



POPS Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

October 05, 2017

7:30am-9:30am

Courthouse Plaza

In attendance:

POPS Advisory Committee

- Caroline Haynes, Park and Recreation Commission
- Jane Rudolph, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Jim Feaster, NCAC
- Claire O’Dea, E2C2
- Lisa Grandle, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Elizabeth Gearin, Park and Recreation Commission
- Jane Siegel, Planning Commission
- Carrie Johnson, At Large
- Leo Sarli, Arlington Commission for the Arts, Alternate
- Justine Wilt, Sports Commission

Absent:

- Janet Kopenhaver, Arlington Commission for the Arts
- Toby Smith, At Large
- Dean Amel, Urban Forestry Commission
- William Gillen, APS

Department of Parks and Recreation Staff:

- Erik Beach
- Irena Lazic

Public:

- Tony Trabandt
- Gail Harrison
- Roy Gamse



Summary:

On October 5, 2017, the POPS Advisory Committee met to discuss the community feedback received on the POPS draft. Specific items that needed further discussion were also discussed as well as the next steps in the process.

Specific Feedback Discussion

It was suggested that the level of service analysis can be difficult to understand, and a step-by-step guide should be included in the revised POPS draft to better explain the methodology.

Members wanted to get clarification on any policies or guidance that would allow dog runs on private properties. They agreed that having more dog runs on private properties would help balance the need for different type of amenities the County needs to provide for its residents. Some members suggested finding alternative/creative ways to meet the need for dog areas, such as rooftop dog runs and exploring different surface materials. Dog runs along Hudson River in New York City were mentioned as good examples for urban dog runs.

Members discussed a possibility to include some guidelines on the impact of private development on the tree canopy, however, they concluded that such guidelines were more appropriate for the Urban Forest Master Plan that addresses tree issues on private properties. Potential issues with storm water management practices and their impact on the trees were discussed.

Preliminary design principles for casual use spaces were presented to the Committee, and it was generally agreed that trees should be included as part of casual use spaces. There was discussion about the inclusion of fields, and other spaces that are temporarily available. It was generally agreed that there is no need to be prescriptive in defining casual use spaces, but should instead focus on developing some baseline guidelines that would include principles of design, basic amenities, etc. The Committee argued that the POPS document should include design principles, definition, and other qualitative analysis, but that quantitative analysis and mapping would come later, as an implementation step. It was also suggested that a note should be added in the POPS document that would explain that the other amenities identified as part of the level of service analysis would not be achieved at the expense of casual use spaces.

The Committee also discussed privately owned public spaces. The discussion focused on a possibility to include design criteria for these spaces that would include minimum amenities that need to be provided by developers. It was suggested that these principles could be a new appendix in the POPS document. Another suggestion was made to look into the existing plans (Crystal City, Columbia Pike, etc.) and take the best elements from these documents and include them in the design principles.

Members discussed specific items for the upcoming public meetings, including land acquisitions, and concluded that the scoring criteria from the preliminary POPS draft was complex and needs some clarity. Members also suggested including a discussion about land acquisition tools in the POPS document as well as in the upcoming meeting with the community. Members emphasized the need to explore ways



to allow more flexibility when acquiring new land, so the decisions could be made fast, before the land is purchased by developers.

The Committee discussed the next steps in the POPS process, and concluded that having an executive summary of the plan would be helpful to have for different commission reviews of the final draft.