

Reston Master Plan Special Study
Draft Community Meeting Summary

March 20, 2010

Langston Hughes Middle School

Welcome from Supervisor Hudgins

Overview & Meeting Goals/Structure

- Heidi Merkel, Fairfax County Department of Planning & Zoning, presented background information on the Wiehle Avenue area and an overview of the goals and directions for the community brainstorming activity. The presentation can be found on the Reston Master Plan Special Study at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/projects/reston/presentations/presentation_wiehle_commtty_mtg_3-20-10.pdf
- Heidi informed residents of a public comment form provided with the meeting packets. Public comment forms have been transcribed and are available on the Reston Master Plan Special Study website under Previous Meetings and Documents of Interest.

Question & Answer

- Residents expressed dissatisfaction about possible bus service cuts.
- Task Force Chair Patty Nicoson empathized with residents' concerns about bus service cuts and suggested that residents voice their concerns during the County's budget hearings.
- A citizen inquired about the tenure of Wiehle Ave metro station as an end-of-the line station? Heidi Merkel explained that Phase II of the build-out will be in 2016 or 2017, so expect the Wiehle Ave metro station to exist as an end-of-the line station for 3-4 years.
- A citizen asked how to access the Comprehensive Plan. Heidi explained that the document is on-line [at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz]. She also encourages the public to sign up for the Reston Master Plan Special Study listserv. The Reston webpage also has links to Plan text for the corridor and the larger Reston area.
- Citizens inquired about how 2,300 cars will get to the station and the number of spots currently located at the county owned park-and-ride facility.
- Additional concerns related to traffic congestion along Wiehle Avenue and how "2,300 cars coming up Wiehle Avenue can be accommodated?" Citizens expressed frustration about additional future traffic demands on a currently overburdened traffic system. Heidi explained that currently there are 850 spaces and that Wiehle is not designed to accommodate high volumes of traffic.
- Task Force Chair Patty Nicoson also empathized with citizen frustration. She explained that there will be more access points to have traffic come from other directions, for example 2 access points on Sunset Hills Road. Ms. Nicoson underscored that the Task Force will have an opportunity to revisit transportation impacts. Ms. Nicoson continued by suggesting people will have to adapt their behavior and expressed her concern about getting rid of the buses. She also highlighted the need for intersection improvements in the Reston Master Plan.

Breakout Groups

- Heidi Merkel explained that community input will be compiled by DPZ Staff and a summary will be posted online and distributed via email. The summary will inform the Task Force and its discussions about creating a concept for the Wiehle Avenue area.
- Primary instructions given by Heidi Merkel to participants were to think about the type of place they would like the Wiehle Avenue area to become and what will make it a more livable and vibrant community. Participants broke into focus groups to discuss a vision statement, three opportunities, and three issues of concerning the future of the Wiehle Avenue area.

Report out

- Following the group discussions, each focus group reported its significant findings to the larger group.
- The input gathered from this exercise has been transcribed in a separate document (see "*Compilation of Community Comments from Community Break-Out Groups*" at the Reston website on the Previous Meetings or Documents of Interest web pages).

Brief Question & Answer

- A citizen asked about the impacts of the Comstock rezoning case. Heidi Merkel explained that the ideas generated during the Wiehle Ave Community Workshop are for the area as a whole. The County cannot tell Comstock they have to wait for the next phase of planning. The Task Force will develop a concept for the station area and will evaluate whether the current level of development supports the TF vision.
- A citizen commented that the process should consider affordable housing for people who will serve retail and office uses so they can walk and bike to work. "Make it a place for people to live, work, play and serve."

Next Steps

- Heidi Merkel announced the next Task Force meeting will be Tuesday, April 13th, at 7 pm at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne. The focus of the meeting will be the Reston Parkway Metro Station area.

Members Present

Bauer, Nicholas

Carter, John Anderson

Corrigan, Mike

Cortelyou, Stephanie

Costello, Frederick

de la Fe, Frank

Foster, Van

Kennedy, Richard

Looney, Mark

Murphy, Arthur

Nicoson, Patricia

Pew, Judith

Schlichting, John

Simon, Robert

Thomas, Paul

Volloy, Gerald

Williams, Kohann

Bowman, John

Cerney, Steven

Gill, David

Milton, Matthews

Noritake, Rae

Penniman, William

Phillips, Terri

Stowers, Joe