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RCA: Reston's Independent Voice Community News

January 2010 - Vol 2, Issue 1

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Greetings!

Happy New Year to everyone! The year 2010 is when Reston's future will be decided by the Reston Master Plan Study Task Force (Task Force, for short). RCA has worked hard for several years to encourage that this Task Force be developed and to help set its agenda. We are delighted that its work will start in earnest this month; and that RCA will be represented!

Some folks have asked whether RCA's 2020 Committee is needed, now that the Task Force is a reality. The answer is YES! Not only are there significant land issues that predate the Task Force, but no doubt there will be controversies during the Task Force's existence and after its work is accomplished. One of the issues that predates the Task Force is the design of the Wiehle Avenue Metro station. RCA's 2020 Committee will monitor the Task Force, through our representative, offering appropriate encouragement or criticism.

RCA is in the process of developing a poll concerning your views about the Task Force. Watch your e-mail for our poll, and respond when you receive it! It's brief and will take you less than 5 minutes to respond. Understanding your views is critical!

Marion Stillson, RCA President

Task Force Meets for the 1st Time



At the invitation of Supervisor Hudgins, the RCA selected a representative and an alternate to participate on the County's Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force. The RCA representative is Mike Corrigan (RCA past President); the RCA alternate is John Bowman (Reston 2020 Committee Co-Chair, see photo). In

December, the Task Force held both a kickoff meeting (on December 1st) and an organizational meeting (on December 8th). Your RCA had multiple board members attend both meetings. At both meetings, RCA representatives raised the need for the broadest possible resident participation in the Task Force deliberation process through Citizen Advisory Groups. Since this is a County Government initiative, all meetings must be public and held in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The two most immediate impacts of this requirement are that task force members are prohibited from 1) deliberating via e-mail and 2) gathering in groups of 3 or more to discuss the **Task Force** business without advertising a public meeting.

The Task Force will meet at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from January through June. One Community workshop is anticipated in each month from January through May 2010. There

has been strong desire for the task force to provide a citizen comment period at the start of each meeting. Citizens may also submit comments to the Supervisor's office at least one business day prior to the next **Task Force** meeting. The January 12th meeting agenda includes 1) an overview of current comprehensive plan recommendations and 2) a discussion of **Task Force** Work Groups. The January 26th meeting will be a community meeting on planning principles. (See the Reston 2020 Committee article for the RCA activities contributing to the preparation for this planning principle discussion.)

Reston citizens will need to pay close attention to this process in order to gain critical mass of our collective voice. The County has proposed a tentative schedule for the "review" to include 1) a discussion of planning principles (January), 2) Herndon-Monroe area (February), 3) Wiehle Avenue area (March), 4) Reston Town Center area (April), 5) Reston Parkway area (May) and 6) discussion of draft recommendations in June. The county anticipates deferring discussion of the Planned Residential Community (PRC) zoned residential areas and Village Center areas until Fall 2010.

The Supervisor would like Planning Commission and Board of Supervisor approvals - specifically public hearings and decisions - on the **Task Force** recommendations for planning principles and Dulles Corridor/Town Center by December 2010. Concern remains about the **Task Force's** ability to successfully apply the Reston principles to these phases in sequence while protecting the Reston quality of life due to the impact of increased density and infrastructure demands that will surely arise for increased development around future rail stations.

RCA encourages all citizens to engage with the Reston Master Plan Special Task Force and give voice to preserving the original Reston ideals while planning for Reston's future!

The Reston Master Plan Task Force Special Study web page is at the County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) site at [click here](#) For more information about RCA positions and participation on the **Task Force**, contact the RCA representatives to the **Task Force** - Mike Corrigan (mike.corrigan@comcast.net) and/or John Bowman (DrJEBowman@aol.com).

Submitted by: John Bowman, RCA Board Member

Photo Caption: John Bowman Alternate RCA Task Force Member (left) - Mike Corrigan RCA Representative Task Force Member (right)

2009 Citizen of the Year

The award was presented formally at an evening ceremony on November 30 in the Reston Community Center in Hunters Woods. A crowd of about 30 people turned out for the ceremony. This is the first time in its 25 years that the Reston Citizen of the Year award has honored achievement in the arts in our community.

