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5-15-10

May 15, 2010

City Council Item #2 Citizen General Discussion Notes

Presented by Annie I Meighan Kendrick, 12 East Del Ray Avenue, Alexandria, Va 22301

As noted in the zoning and planning documents concerning SUP 2010-0011, I have for the past nine weeks provided a great deal of information to my neighbors regarding the development and redevelopment of Potomac West. As of today's date, I have distributed over 1,000 documents concerning various interest groups' position papers on development of our area, copies of actual SUPs and overlay plans as well as several civil applications and documents that direct citizens to various organizations for personal relief and assistance. I have made numerous phone calls, attended living room meetings, as well as meetings here in city hall all in an attempt to understand and resolve issues affecting my neighbors and neighborhood during the implementation of the Mt. Vernon Overlay Plan.

Many lessons have been learned over these past weeks and it is because of this that I ask the following of you:

Topic: Citizen request #1: I request the council to form an "implementation advisory group" as the city of Alexandria implements its overlay, redevelopment, and development plans for the small area known as Potomac West (referred to by citizens as the neighborhoods of Del Ray, Arlandria, and Potomac Greens).

According to Planning and Zoning there are currently over 23,000 citizens residing in Potomac West. A great deal of development is or will be taking place in this area. Citizen representation is desperately needed as such civic organizations as DRCA do not represent all citizens who reside within neighborhood boundaries (e.g. Del Ray residents number in the thousands and DRCA currently has a membership of mid-500s).

Those who will be affected by Potomac West development have many, many concerns. There needs to be a neutral authority to address and/or at least acknowledge those concerns. There is a great deal of precedent for forming an implementation advisory group and I ask for transparency during this process, which frankly has been extremely difficult to achieve during this process. I strongly urge you to do so for the good of my neighborhood.

Topic: Citizen request #2: I request that a formal cost neutral environmental impact statement be added to the staff report for any SUP that comes for review to this council.

I have been told by zoning and planning time and time again that Virginia is pro-business in response to environmental concerns. I did not understand the reference. I do now.

I have been told many times by planning and zoning that I am one of a few alarmists who are unduly concerned about neighborhood environmental impacts caused by development and redevelopment.

For the record, I, like many of my neighbors, believe Main Street and Green Street can not only co-exist but help each other thrive. I, like many of my neighbors, believe one does not have to be pro-business or pro-environment, but instead together can be pro-Alexandria and it takes both to be successful.

For the record, I like some of my neighbors, am alarmed by environmental impacts caused by the redevelopment of my neighborhood. I am alarmed that running groups whose path take them along Russell Road and Commonwealth have noticed a huge change in air quality in the past five years that affects their running performance; I am alarmed that my neighbor who suffers from hydrocephalus and is house bound can only make his foray into the outside world on code green days; I am alarmed that pediatricians in this area note that the rise in childhood allergies and asthma is caused by environmental factors; I am alarmed that on hot summer days a woman will sit with her child in a bus shelter along Mt. Vernon Avenue and because of the degree of fumes have to cover her child's mouth with tissues in order to help that child breath. But mostly I am alarmed that in 2010 my zoning board does not see the need to include a cost neutral environmental impact statement when assessing SUPs.

For the sake of those I mentioned and the thousands of citizens I have not, I ask you to make the environmental impact statement a requirement of SUPs.

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SUP Process in
General (6)
2c

SPEAKER'S FORM

DOCKET ITEM NO. 2

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND GIVE IT TO THE CITY CLERK
BEFORE YOU SPEAK ON A DOCKET ITEM.

PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED BELOW PRIOR TO SPEAKING.

1. **NAME:** annie Meighan ~~Kendrick~~ Kendrick
2. **ADDRESS:** 12 East Del Ray Avenue
TELEPHONE NO. 7035483937 **E-MAIL:** tetaannie@mac.com
3. **WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF?**
self
4. **WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?**
Other
5. **NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY,
LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):**
property owner
6. **ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE
COUNCIL?**
No

This form shall be kept as a part of the permanent record in those instances where financial interest or compensation is indicated by the speaker.

A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for your presentation, except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard on a docket item shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation. If you have a prepared statement, please leave a copy with the Clerk.

Additional time not to exceed 15 minutes may be obtained with the consent of the majority of the council present; provided notice requesting additional time with reasons stated is filed with the City Clerk in writing before 5:00 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting.

The public normally may speak on docket items only at public hearing meetings, and not at regular legislative meetings. Public hearing meetings are usually held on the Saturday following the second Tuesday in each month; regular legislative meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month. The rule with respect to when a person may speak to a docket item at a legislative meeting can be waived by a majority vote of council members present but such a waiver is not normal practice. When a speaker is recognized, the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply. If an item is docketed *for public hearing* at a regular legislative meeting, the public may speak to that item, and the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply.