

■ Presentations at June RCA Board Meeting

Reston Environmental Action (REACT) is a non-profit organization mobilizing residents in grassroots activities promoting the environmental and community health of Reston. It supports a sustainable local economy that respects our natural and human resources and strives to increase awareness of the impact of individual and community lifestyle and consumption choices on the land, air, water and the community. REACT has been invited to give a presentation at the June RCA Board meeting on June 23 at 8pm on Ch. 28 RCTV.



Also join REACT at the **Green Workplace Fair** to find businesses and organizations that can provide you with services or products to help lessen your workplace's environmental impact to be held Thurs., June 26, 1:30 - 3:30 pm in the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne. Go to the following for more info:

<http://www.restonenvironmentalaction.org/>

In addition to the REACT presentation, there will be a showing of the Sierra Club's 15-minute video, "**The Real Cost of Food**," an informative video in the form of a cartoon which deals with the hidden costs, as economists call them, *the external costs*, of "industrial" style food production, which is dependent on cheap and abundant oil. Such costs include soil depletion, habitat destruction and increasing use of chemical fertilizers. The video is free from the Sierra Club at <http://www.truecostoffood.org/>



■ RMAG Releases Final Study

(submitted by Colin Mills, RCA VP)

The Reston Metrorail Access Group (RMAG), convened by Supervisor Hudgins to study access and traffic issues in the areas around the forthcoming Metro stations in Reston, recently released its final report. RCA, as represented by Vice President Colin Mills, participated in the RMAG process throughout its 18-month study period. The report presented a variety of recommendations on improving roads, bike trails, and sidewalks to improve access in and around the stations. Among the highlights of the report:

- Recommended new road construction and improvements, including a new connector over the Dulles Toll Road
- Recommended designated lanes for buses and bikes, both of which are firsts in Reston, in certain areas
- Outlined ideas for completing the network of sidewalks and bike pathways in Reston, as well as other pedestrian/bike-friendly ideas such as new and improved crosswalks, increased use of pedestrian countdown signals at major intersections, and new and widened median refuges
- Developed 13 new bus routes to get the community to and from the stations, and preserved and expanded the RIBS bus system to help people get around Reston

The report also prioritized its recommended projects by time frame: projects to be completed for the opening of the Wiehle Avenue station, those to be completed for the opening of the Reston Parkway station, and longer-term recommendations to be completed when circumstances allow. The report is available for download at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/sam_study



■ Why YOU Should Vote in the RCA Election



There are several reasons to participate in RCA's Election of Board Members this year at the Reston Festival on July 12-13 from 10 am -6 pm both days at Reston Town Center.

First, there's a **Straw Poll on the US Presidential Election!** This fun (*and completely unscientific*) poll will show who's ahead in this very important 2008 presidential race among festival attendees. Although neither party has officially chosen their nominee, we are presuming that the candidates will be:

Barack Obama for the Democrats
John McCain for the Republicans.

Straw poll rules: you have to be eligible to vote in November, and you must participate in the RCA Board election as well.

The 2nd reason why you should vote: **RCA has made it easy.** If you can't attend the Festival you can vote on-line or through email. Reston residents can print out a ballot from www.restoncitizensassociation.org, cast their votes and mail it as directed, to arrive at RCA's PO or email mailbox on or before July 14. You can vote this way between July 1 and 14.

Finally, **RCA needs your support.** Wouldn't it be great if as many voted as signed the resTOWN petition? That was 3700 people! Support this organization which is charged with upholding the founder's goals for Reston as a community.

Want to run for an RCA Board yourself? Questions? Please contact RCA's Debra Steppel at dsteppel@yahoo.com or 703/758-9577 before June 27 or go to the following directly to download a candidate form: www.restoncitizensassociation.org/elections

Participate in "straw poll" on US Presidential Election and vote in RCA Board Election at Reston Festival, July 12-13 from 10 am-6 pm at Reston Town Center.

* Support the Reston License Plate *



Place your order for the Reston License Plate, offered by Reston Citizens Association, so we can reach our 350 minimum order.

The VA DMV requires a minimum of 350 **pre-paid** applicants to produce a specialized license plate. Complete the form at: <http://go-resTOWN.org/docs/VADMVsa10.pdf> and send with check for appropriate fee made out to **Reston Citizens Association** to: Reston Citizens Association, P.O. Box 2851, Reston, VA 20195. According to instructions from the VA DMV, RCA will hold all applications and checks until the special license creation process is complete and then forward one check to cover all the applications to the VA DMV. **For more info go to** <http://go-resTOWN.org> or email RCA-Info@comcast.net

■ County Meeting on “Developing a Reston Planning Process” (submitted by Mike Corrigan)

On June 3, Fairfax County hosted a community meeting to discuss the creation of a new planning process for Reston. The meeting was a follow-up an April 16 meeting that was targeted to representatives of Reston organizations. The impetus for the meetings was the concerns raised by the community during the revision of the Planned Residential Community (PRC) Ordinance last year. RCA, RA, ARCH and the Reston Planning and Zoning Committee all requested that a much more comprehensive review be made of the Reston Master Plan and other Reston planning documents. While these documents provided the blueprint for the original creation of Reston, many felt that the existing documents were not well suited to support the future development (or, in most cases, redevelopment) of our community.

