

No Means No on Rec Center Plan

To the Editor:

When news of a Walmart-sized county recreation center leaked out to the public in early May, the RA and RCC boards immediately

scheduled four district meetings to "listen" to the residents of Reston. The first district meeting was last week and the final meeting will conclude on July 21.

Ironically, the RA/RCC joint task force has new plans for a Recreation Center "Lite" at Brown's Chapel Park. As a result, if you don't like \$100 million, how about \$85 million for the "Lite" plan? The new plan is complete while the "listening" tour is just beginning.

In the new plan, the RA/RCC task omits the tennis courts while they throw in a lighted baseball field. But the result is the same, the destruction of Brown's Chapel Park. It is amazing how the leadership of RA and RCC can come up with a second alternative to destroy Brown's Chapel Park while they are still in the middle of their "listening" tour.

There are several board members within RA and RCC that are truly concerned and want to listen to the people, but they are left out of the inner circle. The board leadership of RA and RCC make up the RA/RCC joint taskforce. It appears to many that they spoon feed other board members limited information while they patronize the residents of Reston with a "listening" tour. Transparency is lack-

ing within the RA and RCC boards.

At last week's RA board meeting, director Joe Leighton made a formal motion to prohibit the conveyance of Brown's Chapel Park to Fairfax County. The RA board leadership tried to shut down Joe by stating his motion was not on the agenda. Joe stood his ground and held to his motion and asked for second support. While Joe's motion received second support, the board voted 6 to 1 to table the motion until the July 23 board meeting. The reason the board gave for tabling the motion is the district meetings have not been completed. Yet the RA/RCC Taskforce already have their compromise plan in place, the "Lite" version.

RCC wants to construct a county recreation center at Brown's Chapel Park. RA members own the land. The RA board will ask its members for the conveyance of Brown's Chapel Park to Fairfax County.

For every 100 Reston residents who are opposed to the county facility on Reston land there may be one who is in favor, until they learn that the facility will be paid for solely by Reston. The residents want RA to take care of their existing facilities, upgrade them where necessary to include indoor tennis or swimming. They also want their park land off the table for destruction.

Not a Walmart or a Walmart "Lite" plan at Brown's Chapel Park. We hope the board will listen. No means No!

Rick Beyer

Co-Chair Save Brown's Chapel

