

Dear Heidi, Patty and Members of the Task Force,

The following represents my personal view and comment on the outstanding work thus far demonstrated by our Vision Committee. Please pass them on to the other Members of the Task Force.

The Vision and Planning Principles include language about excellence in planning, design and architecture. Throughout Reston's history, high standards of design and adherence to equally high standards of property maintenance have been hallmarks of the Reston community. To a major degree, both of these aspects have been assured by oversight and adherence to architectural design oversight processes and to maintenance covenants developed, administered, and enforced by either the past Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG) Architectural Board of Review; or currently by RA or Town Center Design Review Boards and Covenants. As of 1 Jan 2011, when the RCIG Covenants—previously administered by the Reston Association-- were vacated, so too was the entity (The RCIG Architectural Board of Review) initially established to provide design review oversight and covenant adherence within the RCIG.

Further, one of the most distinguishing aspects of Reston that is core to its values and characteristics is this special sense of “community” and its residents' incredible willingness to respond to calls to action; calls for help, and calls to get involved and/or serve our great community. Often the solicitations to do so emanate from the major community organizations that help to amalgamate and bring our community together eliciting support for volunteerism and/or service; organizations such as the Reston Association or Town Center Association. These include communications such as RA's e-notifications, etc.-- communications that identify and solicit volunteer or service opportunities, and to keep its Members updated on major issues affecting the community, and opportunities to take advantage of the many programs and services available to those who live, work and play here.

Finally, an almost future doubling of Reston's current population over the foreseeable future will have impacts upon Reston's existing open space, natural areas, lakes, watershed and recreational facilities—all of which are maintained and paid for by the Reston Association; the costs for which will eventually need to be passed on to its Members.

While the current document is an outstanding initial effort depicting an exciting Vision and sound Principles to guide Reston's future development, I suggest essential ingredients to our community's future success is a Vision and Principles should include language that precludes the formation of another “donut hole” within the Reston community, that promotes the goal of bringing future residents within the structure of “community”; that avails them to the opportunities for involvement, service, programs and services available to them; and which obligate their contribution to real future costs that will indeed be incurred to maintain our community to the high standards enjoyed and expected in the past.

I understand the legal difficulties involved in requiring that future RCIG commercial and residential development be subject to the Deed of Dedication and Covenants of the Reston Association. However and for the above reasons, I believe our Vision and/or Principles should be loud and clear in stating our desire and encouragement that developers subject future commercial and/or residential development, within the RCIG, to the Reston Association Deed.

This action would result in continued oversight and high standards of future architectural design and maintenance within the RCIG, in RCIG residential property owners making contributions to the maintenance of the natural areas of our community, and in future RCIG residents being Members of the Reston Association thereby better educating, involving, assimilating and amalgamating them as future shareholders in this great community and experiment called Reston.

It is my hope that the Vision Committee consider the above suggestions and—if they concur-- incorporate facilitating language within the Vision and/or Planning Principles prior to the Task Force's final vote on the document on 15 March 2011.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. VOLLOY