

Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force Meeting Summary

January 12, 2010, 7:00 PM.

Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

Meeting began at 7 PM with Chairman Patty Nicoson asking members to reintroduce themselves due to the addition of several new members subsequent to the initial Task Force meeting.

Public Comment Period (7:10)

Limited to 2 minutes/person.

- Kathy Kaplan & Guy Rando compared Reston's core development with Arlington's Rosslyn-Ballston corridor and commented they want more roads and connections like R-B corridor has.
- Dick Stillson (Reston Citizen's Association member, Reston 2020 Committee co-chair) suggested "working groups" to assist the Task Force. As outlined, the working groups would not be under the authority of their respective affiliated civic groups. He suggested this would allow serious input (from wider citizenry) to assist the Task Force.
- Joe Stowers introduced himself as a newly appointed alternate member to Task Force member Fred Costello. He highlighted some of his past involvement in Reston's planning and development, emphasizing his work toward the urbanization of Reston as a means of reducing auto dependency and improving quality of life. He pointed out that only the Reston Town Center and Lake Anne Village Center have been planned and developed from the outset to be urban places. He commented that other parts of Reston were planned to be more urban but built as suburban areas, such as garden apartments and strip shopping centers.
- Rob Whitfield would like the Task Force to understand the full context of what's going forward at the Wiehle Avenue Transit Station (public-private rezoning case).

Administrative Items (7:20)

- Review of revised Task Force schedule (dated January 12, 2010).
- Bob Simon expressed concern that the schedule does not adequately address revitalization in Lake Anne Village Center's. Heidi Merkel (Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning) recommended that discussion on Lake Anne should be with County's Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment. Patty Nicoson acknowledged that conditions at Lake Anne were serious and suggested that members of the task force who are interested in the issue might work with Bob Simon, but that this was not an issue the task force would address.
- Heidi reviewed the details of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and its influence on the Task Force's work. This was followed by discussion among the Task Force regarding the constraints. There was concern from several Task Force members that their interaction with the wider community and civic groups might be negatively impacted by FOIA rules. They suggested that Heidi have the County Attorney's office provide a 1-page guidelines sheet on FOIA rules for the Task Force.

Overview of Existing Comprehensive Plan Recommendations (7:50)

- Heidi gave a PowerPoint presentation on existing Comprehensive Plan Recommendations. It included:

- Classic Planning Process
- Task Force's Charge:
 - Understand current Comprehensive Plan;
 - Gain understanding of what has affected implementation of the current plan;
 - Evaluate how to adjust the Plan (protect existing development, continue to meet vision, accommodate forecasted changes);
 - Organize community input;
 - Develop recommendations for Planning Commission
- Overview of trends in future growth
- Organization of County's Comprehensive Plan's
 - Policy Plan
 - Transit-Oriented Development Guidelines section of Policy Plan
 - Area Plans

Work Groups (9:10)

- There was discussion among the Task Force of a proposal by several Reston civic groups for "Community Work Groups" to facilitate the work of the Task Force.
- The Chairman asked Task Force members for their opinions of the concept. After hearing from all members who wished to comment, the Task Force discussed some pros and cons of creating such groups.
- Several of the Task Force members stated the inclusion of work groups is essential to obtaining real and serious input from the community as well as taking full advantage of the varied expertise within the community.
- Many Task Force members expressed opinions that the work groups are unnecessary or would not work. The constrained schedule was cited as one of the reasons that several TF members felt the work group concept should not be adopted at this time. They referred to the duration of the Tysons Study as something to avoid. Additionally, several members of the Task Force noted that there are many opportunities for public input and that the panel is composed of many experts/professionals who were appointed by the supervisor to represent the community.
- No decision was made on the Work Groups idea. Several members suggested that the Chairman make a recommendation to the Task Force informed by the comments expressed by the Task Force members.

Upcoming Meetings (9:45)

- Heidi outlined what will be covered at the upcoming "Planning Principles" meeting on January 26, 2010.
- Mark Looney suggested that the proposed Work Groups and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce (the group he's representing) and any other interested groups could meet before the next meeting and analyze what was presented about the County's current Comprehensive Plan as well as Reston's founding planning principles. He offered to lead this effort in order to keep the idea of the Work Groups viable if the Task Force decides to adopt the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Members Present:

Bauer, Nicholas
Carter, John Anderson
Cooper, Michael
Corrigan, Mike
Cortelyou, Stephanie
Costello, Frederick
de la Fe, Frank (EX OFFICIO)
Foster, Van
Goudie, Robert
Hill, Arthur
Kennedy, Richard
Looney, Mark
Nicoson, Patricia (CHAIR)
Noritake, Rae (alternate)
Ottenti, Peter
Pew, Judith
Riegler, Greg
Schlichting, John
Seidenstricker, Jay
Simon, Robert
Tobey, Phil
Thomas, Paul
Volloy, Gerald
Walker, Robert
Williams, Kohann
Bowman, John (alternate)
Gilley Sr., Wade (alternate)
Mills, Colin (alternate)
Penniman, William (alternate)
Phillips, Terri (alternate)
Stowers, Joe (alternate)

Members Absent:

Keefe, William
Murphy, Arthur
Cerny, Steve (alternate)
Gill, David (alternate)
Hogan, Denise (alternate)
Johnston, Peter (alternate)
Kelly, Jeffrey (alternate)
Matthews, Milton (alternate)
Mogul, Nicole (alternate)
Pfeilmeier, Frank (alternate)
Strange, Anne (alternate)
Veach, Casey (alternate)
Wiberg, Bob (alternate)