

Reston Town Center North Community Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Team: Chris and Brenda

Library Feedback

- Review size of library square footage – with growth projected for Reston based on Silver Line, need bigger space – the size seems inadequate when considering projected future community population growth
- Need more space for book sorting of donations than space allocated in current library
- Add Maker space – a location for startups/businesses etc. (see www.Innovationlab.org)
- Increase use assumptions – sq. ft., number books, people served
- Provide more internet capability and computers for library patrons
- More dedicated children’s books space
- Designated children’s librarian
- Story time area
- Dedicated study space
- Any non-traditional library amenities/services should NOT replace the sq. ft. proposed for the library for books
- Add more meeting rooms – 2 is not adequate
- Enough space to house 1 million books
- Archive space (last copy storage/archival/retrieval program)
- Dedicated teen area
- Use of natural light
- Ensure free parking continues
- Library should be on ground level – hard to staff 2 levels
- If two levels, ensure adequate staff and coverage for 2 or more floors (see: San Diego CA library and statistics on utilization)
- Ensure dedicated parking is ample – not shared (standard is 7 spaces for every 1000 sq. ft?)
- Quick-park with book drop off capacity
- Automated book drop
- More individual seating
- Look at businesses and community rooms on the upper levels
- Add a café
- Provide security for any underground parking
- Do NOT develop a temporary library OR shelter (this was unanimous consensus of group)
- IF a temporary library is absolutely unavoidable:
 - it must be in Reston

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- provide space for the “Friends of Reston Library” to operate in any temporary space
- full service
- concern about books being parsed out to other libraries
- Provide examples (visuals) of other libraries – identifying size and population served - to give the community an idea of the appropriateness of the planned allotted space.
- Ensuring adequate staff and filling current vacancies in library system might allow for adequate staffing for a multi-story facility
- Concern that because the county has made some assumptions/cost constraints that both the library and the shelter will be “shortchanged”
- County staff indicated the standard size of a library at 39,000 sq. ft. was identified as part of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. What is the data source for this “standard” – we can’t find it.
- Please provide a table of services and size in a standard “urban design” library – an example is the new Silver Spring MD library
- Review Virginia space standards for libraries – is the Virginia standard 1 sq. ft. per resident?
- Please clarify the deed of covenant for the land the current library is on. Community understanding is that the land was “deeded” to the community for library use. How does this impact redevelopment?
- What is the timeframe for use of the library bond funds? Is this driving the need for a “temporary” facility?
- Community is concerned about what will happen to books in a temporary library situation. What will be the process to protect the books? Is the library circulation policy going to mean the books will be destroyed? Request for moratorium on book destruction and clarification on the proposed management of the assets of the current library while under construction.
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Shelter Feedback

- Make additional space and provide programming for job seeking tools, including computers, phones, mini library for residents
- Increase size to include additional space for operation of year round hypothermia program (to account for emergencies, tornados, cooling center for hot days, etc.)
- Provide additional space for day programming for homeless individuals

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- Shelter should support homeless persons currently “hanging out” at the library
- Shelter should be open to the community on 24 hour basis
- Drop in programming should be available
- Social services programs should be collocated with the shelter and/or in close proximity (walking distance)
- Expand to provide for programming and beds for persons with medical needs/work with hospitals on program design and discharges
- It is more important for the shelter to be collocated with county, health, treatment and nonprofit services than co-located with the library
- Provide more laundry space (than current site)
- More shower space (than current site)
- Additional bathrooms (than current site)
- A playground – enclosed outdoor play area
- Develop a park like playground for everybody to use – community AND shelter children – integrate into community
- Additional space for storage for residents’ belongings
- Additional space for donations storage
- Add additional freezers – commercial grade (to allow more food donations to be accepted)
- Ensure adequate electricity/maintenance and corresponding budget
- Provide additional parking
- Increase onsite health clinic space
- Location of shelter should be on a major street, not a side street. This is critical to support the appropriate public transit capacity. Bus system/access to public transit must work for residents.
- Concern that Bowman Town Drive is not wide enough to accommodate public transit.
- Make the area pedestrian friendly.
- “Simonize” the space! Make this a livable, enjoyable space for the community
- Bigger cafeteria space
- Additional meeting rooms and bigger sq. footage
- Do NOT develop a temporary library OR shelter (this was unanimous consensus of group)
- Concern that because the county has made some assumptions/cost constraints that both the library and the shelter will be “shortchanged”
- IF a temporary shelter is unavoidable:

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- full service must be maintained
- Consider temporary move to Cameron Glen if temporary shelter is a necessity
- Move shelter from parcels 7 and 8 – go to 1-6
- It is more important to build the shelter right than to meet a set schedule – don't rush development before the entire site vision is clearer
- Suggestion made to use other sites, build them first, then move facilities

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Overall Project Feedback

- Concern about intensity of density. Area should not be a skyscraper canyon (i.e. Crystal City). Preserve the plaza feel, walkable useable space AROUND the library, not clumped together in one park area.
- Build these public facilities on route with easy transition points for transportation.
- Less car focused and more pedestrian focused
- Make this a cohesive development, not like Spectrum
- Ensure like services are co-located together – pay special attention to where things are located to ensure a good user/client/patron flow
- Increase the percentage of “market rate” single one bedroom units
- Concern that there is not enough affordable housing in overall redevelopment effort
- Ensure the entire project is resident focused – not “Destination Reston”.
- Expand time to allow for public input prior to release of final PPEA/RFP
- Reston Association has right to review the design
- Request for community to review/comment on RFP before it is issued as final for bidders to respond
- Please explain the process for ensuring Reston Association standards and DRB oversight will occur
- Will there be a county response to the Reston Association white paper?
- Please clarify county's assumptions regarding FAR and how many stories this would allow on these parcels. What does .9 mean in way of building height? Isn't .9 inadequate for everything planned for public facilities for blocks 7/ 8?
- Clarify where the Recreation Center and Performing Arts are
- What is the sq. ft. assumption for the residential space?
- The map identifies New Dominion as a thru street. How will this get accomplished, as it currently is not?

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- Publish a timeline for the RFP process
- Clarify the use of bond funds and how they are monitored
- What is the process for these questions to be answered?
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