

**Park and Recreation Commission**  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

July 6, 2021

Honorable Matt de Ferranti  
Chair, Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Pershing Drive Special GLUP Study

Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The Park and Recreation Commission has participated in the LRPC process for Pershing Drive and received a briefing from CPHD staff at our June 22 meeting. We would like to offer the following comments.

PRC participants found the LRPC process and public engagement and documentation for this process to be excellent. The vision shown in the proposed plan provides several promising open space concepts.

Aspects of the plan, including streetscapes, pedestrian connections through this large block, and a naturally landscaped Arlington Boulevard frontage should enhance the community's experience in the public realm of this block area. We anticipate that the language encouraging biophilic design elements into all aspects of site development will contribute to the future success of subsequent projects. The biophilic design elements should be considered throughout the design process and we welcome various implementations and uses of these elements. For example, during the LRPC meetings, we encouraged the design team to add biophilic elements to parts of the building such as the top of entrances and areas where the buildings will be tiered. The implementation of these elements will align to our vision of biophilic friendly construction.

The envisioned open space/park will create a new site available to this neighborhood that should add to the vitality of this block area. The commission appreciates that our proposed change in the description of the open space to more specifically define the size (10% of the site) and configuration (i.e. square, contiguous) of this space has been incorporated by staff. We believe that such open space specifications are important for all planning documents just as they are when defining building heights, setbacks, street widths and other definitions. Such definitions will facilitate community discussions during SPRC processes.

The commission also supports our suggested addition of language calling for bird friendly architectural and material design for future building. As we have stated during reviews of other

recent development projects, more formal specifications on bird safety will help codify the county's expectations to developers with respect to a broadly supported community principle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "R".

William Ross  
Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board  
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager  
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation