

RTCA BOARD UPDATE #5

DRB UPDATE

The DRB had the first presentation from Lerner Corporation concerning concepts for the redevelopment of Spectrum. The new development will be a mix of office, retail, hotel and residential. The DRB emphasized to the developer that they want to see Fountain Drive become more of a main boulevard that connects all of Town Center with shops and restaurants that face that street rather than turn their backs to it. Establishing more of a grid pattern and improvement of the pedestrian experience were also key elements discussed. The developers were very receptive to these recommendations. The time frame for the start of actual redevelopment is unknown and could be anywhere from 2 to 20 years depending on the market.

LINK UPDATE

Ms. Rovin has continued to participate on the Wiehle Ave & Reston Parkway Station Access Management Committee. The group is now called the Reston Metrorail Access Group (RMAG) and it will meet monthly until March 2008. The first general public meeting was held on March 27, 2007. It was very well-attended by representatives of many different interests in Town Center community including residents and major commercial property owners and employers. Part of the meeting involved presentations from the traffic consultants followed by break-out groups that allowed direct discussion and feedback. The next meeting will be held in July and should include presentation of their report on existing transportation system conditions. The Board asked Ms. Rovin to see if the July meeting could be held in Town Center. Mr. Eisenman offered to host it at the Hyatt if the schedule could be worked out. Ms. Rovin has also been talking with Supervisor Hudgins and her staff about having a meeting in Town Center to focus on pedestrian issues in Town Center. The Board supported that effort as well.

ARTS FUND UPDATE

The Sculpture entitled "Fidelity of Form" was installed in the Reston Town Square at the beginning of the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival on May 19, 2007.

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The concept of a more structured program for public art in the Reston Town Center had been discussed earlier in the 2007. Mr. Joe Ritchey had contacted the Board to see if RTCA would be interested in participating in a Reston-wide public art program. He is on the GRACE Board of Directors and this was part of their discussion at a recent Board retreat. The proposal is to launch an effort to develop a Public Art Master Plan for Reston (and Reston Town Center), which would involve numerous community organizations and would be coordinated by some newly-formed joint entity. The objective would be to develop criteria for public art; identify locations for art; and determine a process by which public art could be selected and funded. In addition this could be a vehicle for development of new leadership in the community arts arena. Art program and design professionals, such as Alan Ward from Sasaki Associates have agreed to work on this. Funds have been identified that could be donated to hire a consultant to develop the master plan

The consensus of the RTCA Board is that this could support the RTCA goal of getting more public art in the Town Center as well as be beneficial to the entire Reston community. Ms. Rovin was directed to represent the Board at initial meetings with the intention that two Directors, Ms. Hogan and Mr. Goudie, should also become involved.

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