

1. What are your concerns?

- The clarity of the process needs improvement. There are way too many buzz words, jargon, and euphemisms to make it accessible and understandable for the average citizen.
- Youth issues, diversity, development.
- Gentrification that will force people to leave the city.
- That the civic engagement framework wasn't translated into Spanish. Also curious – what about people who have low literacy (Spanish or English) ... how to engage them in this process and in the new civic engagement framework.
- All city organizations collaborating and knowing what's going on so we can build a better stronger city.
- Lack of trust of city council and staff and vice versa; growth of city bureaucracy and overgrowth of turf; too rapid urbanization, less respect for residential neighborhoods; wild spending by city.
- That all of our hard work will not be implemented and put on the shelf.
- Decisions come down from the top. A citizen has to work too hard to get info in a timely fashion to affect outcome. Council needs to postpone voting until some days or weeks after second reading, so that public comments can have meaningful impact (they already have minds made up, so testimony is futile).
- The total disenfranchisement of residents by preconceived goals set in the back room of city hall. City working in manner not conducive to remaining here. Top down attitude by council/commission and staff. It used to be different.
- A large percentage of the people in attendance were city staff, council commission board members and longtime activists. We seem to have lost the 'new people.'
- Consider meeting locations near metro rail stations or transit hubs to encourage more participation.
- Need a more structured, regularized process for community participation. It needs to be more 'bottom up' (community) than the 'top down' (city) that it is now.
- That this effort is only getting to the people who are already involved in civic discourse.
- That suggestions will be followed.
- None at this time.
- Key to common problem – inclusivity or to get more than the 'usual suspects' involved in decision-making.
- Access to Spanish translation.
- Specifically, I am involved with parks issues, but I am very concerned about the development in the city, specifically overdevelopment, traffic, density, etc.
- I'm a newcomer. There are so many citizen groups active in the city. What will this process add to their work?
- Need to figure out how to better involve and use the great number of boards, committees, and neighborhood associations in the process. They are not currently adequately accounted for in this process.
- People discuss issues that are not relevant to the subject. This discourages participation.
- That us at school will not know what is happening outside of school.
- The adolescents should be informed on what is happening in the city/community.
- That the process be fully understood by the average citizen.

- Citizen involvement in city processes.
- Some of the words not being translated to a lower level so others can understand.
- Outreach.
- How are our deliberations and suggestions for civic/citizen's involvement going to be communicated to the public-at-large?
- Lack of participation in June.
- How the needs of the residents and members of the Arlandria Chirilagua Housing Cooperative can be clearly and effectively communicated.
- I learned a lot about the community that I wasn't concerned about.
- Will this exercise make a difference?
- Que no se nos escuchen nuestras opiniones. (That our views are not heard.)
- La información no fuera tan completando. (The information is not complete – in Spanish)
- Participar activamente en las reuniones de diálogos con la ciudad. (Active participation in the community dialogues.)

2. **Do you have suggestions for improvements?**

- The average age of those attending the forum is approximately 55? More should be done to reach out to and engage young people. Consider partnering with groups and organizations that serve and work with youth.
- Take care not to refer to residents as citizens.
- None – great job staying on time.
- A city ombudsman with fixed term appointed and reporting to council; a reduction in city salaries for top managers; city surveys – on line – not calls – to evaluate city performance; citizen boards of visitors charged to evaluate different city departments, budgets, pay structure, and performance against goals.
- City staff needs to solicit resident input prior to deciding to bring a project.
- Start protecting and preserving neighborhoods again. Involve citizens early in decisions. To involve more citizens, public notices and mailings will help (not everyone is online in 2013). More transparency.
- All facilitators should be as good as Mina!
- Smaller table sites for group exercises. More time for group discussion.
- City should do more to publicize the work and roles of its boards and committees. City work to support and strengthen community organizations. Look at 'best practices' in other cities around the country as to how the interface of the community and the city is structured and how it works.
- Get more word out via social media; flyers; door knockers; news articles.
- No.
- When is review of 'draft' after it has been reviewed?
- None at this time.
- Improvements of what?
- Create a space for open points of view.
- I have many and am involved with several different ongoing projects right now. But getting more involved is always a good way to go.