The meeting included remarks from Bob Simon, a summary of the Reston Master Plan history by John Thillmann, a discussion of the proposed planning process procedures by Heidi Merkel from the County Planning and Zoning Staff, and questions and comments from the audience. Supervisor Hudgins provided opening and closing remarks.

Bob Simon, Reston’s founder, said that the original plan included additional density proposed for the village centers and town center, and redevelopment of these areas to include additional density was in accord with that plan. John Thillmann was the Hunter Mill District Planning Commissioner during much of Reston’s development, and provided an excellent review of Reston’s plans and how they changed over time. Heidi Merkel described the current planning documents and the proposed plan to create a process to revise those documents. This plan has three parts: Inform (hold the initial community meeting), Identify (meet with Reston “stakeholder” groups, including RCA) and Identify (synthesize the inputs and recommend an approach to a planning process). Supervisor Hudgins indicated that she believed some form of citizen task force was the likely outcome.

The question and answer discussion brought out a number of citizen concerns:

■ **The geographic scope of the planning effort:** The Reston Master Plan includes several components: Town Center, the area covered by the Reston Association, and the Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG). The RCIG includes most of the area along the toll road between Sunset Hills and Sunrise Valley. While it appeared that most of the citizens at the meeting favored including all this area, it was not clear whether the county staff and Supervisor Hudgins agreed. Supervisor Hudgins commented that some areas had previously been looked at and she seemed to suggest that they needn’t be looked at again. This might include the RGIC (which was mostly reviewed as part of the “Reston-Herndon Suburban Center” in 2000), Lake Anne, and perhaps the PRC ordinance.

■ **The services included in the planning:** Reston originally included community services as part of the plan, for example, the pathways, tennis courts, swimming pools and community buildings that are now maintained by the Reston Association. It does not appear that such community facilities have been part of more recent Reston planning, for example in Town Center and the RCIG. These areas have or are planned to have “mixed use,” but the planned mix of uses appears to be limited to “live and work,” not the original Reston approach of “live, work and play.” Future planning for Reston, if it is to maintain the spirit of Bob Simon’s principles, must include community facilities.

(continued at top of next column)



■ **Infrastructure:** The PRC ordinance review (which resulted in increasing the number of dwelling units that can be built in Reston by 3,815) ignored the additional infrastructure required to support these units. The community voiced concerns that traffic and associated infrastructure should be included in future planning. While mixed use development can result in less traffic than single use development, the community view was that greater density will still require new transportation solutions if the quality of life in Reston is to be maintained or, we hope, improved. Planning based on the premise that the future will be worse does not appeal to the community.

■ **Community Inclusion in the Planning Process:** Given the importance of planning for the future of our community, there was concern that so few people (around 35, including 6 RCA board members) were present at the community meeting. Some approach that assures real community involvement is needed.

■ **Community Impact on the Planning Process:** Given the results of the community discussion on the PRC ordinance, where the County Board of Supervisors overrode the desires of Reston citizens as expressed through RA, RCA and ARCH to review the Master Plan before modifying the density factors in the PRC, there were concerns expressed about the County Supervisors, only two of whom can be said to represent Reston, making the final decisions. Supervisor Hudgins said it would be nice if you could draw a line around Reston and not worry about the rest of the county, but that there is a concern that we might be so autonomous that we didn’t worry about the impact on the county outside of Reston. It was not clear from the Supervisor’s and the staff’s comments whether they see the need for a plan for Reston that is independent from the county planning documents.

The county staff plans to meet with Reston organizations, including RCA, during June and July. RCA will raise these issues, as well as others we have raised with the county in the past.

Please let the RCA board know of any other issues that you feel should be raised. Read more on pg. 3.

■ Initiative for Public Art in Reston (IPAR)

(submitted by Colin Mills, RCA VP)



In late May, the Initiative for Public Art – Reston (IPAR), which was formed to develop and support a plan to create new public art projects in Reston, sought public comment in two community meetings.

On Thursday, May 29th, IPAR held a community forum on public art, at which IPAR unveiled its vision and took questions and suggestions from the audience.

On Saturday, May 31st, IPAR held a charette, at which community members (including RCA President Marion Stillson and Vice President Colin Mills) broke into working teams, each of which considered a particular area of Reston and made recommendations regarding where public art should be, and what form it should take. Both events were very well attended, and public reaction was quite positive.

IPAR continues to seek public comment and ideas in developing its Master Plan for Public Art. If you would like to make your voice heard, go to the IPAR Web site at <http://www.publicartreston.org> and click on the “Get Involved” link in order to take their survey, which allows you to leave feedback and suggestions.

