

Submitted @ public
hearing by Tammi
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Prepared Statement
by

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To
Madam Chair and honorable members of the Board,
The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
On
The Draft Reston Master Plan
January 28, 2014

I am Tammi Petrine.
I live at 2503 Foxcroft Way, Reston, Virginia & have been a resident of Reston in
Fairfax Co. for 38 years.

I have attended the Land Use College and have been working for 4 years
on the Reston Master Plan with colleagues from RCA and Reston 2020.

I have spent 100's of research hours on this project.
Together, with my colleagues, the hours total in the 1,000's.

The blog address where all of our work can be found is:
www.reston2020.blogspot.com.

Sample of Problems with Current "Plan" Details:

1700 acres in the study area and 40,000 new residents = 3 athletic fields???
Really???

No "Keeper of the Vision" for Reston as per Tysons? Why???

No required Design Review for a Planned Community??? Huh???

Traffic Gridlock acknowledged by traffic studies but no solution required???
This makes NO sense and threatens everyone!

Two questions:
Who am I?
Who are you?

I am no different or more important than any other caring county citizen. I contribute to the welfare of my neighbors just as others in your districts do. I try to do my best. I love my community just as you love yours.

I know each of you understands what is going on here: Citizens are facing situations that endanger their communities. Why should you care? Because it has happened in each of your districts before.

1. Supervisor McKay, I heard you comment at another hearing that when the Mixing Bowl was all screwed up, the rest of the supervisors understood your tight spot and stepped up to help out. You expressed appreciation for that understanding attitude.
2. Supervisor Smyth, more recently, when the library debacle was unmasked, you literally jumped into a dumpster, alerted the rest of the board about what was really going on and got that runaway train stopped, allowing better choices and solutions to be considered so a vital county resource was not destroyed.
3. Supervisor Herrity, you often take opposing viewpoints from your board partners and examine the ramifications of issues in creative and interesting ways... My hope is that you continue that pattern here.
4. Supervisor Gross, you are facing current challenges in your district with school overcrowding and are renovating an office building to house an elementary school... You understand the complexities facing us today as we struggle to find good new solutions to complex problems. We wish you luck as putting schools into high-rise buildings is something we have looked at for the future development in the Dulles corridor.

Regarding Reston: The question now is "Will the decisions of this board add or detract from the sum total quality of life for the county of which we all are part?" Will the plan presented to you enhance the county's revenues as desired or destroy a proverbial golden asset and source of pride that Reston has been to date for the county and the community?

To be brutally frank, as you have all heard in the preceding testimonies, the Reston Planning Task Force was a set-up from the start. It was numerically dominated by developer interests and its chair chose to cater to those interests. In fact, after the TF was finished, the chair issued a final draft report written by 3 people that was never discussed by nor voted upon which included items never presented to the TF EVER. We ask: Is this a prudent approach to solving problems or one which will result in unintended consequences?

We get it. The county is facing serious financial straits and needs desperately to induce lucrative development in hopes of raising new, higher tax revenues to ameliorate these stresses. The Tysons dream is one such example. In Reston, the draft master plan envisions leveraging its sterling reputation as one of the world's premiere planned communities by developing its Dulles Toll Road Corridor into a dense, tax-rich urban area.

If this premise is true, and you screw this up, what will you have? Less revenue, more expense and a dream destroyed.

Will you next impose another Reston special tax district as in Tysons to pay for developers' responsibilities for infrastructure made necessary by their profits?

Will you have a community of very wealthy and very poor and no middle class families?

The critical element missing from a successful equation is the future well-being of *existing* county citizens, both residents and businesses.

- IF the gem that is Reston, its people and its quality of life are expendable, pass this plan "as is."
- IF you care about us, the human element of Reston with our code of inclusiveness, sustainability and participation, or for anyone who may come after us as we flee the place we called "home" due to tax increases, traffic grid-lock, alienation from our neighbors in the new urban areas, fighting over access to our privately financed rec facilities and open spaces, etc – indeed all of the concerns you have heard from the previous speakers, PLEASE, HEAR our voices.
- People – actual citizens like any of those of your district - have spent 4 years of their lives sincerely trying to make the new suburban/urban Reston a success by meeting with county department staff, doing research, writing papers, attending meetings, testifying at numerous hearings and informing officials of our concerns with supporting data. To date, our only reward has been to be ignored for four years and beaten down at the last minute by the forces of unrestrained greed. We have been betrayed even by some of our governmental officials who have forwarded to you a very flawed proposal.
- I stop here to give a special note of thanks to Heidi Merkel and her staff who were throughout our 4 years of efforts, true partners in the process.

Please do not rubberstamp this plan.

Please help restore some balance to the planning equation. None of our concerns is minor or specious. The issues that affect us also affect your constituents.

Please amend the by-line of this document from "plan" to well-planned."

Please help us by requiring a fair plan with which we all can live well for the next 50 years.

Thank you.