- Create one real issue/decision and follow it through engagement and city government to show how process can work.
- More citizens at the meeting – vice city staff and city associates. Co-chair the meeting with a citizen and a city government rep.
- Structured discussion periods.
- Make sure the students know and understand what's going on.
- Yes. One suggestion is getting engaged with the youth – making sure they know what ideas are being implemented.
- More in community sessions at civic associations.
- Have more high schoolers.
- Close community ambassadors will help to move communications around.
- Approach all the city's civic and homeowner associations and have them submit our suggestions for citizen involvement and input to all their members.
- Advertise more to get more residents at June meeting (increase participation/more diverse crowd).
- To allocate more time in group discussions and less going over all the terms and buzz words involved.
- The goals of the city need to be clearly and discussed widely. Need to figure out if it's the goals, the tools, or the implementation that is the problem. What are the impediments to achieving city goals and are they not the very ones that keep the city a livable community?
- We need to speak in a clear and organized voice.
- Have more interpreters.
- Que venga más personas – proporcionar transporte. (Bring more people – provide transportation.)
- Que vengan más facilitadores. (Get more facilitators.)
- Que las comunidades tengan más acceso a la información de estas reuniones; mas asistencia de intérpretes; que la comunidad hable y conozca acerca del resultado de las reuniones. (That communities have more access to information from these meetings; more interpreters; talk to the community to inform them about the outcome of the meetings.)

3. **How would you explain in 2 sentences what we have accomplished at this meeting?**

- Determined the primary goals of the plan and the main indicators for success.
- Good question. We will see.
- Active participation will show a real situation for the next.
- Clarified need to keep it simply.
- I'm not sure I can agree that this particular forum was as interesting and engaging as the last forums. Perhaps it was the group activity that was not as dynamic or interesting.
- I had to leave early so I'm not sure.
- Reviewed framework and gave feedback on measures of success.
- Good exchange.
- We had consensus on our ideas and suggestions for the various questions. We provided tangible suggestions for city staff to use.

- We vented a lot of disappointment and anger toward elected officials, staff and consultants, but feel it won't make any difference.
- Nobody questioned the civic engagement framework provided. We documented issues of process that need to be addressed.
- Clarified what the framework for civic engagement is. Identified challenges in implementation
- My table had an interesting conversation.
- More consensus and good interchange of new ideas.
- We have listed some ways to improve civic engagement. We have agreed on most of the initiatives presented.
- Good ideas for metrics. Good participation by community members that don't normally participate.
- Further engagement.
- Address the need for clarity and defining success.
- Most importantly, I think just the bringing people together is a good start. I think the people at our table were motivated and ready to act.
- We moved the process along, but still have flaws in the design (e.g., neighborhood associations not included).
- That everybody do what they say. That everybody understood what happened.
- We've accomplished a discussion stating the citizens are not being informed. When projects are being created citizens should be able to speak out on their opinions.
- Better understanding and good will in the process.
- Got some ideas - some general, some nutty, some good.
- Moved the process of developing the Alexandria development process document a step to final product.
- We have stressed the ways in which we could communicate what's going on with city plans and procedures and contemplated policies in a timely manner to give citizens time and opportunity for their input.
- Youth voice was heard and represented and the importance of participation of diverse group of citizens reinforced.
- That we also have our opinions, no matter what race we are.
- Great metrics developed!
- Conclusiones y esperanzas. (Conclusions and hopes)
- Con conclusiones de esperanzas. (With conclusions and hopes)
- La participación de todas las presentes va a tener éxito. (Everyone's participation will bring success.)
- Comunicación y información por diferentes medios escuelas, centros, etc. Que toda la información sea traducida al español todo documento. (Communication and information is made available through different schools, centers, etc. The information is translated into Spanish throughout the document.)

4. **Please list one idea that occurred to you as a result of the exercises and presentation.**

- To develop a consistent, application process for people city-wide events.
- Ombudsman is needed!

- The need to translate the process into more everyday terms.
- Just very dissatisfied with the lack of diversity of participants across age, etc.
- A commitment to keep building cadre of youth to participate in civic engagement and to support adults to include and work effectively with youth. To encourage effective youth/adult partnership.
- Need to have materials translated and in a format understandable by all.
- Need for a city ombudsman/woman.
- The city should maintain a public list of ideas for projects and actions to which both citizens and officials can contribute and comment.
- Need an ombudsman for the planning process. Consistent ‘rules of order’ and process in all council, commission, boards, etc.
- We need a lot more work on structure – organizing a working process need to get away from ‘ad hoc-ism.’
- Why don’t renters pay tax? They vote; they use services; what is their responsibility to the community?
- That we must get more citizens involved.
- Dedicated funding for citizen outreach.
- Not me, but someone else suggested establishing a corps of neighborhood ambassadors with specific duties and city staffer to hold them accountable. Great idea!
- Just to continue doing what I’m doing, but maybe reach out to other people to try and get them involved, too.
- Need to synch city planning timeline with this process of citizen involvement.
- Most requested actions by the city, do not start with a list of why the action is proposed in economic and quality of life terms.
- Make more connection between city issues and contemplated plans and the citizenry.
- Demographic tracking requirements to be published publicly to identify civic participation success and failures (i.e., community meetings, outreach to elected/government officials).
- Best facilitator I have seen - Mina!
- Review for past results.
- Dicutir puntos abierto.
- Hacer menos complicado para las personas que no hablan inglés. (Make it less complicated for people who don’t speak English.)