Ms. Pinkman was cited for her exceptional contributions to the development and excellence of the theatre arts in the Reston community. She has served as a Reston Community Players volunteer in every imaginable capacity-from set construction and backstage technician to producing, directing, and acting-for over thirty years. She has been the Players president since 1998 and is currently playing a lead role in the RCP production of "Curtains". Thanks to Ms. Pinkman's leadership, RCP has provided scholarships annually for the last 18 years to a local graduating high school senior. She also started a YMCA Children's After School theatre program and implemented sign-interpreted shows for the hearing-impaired. In large measure due to Ms. Pinkman's tireless efforts, the Reston Community Players are a respected and vital part of our community.

Submitted by: Colin Mills, RCA Vice President

Photo Caption: Marion Stillson, RCA President (left), Sue Pinkman, 2009 RCA Citizen of the Year (right)

Reston 2020 Committee Ramps Up!



The Reston 2020 Committee had a busy month, despite the holiday period, beginning with Co- Chairman Dick Stillson's remarks at the County's Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force kickoff meeting. Dick proposed that the Task Force 1) Take a holistic approach to its review of Reston planning and 2) Create and use community advisory groups to help inform the Task Force.

The Reston 2020 Committee dialogue has focused on developing terms of reference for the community advisory groups - essentially proposals for scope and level of effort for each group's activities. The immediate objective of the Committee is to present to the Task Force a robust proposed terms of

reference for community advisory groups that it will find amenable, approve, and implement at its January 26 meeting. The current draft terms of reference under study by the Committee proposes the creation of as many as eight advisory groups along functional and area lines. The draft lays out an ambitious work agenda for the groups that is complicated by the rapid planned pace of the Task Force they will support.

For our readers, the Reston 2020 Committee would very much like to encourage your participation in one of the advisory groups as they are formed. We will provide details as they become available, but please feel free to contact RCA about your interest.

Ensuring an appropriate process for the participation of the three Committee members who are also Task Force members-which requires a "public meeting" under sunshine laws, Communicating with the local news media to assure that developments in the Task Force receive comprehensive and balanced coverage, and Creating a Reston 2020 blog:A prototype blog is being reviewed with a view to a public launch in early January 2010.

The Committee is also reviewing member contributions for Planning Principles to be proposed for use by the Task Force. A number of ideas have been submitted and they will be culled and organized to meet the spirit of the Task Force's intent to establish a set of principles to guide their planning activities. The Reston 2020 Committee is arranging a public meeting for the 6, 7, or 8 of January 2010 at a place not yet determined. This will precede the Task Force's January 12 "community meeting" as well as its first working meeting on January 26.

Submitted by: Terry Maynard, RCA Secretary and Reston 2020 Committee Member

Photo Caption: Reston Task Force Initial Meeting

RCA December Board Actions

At the December Board meeting, the Board heard about a new technology, called Crowd Sourcing. Crowd Sourcing allows of taking tasks traditionally performed by an employee or contractor, and outsourcing them to a group of people or community, through an "open call" to a large group of people (a crowd) asking for contributions. For example, the public may be invited to develop a new technology, carry out a design task (also known as community- based design, refine or carry out the steps of an algorithm , systematize or analyze large amounts of data (definition from Wikipedia).

The Board also considered how to respond to a letter submitted from a cluster, and how to participate in a General Assembly preview. The board elected a permanent Secretary (Terry Maynard), adopted a set of procedures of RCA annual elections which occur in July each year, and heard several Committee reports.

The January Board meeting can be viewed on the Comcast Channel 28 on January 25, 2010 at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by: Marion Stillson, RCA President

Announcements

Meeting Notice: January 14

On Thursday, January 14, the Alliance of Reston Clusters and Homeowners (ARCH) will hold an open meeting. The meeting will be at Hunter Woods Community Center beginning at 7:00 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the outcomes from the January 12 Planning Principles meeting and to provide opportunities for public input for the next official meeting of the Task Force itself (January 26, 2010).

NEXT ISSUE

- TASK FORCE Tales
- RCA Committee Roundup
- Reston Accessibility Committee honored by Fairfax Board of Supervisors

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