

Crystal City Sector Plan, Information Update

Park and Recreation Commission, Meeting Summary -

Mar. 23, 2010

Committee Discussion/Remarks

- A projected 100% increase in resident population should be coupled with 100% increase in open space. A 10-15% increase in open space for the projected population growth is inadequate.
- If possible, buildings should be encouraged to provide and program space that benefits the community, even though it's not actual public open space. (E.g the conference center facility at the NRECA).
- The potential for building rooftops to be used for recreational activity should also be explored.
- Generally supportive of the LEED, environmental sustainability, and rainwater harvesting elements of the Plan.
- Throughout plan discussions, the point about the insufficient amount of open space west of Jefferson Davis Highway struggled to be heard, and is not resolved.
- Continued concern that the Center Park needs to be able to be achieved; there should be a viable strategy, especially since the block is planned for more development than exists there today.
- Quality of open space is important; it's not just about quantity. Improved accessibility and visibility of the spaces is key to making the Plan work.
- The Park and Recreation Commission should have a role in ensuring the planned open spaces are achieved. The commission should charge itself with very carefully monitoring Crystal City in the future, to make sure we are getting the open spaces called for in the plan. It's understood that some flexibility is needed, but actual spaces should not depart too much from the Plan.
- Should keep in mind that there is no County owned public open space in Crystal City today; the goal is to increase county control of spaces through easements or ownership.
- Some contend that the before and after comparison of open space is inaccurate, recognizing different methodologies may have been used to quantify the spaces.
- It's difficult to imagine how some of the smaller open spaces are going to be used for active recreation.
- With respect to the County's work on the Land Acquisition Policy, the commission should be active in finding creative ways to find more open space throughout the plan.