

Rosslyn Process Panel (RPP) Meeting #13, Summary

September 25, 2013; 7:00-9:30 pm

2100 Clarendon Blvd., Third Floor, County Board Room

Panel Members in Attendance: Brian Harner, John Grant, Paul Holland, Tim Helmig, Stuart Stein, Andy VanHorn, Jennifer Zeien, Jay Fiset (County Board liaison)

Staff in Attendance: Kellie Brown, Anthony Fusarelli, Scott McPartlin, Claude Williamson, (Ben Carlson)

1. Welcome

- Brian Harner, Chair of the Rosslyn Process Panel, provided opening remarks and led introductions, welcoming John Grant as new Transportation Commission representative on the panel.

2. Updates/Follow Up from July 24 Process Panel Meeting

- Reviewed dates for upcoming Panel Meetings: Panel members confirmed December 11 and February 19 as workable meeting dates.

3. Presentation on Public Realm

- The first part of the presentation focused on follow up on public parks and open space and public realm components of the draft vision framework in greater detail.

4. Panel Discussion Points on Public Realm

- A similar presentation was made to Park and Recreation Commission on 9/24, and the Commission indicated strong support for 18th Street Corridor and the Esplanade concepts; Noted a lot of potential for major open spaces to bookend 18th Street, with the future of the Wilson School site and Rosslyn Plaza. Cannot overstate the importance of better connections; would be great to see Wilson Boulevard and Boathouse on the map as well;
- One observation is a lack of active recreation facilities walkable to Rosslyn – how to address?
- Interested in how much detail will this plan get into; in terms of precedent places, likes examples of Millennium Park/Seattle Bridge; believes that elevators essential to success of Freedom Park;
- Interest in knowing how planned park improvements would affect ratios/estimates for Rosslyn; does not appear to be a whole lot of new park space in the future;
- Think more about how we are addressing the uses we may be deficient on, perhaps through better connections;
- Questions on how we take the programming chart and address future uses; some confusion on line between active and passive uses;
- If an assumption for West Rosslyn Area Planning Study is a new 60,000sf open space at 18th and Quinn Streets, should illustrate that;
- Excited to see proposals for cycle tracks; but would push for commensurate investments going over the bridges into the District;
- Need to consider how to expand tree canopy in existing and future parks in Rosslyn to address lack of “green”; how can wider sidewalks, soil volume, etc. help improve/increase tree canopy;
- In reviewing survey results, interesting to see the types of uses that people want; the Esplanade can be the key to the whole thing;
- The green of park service land, Roosevelt Island, and Mt Vernon trail could be emphasized graphically more; Esplanade seems to be lynch pin and connecting to Iwo Jima is a great idea;
- Need to consider other types of open space...boathouse is a key opportunity;

- Materials really helpful in framing the public realm issues; in terms of projected new dwelling units and jobs, those numbers may be conservatively low;
- On the Esplanade, need to recognize tradeoffs with a larger open space to the east, adjacent to the Esplanade; also would like to see more ideas about potential improvements to Dark Star Park;
- The illustrative hand sketches are very helpful and should work well for the workshop;

5. Presentation on Updated Approach to 10/4-10/5 Community Engagement

6. Panel Discussion Points on Updated Approach to 10/4-10/5 Community Engagement

- Process Panel Members agrees to report back on focus group discussions at workshop;
- Need to refocus the threshold questions, they are too detailed for a productive conversation;
- Transportation questions in particular need additional work to help frame the workshop;
- Staff has been in contact with staff at other regional partner agencies to invite them to attend and participate at the workshop or open house;
- Appears to be at least 10 different topics in transportation; might need to be boil this down to more simplified form;
- Workshop should focus on presenting major ideas and concepts – to get frank input on those; the more we focus on the big picture, the more productive the workshop will be;
- There are issues where we do really need community input; tell us why things we are proposing will or will not work (and what are they);
- Need to allow conversation about potential impacts, such as two-way streets,
- Also need to budget in time/venue for free form discussion to suggest things that we haven't thought of in this process;
- To the extent we can get people to help prioritize items, we should do that, based on a conversation around tradeoffs and understanding what people value most;
- In terms of outreach, need to ensure we are reaching right media outlets to help create buzz and spread word about the open community workshops, including: Arlnow; Bisnow; WBJ; CityBiz; Leadership Arlington; Chamber of Commerce; Greater Greater Washington, Rosslyn BID; etc.

9. Adjourn