



**Reston Community Center
Board of Governors Monthly Meeting
March 3, 2014
8:00 p.m.
Meeting Agenda**

8:00 – Call to Order	Beverly Cosham, Chair
8:02 – Approval of Agenda	Beverly Cosham, Chair
8:03 – Approval of Minutes and Board Actions	Beverly Cosham, Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of February 3, 2014 Board Minutes (As Reviewed and Approved by the Board Secretary) • Approval of February 3, 2014 Board Actions (As Reviewed and Approved by the Board Secretary) 	
8:05 – Chair’s Remarks	Beverly Cosham, Chair
8:07 – Introduction of Visitors	
8:08 – Citizen Input	
8:12 – Committee Reports	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 10 Community Relations and Program/Policy Joint Committee Meeting Report 	Vicky Wingert & Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt, Committee Chairs
8:20 – Approval of Committee Reports	Beverly Cosham, Chair
8:22 – Board Member Input on Activities Attended	
8:30 – Executive Director’s Report	Leila Gordon, Executive Director
8:34 – Old Business	Beverly Cosham, Chair
8:40 – New Business	Beverly Cosham, Chair
8:45 – Adjournment	

Reminders:

Event	Date	Time
Community Relations & Program/Policy Meeting	March 10	6:30 p.m.
Finance Committee Meeting	March 17	6:00 p.m.
Park Authority Baron Cameron Park Public Input Meeting	March 27	7:00 p.m.
April Monthly Meeting	April 7	8:00 p.m.



**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

Present:

- Beverly Cosham, Chair
- Bill Bouie
- John Mendonça
- Michelle Moyer
- Cathy Vivona
- Vicky Wingert

Absent and Excused:

- Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt
- Bill Penniman
- Gerald Zavala

Attending from the RCC Staff:

- Leila Gordon, Executive Director
- Cristin Bratt, Public Information Officer

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

MOTION #1:

Approval of the Agenda

Bill B. moved that the Agenda be approved as written. Cathy seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #2:

Approval of the December 2, 2013 Board Minutes

Bill B. moved that the Board approve the December 2, 2013 Board Minutes. John seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #3:

Approval of the December 2, 2013 Board Actions

Bill B. moved that the Board approve the December 2, 2013 Board Actions. Cathy seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Chair's Remarks

Bev wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoped everyone is still following their resolutions. She also hopes everyone had a chance to partake in the Reston Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration festivities; it was a fantastic and informative three days and a great opportunity to get to know members of the community. She noted that we lost Philip Seymour Hoffman yesterday and Pete Seeger last week. Bev met Pete Seeger years ago in her union organizing days. She thinks he was an important person and it was great to remember that he was part of her life too.

Introduction of Visitors

None.

Citizen Input

None.

Committee Reports

December 16, 2013 Committee Report

Cathy reviewed the committee report and said new Board member Michelle Moyer attended as a committee member for the first time and so the group provided her with an introduction to the committee while reviewing the budget and any deviations. Most departments were performing ahead of expectations for revenue; the exception was interest revenue, but that fluctuation is not under our control. The group discussed private swim lessons and noted that the price increased to \$35 per half hour. The Personnel budget reflected a one-time, County-initiated bonus for employees. Cathy questioned expenditures for the Board of Governors and found that a large portion of that is for the Preference Poll voting, postage and fees. The group discussed the success of the new Paddock Evacuator for the pool. Leila reiterated to the group that the staff is committed to achieving a balanced budget profile by FY16. Leila also explained that there was also allocation of funds to underwrite the retirement system as required by law. During the meeting, Leila announced that Barbara Wilmer joined the staff as an Executive Assistant.

January 3-4, 2014 Strategic Planning Session Report

Bill B. said the minutes from the Strategic Planning Session reports are available and provide extensive detail on the two-day session. There were no citizens present at the beginning, though one showed up later in the day on January 3. On that day, the group focused on reviewing the current Strategic Plan and performed a SWOT analysis. They also discussed open and incomplete items. On January 4, a citizen was present again. The Board and staff revisited the vision, mission and values to determine if things needed to be changed or enhanced. Reston resident Terry Maynard gave public comment on his ideas regarding the recreation center and growth in Reston as it pertains to tax revenue. The group reviewed the January 3 SWOT Analysis and considered RCC goals in two possible futures, one with new facilities and one without.

Leila noted that the Vision, Mission & Values statement was updated based on the Board's requests on January 4, as well as to address several grammar issues. She asked the Board to review that revised document. The Board reviewed and found no issues with it.

MOTION #4:

Approval of the December & January Committee Reports

John moved that the Board approve all committee reports. Bill B. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Cathy).

Board Member Input on Activities Attended

Michelle said she attended several Martin Luther King weekend events including the march, concert, and the keynote address/lunch. She was a bit heartbroken that weather affected the artist residency programs in the schools the next day. Leila assured her that they are being rescheduled.

Cathy was unavailable this month following a death in her family.

