

Urban Forestry Commission Meeting

Sept 25, 2008

7:30pm (Crystal City Policy Directives)

2100 Clarendon Blvd., Conference Room Azalea

Topic: Crystal City Planning Process; Policy Directives

Anthony Fusarelli gave a staff presentation on the process to date, highlighting key elements of the Plan and Policy Directives, focusing on open space and tree canopy coverage related elements. Ernesto Martinez, county urban forester, provide a presentation on the canopy coverage analysis.

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

- ✓ Did the analysis consider the likely disruption to newly planted street trees that would be caused by adjacent construction? How was this treated?
- ✓ Plan should clarify what is meant by Open Space within RBL's – what does this mean?
- ✓ Is the proposed open space plan a consensus document – if not, what are the resident and landowner concerns.
- ✓ Where are existing parks being lost to planned infill development?
- ✓ Did the canopy coverage analysis assume that trees aren't going to get live much longer than 20 years?
- ✓ How will new standards (expectations for planting strips and latest technologies) be incorporated into the plan or implementation?
- ✓ If the UFC were to recommend revised language for the tree canopy coverage, when should it best be submitted?
- ✓ Given the county's ability to perform canopy analyses with greater sophistication, it may make sense to inform the County Board that Crystal City already exceeds to 15% goal for central business districts (admittedly based on national standards)
- ✓ Should the UFC support a long-term goal for canopy coverage in Crystal City of 19%, based on the results of the analysis?
- ✓ It should be noted the analysis is based on just one possible outcome, and involves assumptions that may or may not hold true over time.
- ✓ Landowners stated concern over potentially tighter restrictions in Crystal City than elsewhere in the County.
- ✓ There appears to be more planned open space in the northern areas of Crystal City than the south – what is the rationale behind this?
- ✓ It would be helpful to know what the existing canopy coverage figures are in other areas as a basis for comparison with Crystal City.