

ARLINGTON COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201

June 1, 2021

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

RE: RCA Building Project – 1901 N. Moore St.

Dear Chair de Ferranti,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) is generally supportive of the development proposal to construct a residential building on the property known as the Rosslyn RCA site, located at 1901 N. Moore St. The design would be unique to Rosslyn being two towers each topped by vegetated green roof terraces with a distinctive “sky window” connecting the towers and an observation deck. As described in Staff Report, the design also includes a living green wall on the building frontage of North Moore Street, enhancing the biophilic features and spaces of the landscaping on the street. Other biophilic features include native species plantings, with pollinator friendly and drought tolerant plants to promote year-round biodiversity.

The building site is also directly adjacent to Gateway Park and in consideration that there is a lack of on-site open space, the applicant will be providing a \$2.2 million open space contribution that will go toward future improvements to public open spaces within Rosslyn, such as, at Gateway Park. We appreciate and support these contributions which are continuing a community supported practice of developer’s monetary support for public open space in our urban corridors.

As result of the SPRC meetings, several revisions were made to the project design including the addition of bird-friendly glass on a portion of the ground floor of building. However, we believe that the sky window poses a serious fly-through danger for birds and should also have bird-safe glass. Also, we suggest that more of the northern facade of the building should be bird safe. Those floors of the building will be exposed to the very near natural areas inland along the river, which is one of the most active bird habitat and migratory flyway corridors in our region.

The PRC is generally supportive of the applicant’s request for a rezoning and site plan amendment for the development of the Rosslyn RCA with the caveat that the provision of more bird-friendly protective measures should be included in the final design.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William W. Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and a distinct '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