Bill B. said that the Baron Cameron Park concept master plan was released to the public two weeks ago. It will be discussed in a public hearing on March 27, likely at Buzz Aldrin Elementary School. The master plan concept included notes and letters in which RCC communicated to the Park Authority that it would like consideration of a partnership in putting together a recreation facility either at Baron Cameron Park or the Reston Town Center North location. The Baron Cameron Park concept plans include one with space for a facility and one without that space. The plans also include very active synthetic turf fields, an enhanced dog park, a connector trail and a basketball court. After March 27, there will be a 30-day comment period and then the plan will come back to the Park Authority board for final approval, likely sometime in June. Bill said that whatever the Park Authority adopts in June will come with no dollars attached to it. The only way anything will be done would be through partnerships or through a very large bond. He noted that the County is now looking at five-year capital plans instead of ten years. Bonding would be matched up with capital plans within those five-year windows. Bill is also setting up a meeting between IPAR and the Park Authority regarding the memorial garden location. He said he had the opportunity to emcee the MLK community lunch and keynote. Last Tuesday, he received a proclamation for the African-American history month from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and was able to deliver remarks on behalf of the community.

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Cathy asked what the outstanding bond debt is from the Park Authority through the County. Bill explained that there is one large ten-year capital improvement plan, funded by bonds. This included many different agencies within the County: the Park Authority, schools, libraries, etc. The Park Authority needs \$350 million to meet existing capital needs. Another challenge is that funding is not immediately available like it used to be. Only a certain amount may be spent each year, in order to stretch out the timeline in terms of the bond issues and the County's debt ceiling.

Cathy asked if this was to hedge against default. Bill said no, it was to stay in line with the County's budget. Other options have to be explored for realizing new facilities or improvements ahead of the plan schedule. For example, Bill explained that McLean Soccer provided money for new synthetic fields, as well as for Park Authority staff to create these new fields. This was a great partnership which allowed the Park Authority to move that action item up on their list.

There was discussion about Fairfax County bonds and how they work. Bill said the County needed space to build a new school in Bailey's Crossroads and ended up purchasing an office building that will be retrofitted as a school. This is an example of a new concept approach to school building that is more cost-effective than the traditional way.

Vicky asked if there was a major difference in the Baron Cameron Park plans, other than the recreation center. Leila said the concept with the facility indicates a rooftop field. The amenities are similar, though they might be in different locations. For example, the basketball court would be inside on the plan with a facility. The concept plan without a recreation center indicates an area with concessions and restrooms. Bill said there's a net difference of two rectangular fields between the two concept plans.

Vicky said she's been busy with *The Reston Story* movie this month.

John attended the Sweet Honey in the Rock concert, the art exhibit at GRACE, the Lake Anne redevelopment meeting and the Reston Camp Expo. The Board agreed that the Camp Expo had a huge, fantastic turnout. John's not sure if we reached the folks that are unaware of all the options. Leila said the feedback from the vendors was that the participants were very appreciative because they didn't realize how many options were available to them. Leila also said there were non-English speaking families that benefitted from the translators that were on hand. She said the attendance target was 250 and we had 637 people at the Expo.

Michelle added that she is a member of Christ the Servant Church (next to RCC Hunters Woods) and they are now open on Tuesday afternoons as an outpost for Cornerstones to try to help the homeless persons that have caused some issues at Hunters Woods Plaza; they are hoping to help relieve the church of some of their duties which have become a bit too much. This gives Cornerstones direct access to what's happening on the plaza. She said the church also feeds Fellowship House residents once a month and they are very eager diners.

Bev attended that Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce breakfast with Leila, John and Gerald. She then attended the Best of Reston award nominees announcement that evening, and sends her congratulations out to Carol Ann Bradley, Cate Fulkerson and all the nominees. Bev said she had a busy and exhausting schedule for Martin Luther King weekend, but enjoyed every minute of it. She thinks Kevin Danaher and the MLK planning committee did a fantastic job. She also noted Mr. T's exhibit at Lake Anne was fantastic. It was photography, but it was so much more. She thought the captions at the bottom of his photos allowed you to see his photos differently; they were personal and thoughtful and she was amazed at the perspective they offered on the photographer and his work.

Executive Director's Report

Leila said our second successful online registration occurred on Saturday, February 1. There were very few issues and the functionality of the software is where we need it to be in order to accommodate the intensity of interest immediately when registration opens. Barbara Wilmer is coordinating County training requirements at RCC facilities, which allow for targeted discussion within our agency staff. We've served 75 enrollments so far and another 26 are enrolled on February 6. She reported that the third quarter budget memo is ready for Bev to sign tonight and we're on target with revenue performance. We anticipate achieving revenue targets in FY14 revised budgets. Between Personnel and Operating costs, we anticipate overall savings of about half a million dollars.

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Leila also noted that the MLK celebration weekend and the Camp Expo were both successful. The Camp Expo was an opportunity for many different agencies to collaborate on something that has immediate, tangible results. It improves the relationships between organizations and provides a foundation for Serving Reston Youth to continue exploring ways to maximize service to young people in the community. We also want to work with the school system in particular to see how we can fill gaps. Leila said she's attended many meetings this month. She had a meeting with Colin Mills of Reston Citizens Association to brief him on the Board's strategic planning discussion parameters and update him on the status of the two site priorities that we've identified for indoor recreation and efforts seeking financial support to underwrite those efforts. She also spoke about the IPAR memorial garden. Colin was appreciative and interested and pledged RCA's positive involvement with RCC moving forward.

Leila said we are preparing for our February 10 meeting and will structure the meeting around those crossover issues we discussed on January 4, such as connectivity, communications, partnership/collaborative efforts and programming. These were identified as priorities regardless of whether or not a facility is built. Leila noted that she spent a great deal of time in January getting up early and updating our phone system on cancellations. She's looking forward to launching the new website where we can make weather updates online, which we're currently not able to do.

John asked about camp enrollments: Leila's report indicated that there were 285 shopping carts processed with 1,252 different enrollments. He asked if that reflects kids in multiple camps; Leila confirmed that the number includes multiple camps as well as siblings within a household, which would be processed in the same cart.

John asked how we are promoting the February 10 meeting. Leila said we have already created and distributed a Constant Contact email, social media posts, a large lobby poster and media alerts to local Reston media. There will be an additional email message and social media post before the meeting. John asked about the meeting format. Leila said that, depending on the number of people that RSVP, we'll be in either the Community Room or rooms 1-4. If needed, we will have smaller breakout groups to get feedback from the community on the above topics, and then will take comment from community members who have specific remarks to provide. Leila said we've gotten really great ideas in the past, which stem from people's creativity, passion and inspiration from others' feedback. The March 10 session is an opportunity for staff and Board to respond to the ideas and feedback offered at the February session. One example from last year's meetings is our commitment to reexamine fees across the board. When we reconvene on March 10, staff will have prepared a report with suggestions for fee increases, as promised to the Board last year. We also committed to examining where other options are for cost recovery. Leila noted that March 10 is also an appropriate time to look at our treatment of Founding Partners within our rental rates structures. We have accelerated our fee schedule for Reston and non-Reston patrons, but we haven't yet brought the Founding and Community Partners' fee schedule into alignment.

Old Business

There was no old business.

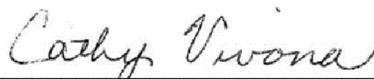
New Business

There was no new business.

MOTION #5:

To Adjourn the Meeting

Bill B. moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Vicky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

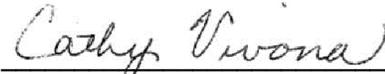


Cathy Vivona, Board Treasurer
On behalf of the Board Secretary

____ 2-20-14 _____
Date

BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN AT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3, 2014

- 14-0203-1 Bd That the Board approve the Agenda**
- 13-0203-2 Bd That the Board approve the December 2, 2013 Board Minutes**
- 13-0203-3 Bd That the Board approve the December 2, 2013 Board Actions**
- 13-0203-4 Bd That the Board approve the December & January committee reports**
- 13-0203-5 Bd That the meeting be adjourned.**



Cathy Vivona, Board Treasurer
On behalf of the Board Secretary

2-20-14
Date



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PROGRAM/POLICY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

Present:

- Beverly Cosham, Chair
- Bill Bouie
- John Mendonça
- Michelle Moyer
- Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt
- Cathy Vivona
- Vicky Wingert

Absent and Excused:

- Bill Penniman
- Gerald Zavala

Attending from RCC Staff

- Leila Gordon, Executive Director
- Thomas Ward, Deputy Director
- BeBe Nguyen, Media Director
- Cristin Bratt, Public Information Officer
- Eileen Boone, Leisure and Learning Director
- Paul Michnewicz, Arts and Events Director
- Renata Wojcicki, Finance Director
- Joe Leary, Aquatics Director
- Brian Gannon, Booking Manager
- Cheri Danaher, Arts Education Director
- Kevin Danaher, Community Events Director
- Gloria Morrow, Arts Education Assistant
- Linda Rutledge, Staff Photographer

Welcome and Introductions

Bev called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Bev welcomed everyone and introduced Lisa, Chair of the Community Relations Committee. Lisa encouraged everyone to submit their opinions via e-mail to RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov, and invited attendees to return for the follow-up meeting on March 10. Lisa introduced Vicky Wingert, Chair of the Program/Policy Committee.

Vicky explained that we've been exploring the potential for an indoor recreation facility for the last year. She briefly summarized the Capital Facilities Update (attached), which provides progress updates on the Board's two priorities for capital projects: an indoor recreation facility and a performing arts facility. She said the Board has a number of goals in its current strategic plan (2011-2016). The Board and staff have reviewed the plan and considered updates; the full plan is available on the RCC website. She noted that during the January retreat, the Board identified a number of areas of concern that should be explored whether or not a new RCC facility is constructed. She introduced Leila.

Discussion Topics

Leila welcomed everyone and added information on the indoor recreation center. The Park Authority has presented two plans for Baron Cameron Park and is launching a public engagement process on March 27 at Buzz Aldrin Elementary School. In addition to efforts at Baron Cameron Park, the RCC Board of Governors also asked Fairfax County to consider including an indoor recreation facility in the redevelopment of Reston Town Center North. She said the County has all of RCC's studies and that we hope to hear something in the next few months about their intended outcomes for that location. In the meantime, our Board has some questions about the market and feasibility study updated by Brailsford & Dunlavy (B&D). We've asked B&D to outline a scope of work if we decide to pursue a deep assessment

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regarding our existing user base and its specific overlap or not with a potential user base of another facility and well as the potential user base represented by the employee population of Reston.

With respect to the performing arts facility, Leila said there have been conversations with developers about incorporating such a facility into their long-term development plans. We'll continue that conversation with any developer that has such an interest, in order to respond to the needs of our community arts organizations.

Leila noted that both facilities are mentioned in the Reston Master Plan, which will be presented February 11 to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Leila introduced the staff present and asked the Board members to introduce themselves.

Leila explained that the Board did a deep dive on the Strategic Plan at the January retreat. Based on that meeting, the Board would like to have a discussion this evening to gather input from the public on the following issues for near-term focus in RCC strategic planning:

1. Partnerships/Collaboration
2. Connectivity
3. Program Challenges
4. Communications
5. Cost-recovery

Leila explained that the first agenda item is about partnerships and collaboration. It is a high priority of the BOG to work with partners in the community and to use the strengths of our partners to deliver more targeted results to the entire community. We're open to ideas about other kinds of partnerships and/or new efforts with existing partners.

Eve Thompson, of Friends of Lake Anne and the Lake Anne of Reston Condominium Association (LARCA), recognized RCC as a valuable member of the Lake Anne community. She said it is a great partner and neighbor in every sense of the world and its presence there is deeply valued. She noted that there are a number of partnership projects with RCC – the annual Jazz & Blues Fest is one of them and it was very well-attended this past year. She'd like that partnership to continue, as well as the Take a Break Summer Concert Series and the Multicultural Festival. Eve would also like to add RCC as a partner on the Ukulele Festival. The first festival was done tongue-in-cheek but they found out that there is a substantial ukulele community out there. She would like to expand it to embrace related folk music too. She also noted her appreciation for the fact that RCC staff members make themselves available for assistance and feedback whenever needed.

Mark Ingrao, of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce (GRCC), thanked RCC for hosting this type of forum. He said he is excited to announce a new GRCC initiative: Destination Reston. He would like to bring all the community groups together to discuss how we're going to promote Reston as a destination with recreation and cultural opportunities: festivals, the Town Center, retail shopping, performing arts and more. Mark noted that Reston hosts many "crown jewel" events that attract people from all over our region, not just Reston. GRCC hosts two very large food festivals that bring in 65,000 people every year. We want to collaborate on how to market "the enterprise called Reston." He's started talking to key organizational leaders who will serve as members of the steering committee; their primary goal is to promote Reston. We need to create a committee to run focus groups and collect community input. He said the timeline to push this out begins in 2016 and that anyone who is interested should connect with him.

Robert Goudie, Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) Board Chair, introduced Holly McCullough as GRACE's new Executive Director. He said GRACE is proud to be an existing partner of RCC. He thanked RCC for that and thinks their collaborative events create a synergy that maximizes the offerings for the community. He thinks that the Destination Reston concept is important, explaining that a "cultural proposition" could drive Destination Reston starting with the Fine Arts Festival and ending with the Washington West Film Festival (in calendar terms). Robert wants people to get on the new Silver Line

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and come west instead of just heading east. He thanked RCC for its continued partnership and support of GRACE.

Jennifer Disano, Executive Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), said that they have campuses in Fairfax, Loudoun and Reston; they partner with RCC to present lectures at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery and a concert series in the CenterStage. OLLI is also a 501c3 organization and offers courses taught by GMU professors, OLLI members and resident experts. She said they really enjoy this relationship with RCC and hope it continues to grow.

Katie Eichler Jones, Executive Director for the Reston Museum, said that she appreciates Reston Museum's partnership with RCC. RCC program support expands their resources, which allowed them to support *The Reston Story* and hire an executive director to provide museum leadership. She noted that the museum will be getting all of the footage from *The Reston Story* cutting room floor, which is a great resource for Reston and the region. She noted that over the next year, the museum is focused on broadening its audience to include families, which RCC does so well already. Jones thanked RCC for its support and looks forward to continuing the partnership.

Laura Kowalski, of Reston Association, thanked RCC for the continued partnership with RA, from executive level (community-wide issues) to community events like the Multicultural Festival and the Triathlon. She said that collaborating on the Reston Camp Expo was fantastic and they are looking forward to promoting water safety through the RCC-RA DEAP partnership. She noted that it is common for employees of both organizations to seek each other out for collaboration; RCC has a great team and we enjoy working with them on a regular basis.

Katie Shaw, of the Walker Nature Center, said she is excited to enter the fourth year of the Green Living program with RCC. She also indicated that the Nature Center is pursuing a sustainability charter. She said that the Spring Festival is coming up in May and it's always great to have RCC's support and sponsorship for special events like the festival and the 5K run.

Joe Ritchey, of Initiative for Public Art – Reston (IPAR), said IPAR would not have had the tremendous success it's had over the last seven years without the support of RCC. IPAR was as a concept born of the many community groups represented here today. Since then, the public projects, the speaker series, everything they have done is a direct result of the support and strength of the RCC. Thanks to RCC's support, he said they recently completed a developer's guide to public art, which will have a major impact on public art over the next 50 years in Reston, because of new development. He appreciated the support RCC has given IPAR, but also its role in pulling everyone together and making Reston a stronger community.

Anne Delaney, also of IPAR, added that they really enjoy working with RCC staff; they are enjoyable and very knowledgeable. She also indicated that community engagement is extremely valuable when we commission a public art project.

Denise Hogan, of Boston Properties and President of the Reston Town Center Association, said working with RCC staff members is fun because they are efficient, smart, collaborative, and they truly understand the philosophy of community activity in Reston. One of the wonderful successes that RCC contributed to this past year at Reston Town Center was the Saturday morning Family Fun Entertainment Series. The series started for small children, but it has brought older folks from around Reston as well. That was a pleasant surprise. She said RCC has also contributed to many other arts opportunities this year, from the sculpture on Reston Parkway to the performing arts. She also noted that Reston Town Center office tenants have recently showed increased interest in being engaged in the Reston community--she has worked with tenants to collect dresses for the Diva Central prom dress drive. She added that some of the most important events throughout the year are the holiday events – including the parade and the weekend concerts. She hopes to continue to expand the scope of the parade. RCC has been generous in its contribution and in endless hours from Kevin Danaher and his group. She is very grateful for this relationship with RCC.

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Terry Maynard, of Reston 20/20, said that in the early days of Reston planning for the Silver Line, Reston 20/20 came up with an alternative vision for the Town Center. The key element was a performing *and* visual arts center. He hopes RCC won't limit the vision to the performing arts because he thinks a permanent home for GRACE would be a wonderful thing. He also reminded everyone that Pete Otten – Boston Properties' representative to the Reston Master Plan Task Force – said they would build a performing arts facility. Terry doesn't want RCC to feel like they need to lead the effort because this may be a case where we want to look to the private sector to lead. Leila said the BOG has said all along that any effort we undertake would require a collaborative approach.

Holly McCullough, of GRACE, said that with growth of the community, GRACE is looking forward to growing as an organization. They appreciate RCC's support of festivals, as well as youth and family programming. In the near term, she would like to see continued collaboration with RCC that allows GRACE to expand programming, despite facility limitations.

Amaarah DeCuir, principal of Al Fatih Academy, noted that diversity is an agenda item (under Program Challenges). She said that the Al Fatih academy would love to help facilitate appreciation of the community's diversity in the framework of working with children. They are still looking for partners from other schools or community members (church groups, synagogue groups, etc.) to talk with Al Fatih students about diversity. She also noted that they have a lovely 30,000 square foot facility that they want to share with Reston organizations. She said that if you're looking for meeting space or even a venue with indoor play space for children, to please call her first. They want to find reasons to bring community members into our school space, so we in turn can be more involved in the community. Anyone who might be interested in learning more can visit www.alfatih.org for her contact information.

Bev noted that the dramatic reading of the "I Have a Dream" speech by Al Fatih students is just amazing; she thinks everyone should see it, even if they don't participate in the MLK walk where it is presented. She'll be contacting Amaarah to see about the possibility of including the performance in a Reston Community Orchestra concert.

Stan Schretter, OLLI representative, stated that there are a lot of seniors heading to Reston and he wants to know how RCC is reaching out to them. Leila said we have a robust 55+ program that can be found in the program guide. Stan also noted that OLLI's classes were small before they moved to RCC; now people come from all over Fairfax County to attend these classes.

Tammi Petrine, of the Fairway Cluster, asked if anyone present is from NOVA labs. She said NOVA Labs is a not-for-profit group of geeks and they have a wonderful, amazing, maker center across the street from the Comstock building. They will be losing their space in nine months due to the Wiehle Metro Station but will be moving to a space just east of Plaza America. Tammy thinks an RCC partnership is a natural partnership as this group works with everyone from children to older adults. A minimal membership fee provides entry into their facility, where experts teach and provide leadership in a number of areas including woodworking, welding equipment, encouragement of female engineers and STEM programs. She thinks they are an amazing group and they are looking to expand.

Leila indicated that Elizabeth Vandenberg has recently reached out to RCC and suggested a collaborative relationship with this group as well.

Gordon Gerson, of Reston Masters Swim Team (RMST), noted that Fairfax County is hosting the 2015 World Police and Fire Games. The event happens every two years and will be held in Fairfax County (including Reston) from mid-June to early July. He said that RMST has signed on to help with the open swim, and the Reston Triathlon will be helping with the triathlon. There will be a lap-swim competition at George Mason University since we don't have adequate swimming facilities here in Reston to host competition.

