the dollar amounts that such a festival could potentially bring in. Council Members indicated that they would feel more comfortable considering the funding of this proposal if they were provided with more information. Ms. Georgen said they would have a better idea of the numbers six months from now.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Cudney and Ms. Georgen for the proposal, and reiterated that having more information would help them consider that in greater detail.

Council asked who the Town would waive staff overtime costs for, and under what circumstances. The Town Manager responded that generally, the Town has three established festivals and events (The Halloween Parade, Viva! Vienna!, and Oktoberfest) that they have historically funded. Beyond that, Mr. Payton said, the Town has not necessarily taken the position that they should fund any more of the events that come our way, because there are so many events that we have in Town that it could just be an open-ended situation, where it would be an ever-expanding matter of funding. So, sponsoring entities are expected to fund their new events. However, if the Council said that an event was important enough to put into the budget, then we certainly would execute that.

Other possible locations for the festival were explored. Center Street in front of Town Hall could not be closed down because it is a primary response route for the Fire Department. Vienna Elementary School would not work because alcohol is not permitted on school grounds and the parking lot is not that big. Church Street and the Town Green is a great, historic location but the Town must be sensitive to the needs of the businesses in that area. Also, there has been a policy of no selling on the Town Green, but that could be a good place for the music.

The Mayor commented that it might be worth sitting down with the Optimists Club and talking about how things could be worked out with the Farmer's Market.

## 18-862

### Southside Park Field Improvements

Attachments: [Southside Park Field Improvements - diagram proposal](#)

Leslie Herman reported that Vienna Little League had approached the Parks and Recreation Department and the Town because they would like to invest in the softball field, Field #2, at Southside Ball Park and turn it into two, 200 foot-deep diamond fields. One field would be for baseball and one would be a combination of softball and baseball. They would also create a small, rectangular, grass field to be used as a practice field and a batting cage area.

Mrs. Herman and Little League representative Aaron Georgelous both spoke of the existing water problems at Field #2 over at Southside, saying that it has been subject to erosion, is often under water, is frequently unusable, and has a lot of stones that come up to the surface. Vienna Little League's (VLL) proposal is to completely

reconstruct Field #2 with artificial turf over a large “French Drain” type configuration. It would be very good for this type of situation, and a tremendous benefit for a field that has water problems, Mr. Georgelous stated. At this time, Field #2 does not have any lights. VLL proposes to add LED lights there exactly like the lights at Glyndon Park field. Mrs. Herman advised that LED lights reduce the amount of energy consumption by 46% compared to a typical metal halide system and these lights have a 10 year warrantee. She also said there is not as much glare with LED lights, they are safer for the kids, make it easier to see, and Town Staff has the ability to turn the lights on and off with their phones. She added that Coaches, too, would have the ability to turn the lights off but not to turn them on.

Mr. Georgelous said that currently, VLL’s goal would be to begin field construction in January of 2019. Mr. Georgelous emphasized that Little League’s number one issue is field availability. As he said, they are running out of fields and are just trying to get to a point where they can replace some of the ball fields that they have lost, in order to continue the Little League tradition. Mr. Georgelous stated that Vienna Little League (VLL) serves 1000 boys and girls plus 50 kids in wheel chairs in the Challenger Program. He mentioned that the Stenwood Elementary School Field had been reduced down to a non-legal size field and two fields at Thoreau Middle School had been lost to population growth. He recalled that four years ago they were very worried about possibly losing one of the Southside fields to the Interstate Route 66 Widening Project, since one of the Southside fields sits on the right-of-way in VDOT’s land. Future widenings could still jeopardize that field, he noted.

Several Council Members expressed how parking is a big problem for neighbors of Southside Park, and speeding and traffic are sometimes a problem, too. Council’s position is that traffic calming and neighborhood traffic management needs to be part of the approach to this project; if we are increasing the total volume of people coming and going there, then it is incumbent upon us to provide appropriate safety and traffic management for kids and the community.

Although Mr. Georgelous had an outreach meeting “a couple weeks ago,” Council Members reported still receiving feedback from residents that they have not heard too much about it. Mrs. Herman said she did a mailing to over 300 residents between Southside and Yeonas Drive and Cottage Street, and had driven the roads to be sure to include everyone. She did another mailing last week to notify residents about this work session tonight. Mrs. Herman listed the meetings held between Town Staff and athletic groups and Southside neighbors since November of 2017.

Mrs. Herman reviewed the field usage schedule. She noted that Town fields are not locked and are open for the public to enjoy when not in use. The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department will be in control of those ball parks at Southside, and user groups can send in applications to request use of the fields. Vienna Little League has requested preferential use of the new baseball field. VLL has been encouraged to stagger the use of the fields at Southside Park and Yeonas Park.

It was commented that the parking lot at Southside Park gets jam packed with cars and they spill over onto Ross Drive. Mrs. Herman stated that there are currently about 47 parking spaces over at Southside Park. The proposed new design has 48 spaces. She reported on a 1996 renovation plan for Southside Park that included an additional 20 spaces that were never built. If those 20 spaces were built, the resulting total of 68 spaces would still be 7 spaces shy of meeting code requirements. Mrs. Herman, Mr. Georgelous, and Vienna Public Works will be working with a civil engineer to determine exactly how many parking spaces can fit into that area.

*The Town Manager advised that the 2024 Capital Improvement Projects plan identifies \$600,000.00 for refurbishing Field #1 at Southside Park. That would cover demolishing the old field, amending the field and infield sod, installing irrigation, taking care of the drainage issues to get rid of ponds, new fencing and anchors, and new dugouts. Mrs. Herman stated that Field #1 needs to stay a grass field because we shoot fireworks off from there. We have coverings from when we shot fireworks off at Waters Field, so we can use those to cover the synthetic turf on the new fields, just to protect them.*

*Council voiced concerns about losing large trees and asked whether the existing bathrooms could handle more usage. Mr. Georgelous opined that the bathrooms would be adequate.*

*Mayor DiRocco said she would like to see a few more detailed drawings and some more engineering on this to get a handle on truly how many parking spaces can fit in here, how it manages the storm water run-off, how many trees would be taken down, what the next steps would be, where will all the lights be placed, how this would be coordinated with something for Field #1, and definitely reach out to the neighbors again with another time to meet.*

*Mr. Georgelous said it sounds like we need a Transportation Demand Management Plan, and a parking plan. And then, we will need to look at how we mitigate tree loss; if they go away, how we can plant better trees or whatever.*

## 2. Meeting Adjournment

*The Town Council Work Session of Monday, May 14, 2018 adjourned at 9:28 p.m.*

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*Mayor Laurie A. DiRocco*

*Signed / Dated:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Attest:* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Deputy Town Clerk*

*THE TOWN OF VIENNA IS COMMITTED TO FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STANDARDS. TRANSLATION SERVICES, ASSISTANCE OR ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS FROM PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE TO BE REQUESTED NOT LESS THAN 3 WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE DAY OF THE EVENT. PLEASE CALL (703) 255-6304, OR 711 VIRGINIA RELAY SERVICE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.*