

Vision Subcommittee Meeting Reston Master Plan Special Study Committee

Date: July 28, 2010

Time and Place: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. North County Government Center

Participants:

John Carter (Sub-committee Co-Chair)
Kohann Willims (Sub-committee Co-Chair)
John Bowman
Fred Costello
David Edwards
Kathy Kaplan
Art Murphy
Patti Nicoson (TF, Chair)
Bill Penniman
Terri Philips
Dick Rogers
Dick Stillson

Sandi Smith (Fairfax
County Department of
Planning and Zoning)

John Lovaas
Susan Mockenhaupt
Tammi Petrine
Judith Pew
Guy Rando
Robert Simon
Joe Stowers

The following notes summarize the discussions during the meeting.

Item No. 1: Administration

All meetings are open meetings, and all are welcome. Meeting times will be primarily 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, and meeting places will vary. The Reston Task Force web site will have the final information on the dates, places and times.

Item No. 2: Town Center Presentation on July 27, 2010:

John Carter thought the Town Center sub-committee's presentation on the Town Center was impressive. The graphics helped to explain the recommendations. The attempt to require housing in the Town Center as well as office space was a great goal, but the concern is with the implementation and the proposed exemptions.

Item No. 3 Planning Principles

In response to the request for modifications to the principles at the last meeting of the Vision Subcommittee, the planning principles were revised for review. The following items were openly discussed:

- Recommendations for "meaningful community participation" during the review of development and the staging of redevelopment were identified. Several members recommended an independent Planning and Zoning review panel. Others recommended that the principles be general and not specific.
- The need for a frequent, free, continuous, and community-wide circulator bus service if traffic is to be manageable was discussed. Terri Phillips also discussed the Town Center Subcommittee's insistence on a circulator system within Town Center.

- Bob Simon discussed what a Village Center should be:
 - More than one-story buildings
 - Mixed use
 - Buildings organized around a hard surface plaza or gathering place
 - Community or civic building present in some form

At the end of the discussion, John Carter asked the Committee to review the principles again and send re-writes so that the principles can be presented and approved at the next meeting. After approval by the Vision Subcommittee, the principles should be sent to each of the other subcommittees and presented to the full Task Force as soon as possible.

Item No. 4: Environment

The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the environmental issues in the Transit Corridor and Town Center. John Carter presented a PowerPoint show with maps and photographs to illustrate the location of streams, wetlands, ponds, forests, pathways, trails and open spaces incorporated into the current Reston landscape. After the presentation, the following items were discussed:

- Bob Simon stated that Reston was going to be urban and all of the “natural areas” except the nature center could be reformed to create a less nuisance-filled environment. Sites should look “natural” without being natural. His hero is the landscape architect, Capability Brown who espoused and practiced this approach. Tammi Petrine and others were concerned with this approach.
- Judith Pew brought up a discussion from the Town Center Sub-committee that indicated that MWWA was unaware of plans for any of the air rights construction over the toll road planned in the revised master plan. She stated that Fairfax County should notify MWWA immediately because the supports need to be set for the air rights ASAP, and they CANNOT be done later. Airport fees will pay for the supports. The air rights and crossings identified included: Reston Parkway widening; Reston Heights/Plaza America; Soapstone extension; South Lakes Overpass and one pedestrian/bike bridge.
- Art Murphy expressed concern that when the larger Reston community learns of the extent of the changes proposed for Reston, massive opposition will result.

Item No. 5: Next Steps

The next meeting will focus on the following:

- Final review and action on the Planning Principles
- Brief discussion of the environment
- Review of the transportation system for the Transit Corridor.

The articles in the Reston 2020 Binder should be used as a reference especially for the next discussion of the transportation system.

The next meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at the Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods Village Center (see web page for final information).