Eric Kulczycky of Visit Fairfax, in further discussing the World Games, said 15,000 athletes from dozens of countries will be coming to Fairfax County. Reston Town Center is the site of athlete's village.

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He noted that they are currently looking very closely at how to get people in and out of this area during the games.

Leila said that brings us to the second topic for discussion: connectivity. She clarified that this is not just reaching out across geographical lines to connect “south Reston” and “north Reston,” but also how to multiply our reach through partnerships. She noted that RCC is also looking into setting up transportation experiments centered on events. These options could assist folks who need help getting places – for example, elderly people, who tend to be leery about driving at night, could get on shuttle buses to and from RCC for performances in the CenterStage. We are also looking at possibilities related to the Wiehle Station and Wolf Trap transportation potential.

Peter Galloway, Reston resident, said that an entertainment bus could also be interesting. If we can have a traveling library, why couldn't we have traveling entertainment? He noted that he has lived in Reston for a while, but he didn't enjoy much of what Reston has to offer. He's moved to find out that there's so much to do in Reston; he would like to volunteer for all of these organizations.

Stan Schretter, OLLI representative, said OLLI is not sure how it will transport people from the new metro station to its events. The RIBS bus system doesn't seem like the way people will enjoy traveling about Reston. He wants to know how the community will address that issue. He's missing the link on how people will get from home to Metro and vice versa. Leila said that it's definitely something that we're thinking about, but she's not sure anyone has every solution to the needs and opportunities that the new station will present.

Rosemary McDonald, Chair of Art and Music at OLLI, said that OLLI has a great program here thanks to the Arts and Events staff. She noted that the professional free concert series starts March 27 and is free to everyone, not just members. She said they would love to have children come over listen to classical music.

Robert Goudie, of GRACE, said that as we think about building Reston as a destination locale, he'd like to take connectivity in a different direction; he thinks that Reston would benefit from a community calendar that is populated by core constituents in Reston. He suggested that this could be hosted by RCC and populated by other organizations as a way for people to stay connected culturally in one place. He noted that GRACE's new *STITCH* exhibit received great media coverage in the *Washington Post*, which directly increased food traffic.

Leila said we've talked about that in the context of setting up a website for the anniversary year that we're celebrating, which would extend into 2015. She indicated that our communicators (BeBe Nguyen, Myers PR, Amy from GRCC) are working on a site called Reston Celebrates. They will develop standards for how to enter information and it will be a great piece to expand if it works.

Mark Ingrao, of GRCC, noted that if that works, we could transition into the Destination Reston community calendar. He said it will get done one way or the other.

Anne Delaney, of IPAR, asked if the group looked at models where cultural organizations could provide input. Leila said that Reston Celebrates is deliberately limited in scope so we can see if it works, and then we'll build on it. She said the Arts Council of Fairfax County is also going through their own strategic plan, so we'll also be looking to see what they might come up with. Whatever Celebrate Reston becomes will be built from something smaller. Leila added that Reston's 50th anniversary year is a great year to explore new events and services in Reston. She said that delegations from around the world come to visit and witness the Reston experience, which they've heard about from other countries and delegations. Leila said that managing Reston's future identity is not just physical, it's bigger than the geographic challenges. It's also about reinforcing the values of this community and its meaning to us and those who come here.

Tammy Petrine, of Fairway Cluster, said that we had the Reston Directory 37 years ago. If you didn't know something, you would go to the directory. We don't have that anymore and we're way too transient.

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Her only comment regarding the calendar is that if it doesn't work, we should keep trying, because RCC is really all about community and bringing us together.

Jennifer Disano, of OLLI, said OLLI is run by volunteers, with the exception of a few staff members. They run the meetings, host events, serve on the Board and teach. She asked if Reston has a volunteer site where they could post the need for volunteers.

With respect to volunteers, Leila said that Fairfax County Government will be launching a software component specifically for managing volunteers. It's for any Fairfax County Government agency. Anyone wishing to volunteer could go to a volunteer "portal" and filter for things you might be interested in doing - looking through the prism of geography or program type for example. She said this was launched preliminarily with a few agencies that had significant volunteer demands. It will take another year or so before this county-wide tool is available for all county agencies. The County sponsored the software acquisition because it wants to be sure we manage how agencies communicate with volunteers, track time and efforts, and then are better able to quantify the value of what's delivered to the community as a result. Leila noted that RCC works with Reston for a Lifetime, which is exploring how to get past the legal challenges associated with volunteers working with vulnerable populations (seniors and children under 18). There is a criminal background investigation required for anyone who wants to volunteer to support these populations. This can be a logistical challenge for organizations looking for volunteers. She suggested that OLLI explore "Volunteer Fairfax" to see if there may be a relationship they can establish since that entity will be connected to the County system.

Principal Amaarah DeCuir, of Al Fatih Academy, said that she comes to this meeting to hear from all the RCC organizations; it helps her stay connected. She's interested in a roundtable opportunity where she can hear more about what's happening at all the Reston organizations and learn from others. She suggested meeting every 9-12 weeks, having a cup of coffee and brainstorming on how our organizations can work more effectively together.

