

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. 06-12

EXHIBIT NO. 101

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