

Monday, September 25, 2006

I would like to introduce myself. I am Amy Connelly, a George Washington University MBA student but more importantly a Foggy Bottom resident. I have come today before the zoning commission in support of the George Washington/Foggy Bottom redevelopment plan.

Prior to becoming a full-time student, I worked within the home building industry for 5 years. Within the last few years, the industry has really seen a change in how it looks at traditional development. Insiders have thrown out such buzz words as mixed use, transit-oriented-developments, new urbanism, and smart growth just to name a few. But what does all this mean? The words sound nice, but what is the practice behind them? What will I get out of it? These are questions I would be asking myself as a concerned resident within Foggy Bottom.

These are questions I too have asked. Through prior experience within the industry, research, and a better understanding of the plan in question, I can best illustrate "smart-growth" with the following attributes:

1. Walkability
2. Connectivity
3. Mixed-use and diversity
4. Quality architecture and urban design
5. Traditional neighborhood structure
6. Smart transportation
7. Sustainability

In summary these together lead to a higher quality of life; Better places to live, work, & play; Higher, more stable property values; Less traffic congestion & less driving; Healthier lifestyles with more walking, and less stress; Close proximity to main street retail & services; Close proximity to bike trails, parks, and nature; Pedestrian friendly communities offering more opportunities to get to know others in the neighborhood and town, resulting in meaningful relationships with more people, and a friendlier community; More freedom and independence to children, elderly, and the poor in being able to get to jobs, recreation, and services without the need for a car or someone to drive them; Great savings to residents and school boards in reduced busing costs from children being able to walk or bicycle to neighborhood schools; More diversity and smaller, unique shops and services with local owners who are involved in community; Big savings by driving less, and owning less cars; Less ugly, congested sprawl to deal with daily; Better sense of place and community identity with more unique architecture; and more open space to enjoy with the promise it will remain open space; More efficient use of tax money with less spent on spread out utilities and roads.

And the George Washington/Foggy Bottom redevelopment plan will be no different. Its plan is to add to and enhance the vibrancy already found within the campus and surrounding community.

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
**District of Columbia**

CASE NO. 06-11

EXHIBIT NO. 123

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.06-11  
EXHIBIT NO.123