

De La Vega, Maritza

From: jhtcav <jhtcav@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2014 3:45 PM
To: Frank, Aaron M.; Fiebe, Joanne K; Hagg, Elizabeth A.
Subject: Fwd: Leesburg Pike Opportunity Area vote in August

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE Smartphone.

----- Original message -----

Mr. Chairman,

At the Task Force meeting on Tuesday night, you presented three options for development of the Sears property, including one that would have 100% residential development, with no community-serving retail at all. A straw poll of Task Force members was conducted and the option with no retail was approved.

We are deeply concerned that, apparently, a binding vote will be taken at the next Task Force meeting, in August. I think it is fair to say that our neighborhood, which was well represented at the meeting on Tuesday, is up in arms.

We would like to note that:

- 1) This appears to directly contradict the vision's emphasis on walkable, community-serving, mixed development.
- 2) The proposal was not made public prior to the meeting, and was introduced after the public comment period portion of the meeting had been completed.
- 3) Several representatives of our community on the Task Force were not available to attend the meeting and represent the obvious, and predictable, concerns of our neighborhoods.
- 4) The vote is planned for the next August meeting, with no opportunity for community members to address the Task Force before the vote.

Whatever the intentions may be, it appears to our neighborhood that this change to the Task Force's recommendations is being railroaded through, during the month of August when many residents are on vacation, at the request of the developer.

In order to preserve the integrity of the Task Force process, its commitment to public input and to respond to neighborhood concerns, and the positive working relationship between the Task Force and the residents of the neighborhoods for which it is making recommendations, I urge you to reconsider this ill-advised proposal. At a minimum, I urge you to:

- 1) schedule a public comment opportunity on this significant revision to the Task Force's recommendations at a Task Force meeting, when all or virtually all Task Force members can be in attendance, to be held after Labor Day.
- 2) Delay the vote on this proposal until after public comment can be heard by Task Force members and residents can return from vacation to learn more about the proposal.
- 3) Share this request with all Task Force members.

Thank you,

Catriona McCormack
President, Ravenwood Neighborhood Association

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