Eric Kulczycky of Visit Fairfax also encouraged organizations to contact Patrick Lennon or Ali Morris with Visit Fairfax (contact info at www.fxva.com). He said their department has a calendar that has 3,000-4,000 unique visits a month and their website reaches a larger audience than Reston. He noted that local residents use the website for local information.

Leila introduced the final section of planning: Cost Recovery. She said that in 2013, the staff made a pledge to the Board that as a function of maintaining our fiscal health, we would work towards establishing an appropriate cost recovery approach now that the worst of the recession impacts have passed. We would continue to review what we charge for our programs and rental facilities and update them annually. We made a decision that there will be a modest increase to the room rental rates in the coming calendar cycle. She said we will also continue to normalize our swimming fee and pass rates because they are so far below those of other public amenities within the County. Those fees will continue going up until they are closer to other provider rates, while still returning a value to the people of this community in recognition of the Small District 5 revenue supporting our facilities and programs. She said that RCC benefits tremendously from tax revenue that's driven by residents' and commercial properties in SD5. She noted that though Reston employees enjoy the same status as Reston residents, they do not form the bulk of our patrons, which means that commercial tax payers of Small District 5 are subsidizing RCC programming and services for residents.

Leila said that patrons are appreciative of the fact that we haven't changed our rates in a very long time. The Board made a decision during the recession not to change our rates, in order to make the facilities and programs as accessible as possible to the community. She also noted that we offer fee waivers that help those that don't have the economic means to enjoy our programming.

Peter Galloway, Reston resident, said he really appreciates the fee waiver program.

Public Comment

Lynn Lilienthal said that no one has mentioned the Reston Young Professionals. They are a volunteer organization starting to give back to the community. They have meet-ups and are really interested in volunteering their services to as many people as they can. She thinks they need to be included in RCC's outreach. The contact name is Nicholas Hartigan.

An attendee brought up program challenges and asked why it was skipped over on the agenda. Leila said others were commenting on it so she didn't acknowledge it specifically, but that meeting demand for programs – especially those related to specific facility features like the pool and the theatre – is our biggest challenge. She noted that we are operating at capacity in those two environments, given the rhythms of people's lives. In terms of those ebbs and flows, we need 104 weekends a year, not 52. She said we probably have 104 weekends of arts events, in just the capacity of the organizations that we work with in Reston. We probably have another swimming pool's worth of swimming lessons on Saturdays and Sundays, which is when we have to turn patrons away. She said the RCC program challenges are the same as those we've been talking about for the past five years.

An attendee noted that some of the issues were raised very effectively and she'd like to go back to those issues. She said the challenges with families is that they usually have two working parents and need to find childcare options when school is out. Leila noted that parents and local organizations learned a lot from the first Reston Summer Camp Expo. There were 637 people in attendance and a resource guide was created and posted online for the benefit of those that could not attend. Leila said that the comment most often received was that parents weren't aware of how much there is for Reston kids to do. She said our next big step will be to determine how to pull these providers closer together to maximize their ability to assure more enrollments where there's participation space available. We are also interested in getting the school systems' assets connected and more integrated with the public and nonprofit program assets that are not located in their buildings.

Lloyd Kinzer, President of Reston Chorale, said he has been a Reston resident since 1970 and a member of the Reston Chorale since 1974. He said the Reston Chorale appreciates the help we have received from Leila Gordon and her staff. In all the years of the Community Center, the Chorale has never had better or more professional support, flexibility, availability and adaptability; RCC is always there for us for whatever we need. They work with us in sound, lighting and arrangements and bring out the best that the Community Room has to offer. As a result, their concerts have been raised to an exciting level. He noted that he was privileged to sing with the Chorale at the groundbreaking of this building. He would be honored to sing at the groundbreaking and/or dedication of the new performing arts center in this part of Fairfax County, though he asked the Board to please hurry since he's not as young as he was back then.

Terry Maynard, of Reston 20/20, submitted the following statement, presented in its entirety as provided to RCC:

Good evening Board members and fellow Restonians. I am Terry Maynard, co-chairman of the RCA Reston 2020 Committee, a committee of community volunteers that examines community planning issues. I am here this evening to speak briefly on one of those issues: The proposal to build a County Park Authority Recreation Center in Reston to be financed by Restonians through our special tax district, a proposal that is now an option in the draft Baron Cameron Park plan.

Despite the years of effort and expense that have been put into this by RCC as well as RA and RCA, we believe that the proposal:

- Fails to demonstrate a compelling need, especially among Restonians*
- Proposes to locate the center in the wrong place, more than a mile from key future Reston population centers*
- Is financially unsustainable as laid out in the standards set forth by RCC's consultants*
- Has not received an adequate capital and operating cost analysis and may be much more expensive than so far state, and*
- Being a County recreation center, it should be built and operated by the County for the totality of the Hunter Mill District.*

Let me explain briefly why Reston 2020 believes this is the case.

