

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
c/o Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705
Arlington, VA 22201
November 7, 2014

The Honorable Jay Fiset, Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Envision Courthouse Square

Dear Chairman Fiset,

The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) has been informed of the Envision Courthouse Square process that is currently ongoing. After hearing from Andrew D'huyvetter and Chris Somers at our September 22, 2014 meeting as well as reviewing available reports provided to us, E2C2 would like to inform the Arlington County Board of their opinion of the information shared.

The Envision Courthouse Square process is to update the vision outlined in the 1993 Courthouse Sector Plan Addendum, which identified a state-of-the-art government center and signature public space as critical to the area's development.

E2C2 supports the following:

- **Open Space for All:**
 - o Maximize open space, and ensure that the bulk of open space is in fact "green space", which is defined as an area of natural vegetation with no hardscaping. Tree-cover should be a priority, and the plan should include adequate soil depth analysis for all potential hardscape and greenscape areas so that mature trees can take root and grow.
 - o Include a way to incorporate all County memorials to our community members who have died in foreign wars to be memorialized in the same location, with dignity. This includes: the Mother Tree, Soldier Tree, and the Arlington County War Memorial along with the memorial to Fort Woodbury.
- **Sustainable Energy Use:**
 - o Ensure that all surrounding buildings both in the project area and near the project area perimeter are part of the proposed district energy master plan for Envision Courthouse Square. This is in-line with activating support now for the Integrated Energy Master Plan and the Community Energy Plan.
- **Sustainable Building Use, Location, Reuse, and Design:**
 - o Preserve the "historic" Jerry's sub building and reuse this structure by moving it onto the proposed plaza to house both a farmers market and antique market coordinating office and a small public-use building with historical displays on the inside.
 - o Provide public rooftop access to the proposed buildings.

- Support the grand entrance design to the Clarendon Metro along with the proposed daylighting of the current metro platform, and developing a west entrance to the Courthouse Metro to improve access to this public transportation amenity.
 - Locate the Farmers Market and Antique Market respectively on the far west side of the planned plaza next to the AMC Theater and along the proposed pedestrian-only North Uhle Street between 15th Street and Clarendon Boulevard.
- **Low-Carbon Circulation and Parking:**
- Design North Uhle Street between 15th Street and Clarendon Boulevard to be pedestrian only. E2C2 supports that 15th Street North / North Veitch Street between Clarendon Boulevard and North Courthouse Road be exclusively available to pedestrians and public transportation. E2C2 supports the location of the small taxi stand and car drop off point to be available on Clarendon Boulevard at the entrance to North Uhle Street.
 - Locate the entrance to the proposed underground parking structure on North Courthouse Road between 14th Street North and 13 Street North as there is sufficient grade at this point to allow for a simple entrance way and the entrance way would be closest to Route 50 decreasing car traffic on local streets and increasing safety.
 - Expand North Uhle Street / 14 Street North proposed entrance way between the current AMC Theater and 2250 Clarendon Boulevard, with a wide terrace design allowing for scenic views available to pedestrians and retail business, such as restaurants looking south. This would optimize pedestrian access.
 - Include electric vehicle charging stations in the proposed parking garage.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our thoughts supporting Envision Courthouse Square to expand and deepen the proposed master plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Dicke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott Dicke

Chair, E2C2