

**Statement of
RCA Reston 2020 Committee
Re the Activities of the RTF Steering Committee
February 8, 2011**

Public Comment

RCA's Reston 2020 Committee and its Coordinating Committee remain concerned by the activities of the Reston Task Force Steering Committee. In the interest of time, let me summarize the concerns in the statement we are sharing with you this evening.

The Steering Committee appears to be exceeding whatever mandate it was given by the Task Force. Moreover, the Steering Committee has created its own very [ambitious mandate](#) and a "checklist" for that activity without informing the Task Force.

Further, the Steering Committee has not informed the Task Force or the public in a timely manner of the materials it will be considering or the results of its deliberations. The only current public records of these discussions are the notes taken and published by RCA's Reston 2020 Committee.

In addition, there are a number of specific activities the Steering Committee has taken (and not taken) that are of concern to the Reston 2020 Committee. These include adding several members, heavily editing the Vision Committee's report, and work on a task "checklist" that—until yesterday—was not publicly available.

That said, we thank you, Chairman Nicoson, for your decision to defer a final vote on the draft station area "character" statements until next week in light of their late public availability. Reston 2020 is reviewing the draft character statements and will offer alternative language before the end of this week.

We would add that tonight's belatedly delivered meeting materials also include a new, heavily edited version of the Reston Vision and Planning Principles. We believe scheduling a vote on these changes for next week as suggested in the proposed schedule denies us the opportunity to adequately prepare our comments and any alternative language and present them to the Steering Committee.

Again, we appreciate that the Steering Committee has decided to defer action on the station character statement. We also hope that it validates its mandate with the Task Force and that the Committee and the County staff will reach out more to the Task Force and the public in a more open and timely manner in the future.

Terry Maynard, Co-Chairman
RCA Reston 2020 Committee

**Statement of
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RCA's Reston 2020 Committee and its Coordinating Committee remain disturbed by the activities of the Reston Task Force Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee appears to be exceeding whatever mandate it was given by the Task Force. There are still no Task Force minutes for the December 7th meeting showing what it was specifically authorized to do. Our recollection is that it was (a) supposed to coordinate the three TOD area sub-committee reports and (b) put the reports into Comprehensive Plan language. Instead, the Steering Committee has created its own very [ambitious mandate](#) and a "checklist" for that activity without informing the Task Force. Moreover, the Steering Committee has not informed the Task Force or the public in a timely manner of the materials it will be considering or the results of its deliberations. The only current public records of these discussions are the notes taken and published by RCA's Reston 2020 Committee.

In addition, there are a number of specific activities the Steering Committee has taken (and not taken) that are of concern to the Reston 2020 Committee.

- It has added at least two members to the committee of sub-committee co-chairs plus Task Force Chairman Nicoson, the original plan for the Steering Committee. Since each sub-committee has both a developer and a citizen shareholder co-chair, it is unclear why any additional members are needed.
- On January 11, the Steering Committee reviewed [a heavily-edited alternative draft](#) of the Reston vision and planning principles report, which the sub-committee spent months deliberating and preparing. The alternative deleted or weakened important elements of the Committee's report which reflected longstanding Reston values, generally accepted TOD principles, and County TOD policy.
- At the January 25, 2011, Steering Committee meeting, the committee discussed at length a draft set of "station character statements" and a number of changes were proposed. Only late yesterday were these [updated draft statements](#), scheduled for a final vote this evening, made available to the public.

We thank Chairman Nicoson for her decision to defer a final vote on these draft statements until next week in light of their late public availability. Reston 2020 is reviewing the draft character statements and will offer alternative language before the end of this week consistent with its vision of the station areas and the intent of these "character" statements. In the meantime, we offer these preliminary comments about the draft statements:

- The draft Reston Town Center character statement is minimalist and generally meaningless. Of particular concern, however, it puts all activity there secondary to business interests and omits reference to many vital aspects of Town Center's character.

Overall, it fails to highlight the critical role Town Center, including Town Center North, will play as the centerpiece of Reston TOD development.

- The Wiehle draft statement is the most complete and balanced characterization of the several draft TOD areas. We believe, however, that it needs to articulate that character in the lead sentence of the statement rather than generally re-stating basic TOD principles.
- We have serious problems with the draft character statement for the Herndon-Monroe area. Our key concerns are:
 - The statement offers a description, not a vision.
 - Any statement is likely to characterize less than half of the TOD area with Herndon pursuing what appears to be an ill-focused independent effort, and
 - It provides no sense of how to handle the critical parking garage expansion issue which, if built, may serve Herndon's office-focused interests leaving Reston to absorb more congestion.

We would add that tonight's belatedly delivered meeting materials also include a new, heavily edited version of the Reston Vision and Planning Principles. We have not had a chance to review these in any depth, much less time to make even a preliminary comment on the changes. We believe scheduling a vote on these changes for next week as suggested in the proposed schedule denies us the opportunity to review these changes, prepare comments, propose alternative language, and present that to the Steering Committee.

Again, we appreciate that the Steering Committee has decided to defer its decision on the station character statements. We also hope that the committee validates its self-generated mandate with the Task Force and that the Committee and the County staff will reach out more to the public and the Task Force in a more open and timely manner in the future.

John Bowman
Terry Maynard
Tammi Petrine
Co-Chairmen
Reston 2020 Committee
Reston Citizens Association