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RCA: Reston's Independent Voice Community News

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Greetings!

'Cluster Sell-out' efforts have begun in Reston. Clubhouse Court Cluster is a small cluster (eleven units) in Lake Anne, between the two sections of Fairway Apartments. JBG plans to re-develop Fairfax Apartments at higher density. If JBG's plans are approved, these Cluster homes will be in the shadow of several high-rises. It is easy to sympathize with the desire of the Cluster residents to make money while removing themselves from surroundings they did not envision. All of the property involved is already zoned for higher density "by right." Even so, re-development would be subject to the covenants of the Reston Association and action by the RA Design Review Board. Public input will be possible at the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors level. Will re-developments such as these succeed in complying with Planned Residential Community ordinances which require that re-developments be 'in character' with their surroundings? Stay tuned!

Marion Stillson, RCA President

The Letter Came At Last!

The letter from Supervisor Hudgins to the President of RCA invited RCA to nominate two RCA Board Members, a primary and an alternate, to the long-awaited Task Force. The full name of the Task Force, as revealed in the letter, is the 'Reston-Dulles Corridor Special Study Task Force' (Task Force, for short). RCA is pleased to have representation on the Task Force.

The letter establishes that the Task Force will study BOTH of two pressing issues. One issue is the update and possible revision of the sections of the Comprehensive Plan which relate to Reston. The second issue is consideration of 20 deferred North County Area Plan Review nominations in the Hunter Mill District. Theoretically it would have been possible for two separate Task Forces to study one issue apiece. In RCA's view, two separate Task Forces would not have been desirable because it would, in as far as Reston is concerned, have contributed to piecemeal decision-making which doesn't meet the goals for a planned community. RCA is pleased that the two issues will be combined in the work of the Task Force.

Not all issues have been settled, however. We don't know the total make-up of the Task Force. We don't know when and how often it will meet. But the most important unknown is the extent of community participation outside the Task Force. Supervisor Hudgins has spoken many times recently of the importance of citizen input. She favors the use of one or more charrettes. Charrettes are often used in urban planning. A successful charrette promotes joint ownership of solutions and attempts to defuse typical confrontational attitudes between residents and developers. Charrettes tend to involve small groups, however the residents participating may not represent all the residents nor have the moral authority to represent them. For that reason, RCA has urged as well, or instead, a number of 'citizen advisory groups' which would make recommendations to the Task Force. The citizens could be drawn from the 80 or so residents who participated in September's Land Use College, which was Supervisor Hudgins'

idea.

Supervisor Hudgins broke new ground when she arranged for the Reston Land Use College. We urge her to continue on this path and arrange for collaboration at the grassroots level using independent citizen advisory groups to complement the Task Force. The timing of their input to the Task Force need not cause delay---if started soon. . With a deadline for forwarding the names to Supervisor Hudgins of November 20, the letter showed that the Task Force will not get off the ground for at least another month. Stay tuned!

Submitted by: Dick Stillson, Chair of Reston 2020 Committee

State Delegate Candidates Debate

On Thursday, October 1st, the Reston Citizens Association and Reston Impact jointly sponsored and hosted the 2009 Reston Candidates Forum featuring incumbent Democrat Delegate Ken Plum and his challenger Republican Hugh "Mac" Cannon. This was the 11th consecutive year of the Reston Candidates Forum and the 25th forum broadcast to the community on Reston Community Television, Comcast Channel 28.

RCA President Marion Stillson and Reston Impact Producer John Lovaas served as co-Moderators while RCA VP Colin Mills was the timekeeper. After opening remarks by the two candidates, they were asked questions by a panel of local newspaper reporters-Mike DiCicco of the Reston Connection, Leslie Perales of the Observer and Steve Cahill of the Fairfax Times.

.The debate itself was a lively one, with good questions and sometimes pointed exchanges resulting from them. Towards the end of the Forum, Mr. DiCicco asked the candidates for their positions on allowing a referendum so that Reston residents could put to a vote whether or not they wanted to incorporate for self government. The question went first to Mr. Cannon who responded by saying he would support a referendum and that if that resulted in a vote for incorporation he would carry the necessary implementing legislation to the General Assembly for approval. Mr. Plum opined that he thought incorporating as a town might be a step back- although he did not specify why he thought so. He went on to say that he did think a new "form of governance" might be needed for Reston to bring government closer to the people-he noted that as a state delegate, he represented only 70,000 people while the county supervisor's district encompassing Reston has 110,000 people.

It will be interesting to see what, if any, action Delegate Plum takes on this important matter if he is re-elected. The Forum has been broadcast four times on Channel 28 and can be seen anytime at www.rctv28.com under Reston Impact.

Photo: From left to right: Steve Cahill of the Fairfax Times, Reston Impact's John Lovaas, challenger Cannon, Observer's Leslie Perales, Connection's Mike DiCicco, RCA's Colin Mills; seated, RCA President Marion Stillson.

