

From: Susan English [mailto:engphil@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 4:17 PM
To: Natalie Sun
Cc: Katie Buck; James Oliver; Michael Dowell
Subject: Pentagon Row Plaza re-design

Natalie,

The ARCA Executive Board discussed the Pentagon Row Plaza re-design briefly at a meeting on January 8. I said I felt that Federal Realty had made a good effort to listen to residents, communicate with county staff, and to address concerns. I said that overall, I liked more things than not about the plan. Yes, I'm not totally thrilled about having freestanding retail, but Federal Realty has eliminated one building and sized down the other; they listened to concerns about pedestrian access and flow not only within the plaza, but in other areas of the Row development. They are using better turf.

If the project is approved, I am interested in learning more about how the construction process will be managed. That is, there are county requirements and codes, but construction will mean that things are torn up for periods of time during the busy warm weather months, when people enjoy the restaurants and outdoor seating and play areas, and I think how it is handled is important (and will influence public opinion).

The Exec Board agreed that the plan was worthy of support. It is on the agenda for our Thursday January 19 meeting. I plan to explain why I think it is, on balance, probably an improvement over the existing plaza in some ways, if not all. The ARCA membership can vote (to support, not support, support with caveats). I'll let you know Friday morning how the ARCA membership feels about the project.

Thank you,
Susan

From: AHCA President [mailto:ahcapresident@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 5:08 PM
To: Natalie Sun
Subject: Draft Staff Position on Pentagon Row Plaza site plan amendment #105

Ms. Sun:

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents in our neighborhood who have expressed interest in or submitted comments on the proposed changes to the Plaza at Pentagon Row.

First and foremost, I must say that we are very pleased with the level of engagement from both the county and the property owner on this issue. We appreciate the presentation to the Aurora Highlands Civic Association in November of 2011, the opportunities to submit comments, and the survey that was distributed electronically.

Additionally, we appreciate that our comments and concerns have been listened to and addressed. We understand that, in many cases, this resulted in some sort of compromise between what the property owner had originally proposed and what county staff or our community thought was workable.

Many in our community have expressed an interest in providing the type of "user feedback" that we provided on the plaza when it comes to improving other areas of Pentagon Row. "Users", shoppers, customers or whatever they call themselves who care enough about an area to want to see it maintained or improved can provide invaluable feedback about the experience of a place that drawing and photos will never capture.

As we have not had an opportunity to have a membership meeting and discuss the Pentagon Row Plaza since this draft county staff position was released, your email has been circulated among all residents that we are aware have expressed an interest or submitted comments and this letter expresses their consensus. As always, individual residents are welcome and encouraged to express their own opinions.

Historically, AHCA does not endorse or give approval for any actions like these, but merely states that it has no opposition. Likewise, this group which does represent the executive committee of AHCA as well as several other civic leaders would like to express that we do not oppose the position taken in the draft county staff position.

Please share my appreciation with the property owner for their willingness to engage with and respond to our neighborhood.

If I can answer any questions or provide anything further, please respond to this email or call me anytime on (703) 867-8976

My very best,

Jim Oliver, AHCA President

#38