**Buy Fresh Produce from Local Farmers
at 2 farmers' markets in Reston:
Saturdays, 8-12 thru Oct. at Lake Anne Plaza
(voted best in NoVA)
<http://restonfarmersmarket.com> and
Thursdays, 3-7pm in Reston Town Center
<http://smartmarkets.org/>**

■ RCA Board Members Participate in Reston Planning Meeting June 3 (see summary on pg. 2)

It was noted by Reston founder, Bob Simon that only about 27 residents attended the community meeting called by Fairfax Co. as follow-up to hearings held in the spring of 2007 to discuss future planning of Reston development. (see RCA's newsletters of Mar. and May 07, Feb. and April 08 at go-resTOWN.org/newsletters) It will be noted that 6 of these 27 were RCA Board members – Marion Stillson, Colin Mills, Debra Steppel, Mike Corrigan, John Lovaas and Jan Bradshaw. As noted in an article in the Reston Connection, here are some of their comments:

Marion Stillson, president of the RCA, suggested the county use a process similar to the one the Initiative for Public Art-Reston (IPAR) is using to reach the public. Stillson praised IPAR for its efforts that include a professionally designed survey and its outreach to the community. "Invest in mailing to households to get the attention of most, not just the usual suspects," said Stillson. She also suggested that when the discussion about infrastructure is raised that professional input be sought. "Maybe someone from Bob's [Simon's] subsequent generation, good at redeveloping, not developing," said Stillson.

Deborah Steppel, RCA At Large-Director asked why the Board of Supervisors makes the decisions about Reston's development and future, when Reston has two representatives on that 10-member board, Hudgins and Gerry Connolly, who as the chairman of the board is an at-large member. "Why are eight of 10 people making decisions about Reston people who don't have the sense of living in Reston," said Steppel.

In response to Supv. Cathy Hudgins' statement that County staff will meet with stakeholder groups in June and July to receive input about the planning exercise and will then make a recommendation to Hudgins as to what process to use to go forward, RCA Lake Anne Director **John Lovaas** said the review is "literally a generational thing," and asked whether the process is open to question. He urged Hudgins to step away from the staff-proposed process and to consult the community about how to construct the planning exercise.

Other questions remain as to why no young people showed up at the meeting, why was publicity for the meeting so lacking, why no mention was made of rewriting the Planned Residential Community (PRC) Ordinance (which is where this all started with Planning Chief Jim Zook's presentation 2 and 1/2 years ago) and even more troubling, would Fairfax Co. like to do away with the PRC altogether? **We'd like to hear from Reston residents what they think about this matter which very seriously impacts the legacy of our community for future generations.**

Reston Citizens Association's newsletter is published 6 times/year and is available by email or on RCA's website at <http://go-resTOWN.org>. In the absence of a self-governing body, RCA seeks to protect and to promote the social and political interests of Reston, serving as a forum for all residents and a voice and advocate for the community with County and State government. RCA's monthly board meetings are shown on Ch. 28 RCTV at 8pm on the 4th Monday of the month. To get on email list, send email to RCA-Info@comcast.net.

■ Statement Regarding RCA's Future Work

The Reston Citizens Association Board is reassessing alternatives for pursuing what remains our #1 strategic objective for Reston--**incorporation as a self-governing entity**. It is clear the need for self-governance becomes more imperative all the time--as we confront rewriting the Master Plan and the Planned Residential Community Ordinance for Reston, and as our infrastructure ages.

While the recent referendum petition made great strides and brought the issue of town self-governance to the attention of many Reston residents, our efforts need more visible community participation and support to reach critical mass. RCA is reaching out to many sources in exploring alternative approaches to achieve our goal of incorporation. In this process, we welcome community input and anyone who wishes to join us in this quest.

Among the challenges we face are:

1. Reinforcing the community's sense of identity as citizens of a unique place whose principles should be preserved.

2. Raising community awareness in our diverse community, including young people, about how Reston was created, what Robert E. Simon's vision was, and the critical difference incorporation will make in helping to preserve his original goals.

Accomplishing these goals will require the dedication of many residents, working together. We welcome and value your suggestions. A new Board, starting in July, will no doubt have its own perspective. Please share YOUR ideas and perspective to the current or future Board by sending an e-mail to RCABoard@comcast.net, or by calling any one of the Directors on: restoncitizensassociation.org/board/default.htm#board.

Volunteers needed

RCA would like volunteers to:

- Serve on RCA committees
- Contact supporters whose e-mail is returned, to obtain new e-mail addresses (on-going, with a list of about 30 already accumulated)
- Enter last few pages of Referendum Petition signatures into RCA's database
- Operate camera during monthly Board meeting, trained by Comcast

Please contact Marion Stillson at mbs@point0.net if you can help, or know of someone we can ask.

■ Rucker Memorial Golf Tournament

To Benefit Reston Interfaith - July 14

Sign up now to play in the **14th Annual Rucker Memorial Golf Tournament**, on Monday, July 14, 2008. This popular event is an excellent opportunity to market your business to more than 250 participants, while helping Reston Interfaith. Last year's tournament raised more than \$80,000!

Golfers play at the Hidden Creek Country Club and enjoy lunch and the tournament awards dinner, featuring exciting live and silent auctions and raffles. For more information, contact Meredith Magwire at 571/323-9565 or at meredith.magwire@restoninterfaith.org



Get more info at

restoninterfaith.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=15352