Submitted by: John Lovaas, RCA Board Member

RCA Recognizes Langston Hughes Students

In a follow up to last month's article, one of the four award categories was intended to honor Reston youth who, in the opinion of a distinguished panel of judges, best exemplified those principles. This year's award went to the seven members of the EarthForce Club at Langston Hughes Middle School, for their extraordinary efforts, including many voluntary evenings spent conducting stream water testing, even in inclement weather. The club received an inscribed plaque citing its accomplishment as a group, and each of its members received a personalized certificate recognizing their individual contribution. These certificates were presented to: Bobby Rae Allen, Hannah Baum, Richard Bernecker, Kaitlyn Herron, Emily Lipscomb, T J Mecouch, and Rebecca Oswald. They were guided by their Advisor, Lezlie Love, and Parent Volunteer, Tara Allen.

Congratulations to the Earthforce Club Members!

Omitted from last month's edition - Reston's Sustainability Award keynote speaker -- Michael Shuman.

Submitted by: Hank Blakely, Member - Sustainable Reston Committee Member

Last Chance to Nominate for Citizen of the Year!

RCA is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Citizen of the Year. **Nominations forms must be received no later than November 5, 2009.**

Selection Criteria Must be Reston resident for at least 5 years Actions must be consistent with goals of Reston and RCA Actions contribute to quality of life in Reston People in need have benefited from nominee's action Nominee's deeds are done without thought of personal recognition Nominee is not currently serving as an elected public office or Board member of any major community organization (RA, RCA, ARCH or RCC)

Nominations should be returned to: Barbara Bureson, RCA Citizen of the Year Committee 11400 Washington Plaza West Reston, VA 20190 You can download a form on the RCA website [here](#)

RCA October Board Actions

At its October meeting on Monday 26th, the RCA Board considered a proposal to co-sponsor a public forum on re-defining the finances of Small Tax District 5, which funds the Reston Community Center. A motion to support the proposal was defeated, 7:4. Relative to the Reston/Dulles Corridor Task Force which Supervisor Hudgins was expected to announce soon, Marion Stillson, RCA President, stated that there are four qualified RCA individuals vying for what will probably be two seats. The Board outlined criteria it would use to make the selection. In Other Business, the Board received candidate forms from two individuals who would like to fill out the remaining term of RCA's second South Lakes Director. Per the bylaws, the Board will make its selection at the November Board meeting.

Did you know you can watch the Board meeting live if you receive Comcast cable television? In November, the date will be Monday, November 23 and the time will be from 8.30 pm until 9.30 pm. Comcast Channel 28!

Submitted by: Marion Stillson, RCA President

The Spectrum Improves Accessibility

Seen in the photo in front of the new cut-away are, from left to right, Town Center resident Mike LeJuene; RCA President Marion Stillson; North Point resident Kathleen Elder; and President of the Reston Accessibility Committee, Ken Fredgren.

Announcements

SUPPORT THE RESTON LICENSE PLATE

The Virginia DMV requires a minimum of 350 pre-paid applications to produce a specialized license plate. Complete the form [here](#)

RCA Board Members Attend Land Use College

Fairfax County's Department of Planning and Zoning (DP&Z) recently sponsored Reston Land Use College. The College was an introductory session and followed by a series of three classes hosted by staff from the DP&Z. Held during September they were designed to acquaint Reston area residents, landowners, employers, employees and other interested individuals with key elements of land use planning and the development review process. Eight RCA members attended the classes to form the foundation for participation in the upcoming study to review and update the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan for Reston and adjacent areas along the Dulles Corridor. Orientation materials are still available on the Fairfax County website at [click here](#)

Submitted by: John Bowman, RCA Board Member

RCA Letter to Cathy Hudgins

Letter from RCA to Cathy Hudgins

Dear Supervisor Hudgins, Thank you for the Land Use College (LUC) which just ended. One purpose of the LUC was to prepare community members to participate in updating Reston's planning documents. About sixty people, eight of whom were RCA Board members, learned from the sessions and now want to contribute.

In RCA's view, successfully updating the documents requires that a broad cross-section of the community participate. It requires true collaboration of community members who sit on citizen advisory groups, under the direction of a task force you appoint. If you appoint such a task force and in addition direct the task force to invite volunteers to sign up for citizen advisory groups, the level of community involvement will be far greater than with a task force alone. For example, if there are eight citizen advisory groups with about ten persons each, you will provide those who participated in the LUC the opportunity to collaborate.

The task force could have one representative on each citizen advisory group as liaison. The task force and the citizen advisory groups could meet in parallel and share as appropriate in field trips and expert presentations. This would minimize the time loss caused by the additional level (citizen advisory groups) of input. The citizen advisory groups would focus on such topics as Transportation, Housing, Village Centers, Town Center and The Environment. Each citizen advisory group would submit a report to the task force. The task force would submit its recommendations, in turn, to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

This concept is not original to RCA. It is circulating in Reston. RCA wants to express its support, because community involvement at this level befits the updating of Reston's planning documents, Reston having been founded on principles of participation and inclusiveness. Community involvement at this level would also reflect well on you as our Supervisor, demonstrating that you realize this is not an ordinary county exercise, but the updating of documents serving a planned community which is world famous

signed Marion Stillson RCA President Sent: October 7, 2009

NEXT ISSUE

- RCA Appointments to Task Force
- Changes on RCA Board
- Improved Accessibility in Reston

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