

## **Park and Recreation Commission Meeting**

**Nov 18, 2008**

7:00pm

DHS building, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3033 Wilson Blvd.

### **Topic: Crystal City Policy Framework and Illustrative Concept Plan**

Neal Sigmon provided brief background on the Crystal City Planning Process to date. Anthony Fusarelli and Diane Probus gave a staff presentation on the key elements of the Plan and Policy Directives, focusing on open space elements. Following the staff presentation, Admiral Whittaker spoke as a representative from the Crystal Drive Condo Task Force, followed by comments from Mitch Bonanno, member of the Crystal City Planning Task Force, representing Vornado Charles E. Smith.

Questions and comments that arose by PRC members during the meeting included the following:

- ✓ Is there a quid pro quo for additional density? Is the existing development potential in Crystal City maxed out under current zoning?
- ✓ How was the underground dealt with?
- ✓ Can the Center Park really be achieved?
- ✓ It seems that the building need to be removed to allow Center Park will come down at some point, and that there is more new development on that block to offset.
- ✓ Were tree pits and other such areas excluded from the open space calculations?
- ✓ Why are existing street medians not counted as open space when proposed open spaces that appear as medians are counted?
- ✓ One of the goals mentions strategically located open space – what does this refer to?
- ✓ The commission chair is drafting a letter for PRC consideration prior to sending it on to the County Board. Some of the ideas included in the letter are suggested master plans for Eads and Virginia Highlands Parks, requests that more attention is given to phasing/timing of open space, a focus on high-quality open space, if the quantity can only be increased so much. Also, there is a desire for county standards to be developed for determining the appropriate amount of public open space in its urban areas.
- ✓ Some commission members voiced concern that there is not enough open space in the plan, or that open space before and after was not being looked at in a consistent fashion.