

Vision Subcommittee Meeting Reston Master Plan Special Study Committee

Date: October 6, 2010
Time and Place: 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Lake Anne Community Center

Participants:

John Bowman
John Carter
Fred Costello
John Lovaas
Milton Matthews
Art Murphy
Patty Nicoson
Terri Philips
Judith Pew
Dick Rogers
Dick Stillson

Heidi Merkel
DPZ, Fairfax County

Item No. 1: Coordination of Open Space with Other Sub-committees

The following open spaces have been identified by each of the three transit station sub-committees:

- Reston Parkway Station 5 acre open space in the Reston North area
5 acre open space in the Reston South area
- Wiehle Avenue Station Proposed Comstock open space
Forest/stream buffer area north of the station area
Large open space along Sunset Hills
Connections to Lake Fairfax Park and golf course
- Herndon/Monroe Station Private softball field
Tennis facility/Sprint property

Additional coordination with the other sub-committees is needed before the Vision sub-committee provides recommendations.

Item No. 2: Open Space Introduction

Parks and recreation are one of the essential components of Reston. A comprehensive network of parks and pathways that connects all the districts within Reston should be provided. The network should integrate large and small urban parks with existing environmentally sensitive areas to promote health, culture, equality and ecology.

Item No. 3: Environment and Open Space

The recent Vision Committee PowerPoint presented to the full Task Force identified the environmentally sensitive Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) including wetlands, stream

and stream buffers and high quality forest areas. These RPAs should be designated in the plan for open space.

Item No. 4: Active Recreation Areas

The three transit stations areas have potential sites for active recreation. The sites include the following:

- Reston Parkway Station The proposed 5 acre open space in the Reston North area could be a potential site for a central park or green that could accommodate active recreation activities and field areas.
- Wiehle Avenue Station A portion of the large, vacant open space along Sunset Hills Road could provide a site for active recreation. Connecting this transit station area to Lake Fairfax Park and the nearby private golf course should also be considered.
- Herndon/Monroe Station The existing private recreation field could be retained, and the tennis facility on the Sprint property could also provide public recreation space.

In addition, Sunrise Valley Drive should include a significant, green setback along the north side with a continuous bikeway to connect the three transit station areas.

Item No. 5: Active Public Use Spaces

The core of the Town Center includes a park and a public skating area. In addition, the proposed Comstock development at the Wiehle Avenue Station provides a small public use space. Additional public spaces should be provided.

Item No. 6: Standards for Active Public Use Spaces

A comparison of the requirements for public space in transit station areas in Arlington County, the District of Columbia, Montgomery County and Fairfax County was discussed (see attachment). A minimum of twenty percent open space was discussed as a potential requirement for each parcel in the transit station areas in Reston. Allowing a transfer of the open space requirement off-site was also discussed.

Item No. 7: Implementation

A definition should be developed for open space in Reston. Creative funding, dedication opportunities, and ownership were also discussed.

Item No. 8: Open Space and the Next Meeting

Recommendations for the open space framework will be discussed at the next meeting. The framework should include environmentally sensitive areas, recreation areas, designated urban open spaces, and small urban parks and civic spaces. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 13, 2010, 7:30 p.m. at the Lake Anne Community Center.