

**TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE
AGENDA - 4/20/10**

Interlineations in blue summarize action taken at the meeting

Open Forum

Mary Ellen Craig addressed the group, and provided a handout (including deed language on the Library Park lot). Thrust was the importance of open space as Town Center continues to develop, including preserving the Library Park lot. Dick Rogers also addressed the group to advise that some citizen groups have formed that could provide helpful supplementary information not only the TC Committee but more broadly the Task Force. Also urged that south TC not become an orphan in this conversation. This led to Patty Nicoson and Mark Looney explaining that the Process Committee has recommended that the next Task Force meeting be run differently: the TF will break into four smaller groups to brainstorm on the Reston Town Center Metro Station area.

Administrative

Three new Committee members were introduced: Joe Stowers; Terri Phillips; and Susan Mockenhaupt. Robert also reported that the Supervisor's office is trying to create a consolidated list of bike/ped suggestions from the various summits that have been held, and it will endeavor as well to create a subset for Town Center. Hope to have this done in the near future.

- I. **Transportation** (35 minutes, to include presentation from Rick Stevens, County DOT – looking for overlay on TC map of RMAG-recommended improvements and discussion about what if any additional improvements are needed)

Rick Stevens of County DOT gave an impressive presentation (attached) on the RMAG improvements identified for Town Center. Not far along on implementing any of these, both because Wiehle is the first priority given the schedule and dollars aren't there. Little if any dissension in creating this list of improvements within RMAG, so near universal buy-in these should happen. Almost all of the improvements are designed to create a more ped-friendly environment (from traffic calming measures to changes at intersections to require vehicular traffic to slow, to new signaling, sidewalks, and intersection striping).

- II. **Open Space** (35 minutes, to include presentation from Bill Bouie, Chair, Parks Authority, with focus on possible plans/uses/alternatives for the 5 acre PA parcel)

Bill Bouie (Chair PA), Sandy Stallman (Manager of the PA Park Planning Branch), and Dave Bowden (Director of PA Planning and Development Division) presented. Big picture takeaways: the 5 acre parcel will not be easy to develop for the Parks Authority given the grade and rock issues; the PA is very open to thinking about swapping that for land that could be better utilized for their purposes; they would like equivalent value of course in making any kind of swap; within TC they are focused on more urban park environments (see guidelines at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/urbanparks.htm>). In denser environments like TC where land is at a premium, creative venues for open space are essential (roof tops, top of parking garages, etc.). Anything they do would have public hearings and opportunity for public comment, but the PA priorities they generally see for Reston are:

- a. rectangular athletic fields that can provide opps for 5-6 sports (a ball field can be done in as little as 2 acres);
- b. trails and trail connections;
- c. health/gym facilities, albeit not interested in competing with Y or private providers;
- d. indoor court space (volleyball, basketball);

- e. cricket demand is emerging;
- f. community garden and other nice, passive outdoor space

There are some deed restrictions on the lot (must be open space) that would have to be re-planned as part of this process if this lot is utilized differently. Overall, PA very open to having a collaborative dialogue to think about how that lot can be best utilized in a grander scheme for TC so long as the PA gets equivalent or better parkland somewhere else and adequate open space remains part of the equation for TC.

III. **Public Facilities** (Dave Marshall and Heidi Merkel, County Planning – 20 minutes; covered some at last meeting (police, library, County offices, human services); extend beyond that discussion to other additions -- Schools? Fire? Utilities?)

Dave Marshall presented. No plan for additional public facilities like schools and fire since not clear what densities are likely to be in place. These issues are addressed as densities warrant. Discussion returned to the police station and the current key needs:

- a. timing (see last meeting summary);
- b. stand-alone building no more than two stories;
- c. a space that is not too near high rises or other structures that would raise security issues; and
- d. parking. About 140 secure parking spaces are needed just for the police (recall last meeting summary that others also use this parking including buses). There was consideration given to possibly relocating the station to the PA lot, but there was concern that creating parking there given grade/rock issues would be very expensive and there would be insufficient funds for that purpose under the approved bond.