The proposal to build a Reston recreation center has been driven by a highly—even commendably—vocal small group of Restonians deeply interested in building a local indoor Olympic-sized 50-meter swimming pool and another equally fanatical group of tennis players who want indoor tennis. While the proposal for indoor tennis appears to have been set aside for the time being, there is insufficient demonstrated need to build an expensive 50-meter indoor aquatic center. The only justification provided so far are old RCC and RA surveys that are so riddled with selection bias that they have virtually no statistical validity. Moreover, two studies and an update by Bradford & Dunleavy repeatedly show that the number of core Reston users of the aquatic facility would be about 1,000-1,200 people—less than two percent of Reston’s population. Those same studies highlight that under virtually any outlined scenario, more non-Restonians than Restonians would use the recreation center’s facilities. The RCC Board has now said twice that the preferred location for such a recreation center is at Baron Cameron Park although it says Town Center North may be an acceptable alternative. To the contrary, the unused and available Park Authority land in Town Center North sits at the center of what is planned to be the center of residential growth in all of Reston—some 12,000 residents within a half-mile, not counting homes immediately outside the Reston urban area. In contrast, the renovation of Lake Anne promises no more than about 2,000 residents in apartments and condos plus the established townhome and single-family dwellings within a half-mile. Moreover, at a time when the Park Authority is offering Baron Cameron ball fields as a place for Reston’s expanding population in its urban areas, building a recreation field there would eliminate at least two of those ball fields, a double whammy of an undersized market for the recreation center and oversized demand for the reduced number of athletic fields. The proposal is also hampered by repeated reporting and analysis by RCC’s consultant that a Reston recreation center would be financially unsustainable. “Sustainable” in the consultants’ assessment means that the revenues generated by operating the center cover its operating costs, a recovery rate of 100 percent. In all the evaluations B&D has done, they have never demonstrated a recovery rate near that even after a run-up period of several years and under varying pricing assumptions. The bottom line is that the demand needed to make the center financially sustainable simply is not there in stark contrast to every other recreation center in the County for which the consultant has presented data. We believe there are two key reasons for this:

(a) There are enough other indoor Olympic-sized pools nearby, and

(b) Reston has a plethora of competitively-priced private recreation centers although admittedly none has a 50-meter pool.

The market problem is aggravated by the fact an adequate cost analysis of building a new recreation center has yet to be conducted. I appreciate that RCC’s consultants have used industry cost index standards for projecting the cost of recreation center, but these cost estimates are so far from either preliminary or final engineering cost assessments that they are more dangerous than useful. Those of us who have been following the sticker shock prices of the Silver Line’s construction as its price has tripled over the decade are keenly aware of the difference between eyeball pricing and engineering cost analyses. As an example, I would offer the planned building of a comparable aquatic center of park authority land in Arlington. Initially priced at about \$40 million for bonding purposes, its projected costs rose to more than \$80 million as serious cost analysis was completed. Finally, a month ago, the project was put on indefinite hold. In short, we would expect the real construction costs—and maybe the operating costs—to be substantially higher than have so far been acknowledged publicly. Finally, given that the proposed recreation center will be a County Park Authority recreation center, not a Reston recreation center, the County should assume the responsibility for building and operating the recreation center. Just as we are paying for recreation centers throughout the County, so too should the entirety of the County pay for one in Reston, especially since the majority of users will not be from Reston. We know Park Authority spokespersons have highlighted that its bonding authority is committed for nearly a decade, but given the undersized market for Reston recreation center and the impact such a bond could have on Restonians’ budgets and community creditworthiness, we believe this recreation center can wait until the County is willing to bear the burden of its costs. Hopefully, there will also be a sufficient market to make it worthwhile then. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Emily McPhie, Reston resident, said that she is speaking on behalf of at least 36 people who would love to see an extended deep water aerobics program. She said they speak to the fact that there is a demand and the pool is stretched at its current capacity. She added that patrons in the 9:00 a.m. class on Tuesday and Thursday are available to testify that we need more offerings.

A meeting attendee asked why Fairfax County wouldn't be the better organization to run a recreation center. Leila said that we're eager to see this amenity realized for Reston; we have not closed an option or decided on an option but are looking for the right combination of resources, in the right place, at the right time to address the need that is there and that we cannot fill. The community is very engaged in the conversation and we'll stay apprised of all input.

Tammi Petrine, of Fairway Cluster, would like to speak on a sociological viewpoint that has not been mentioned. She appreciates this evening's comments from a magnificent community of talented people. But she said she has this gray hair and is going to die someday and her property will be sold to someone else. Our society has changed. Mothers have to work now. Two parents are necessary to make it. She said that some of us have golden children who are going to make it. But in this new era of companies not holding on to employees for a lifetime, she worries about social programs and no pensions. She asked what we are doing when we commit our property deeds in perpetuity to new facilities that require more and more tax money to sustain. She said that 20 percent of any facility's costs are in building planning, the other 80 percent is the running of it. When you vote to pay for a Small District 5 pool, you are committing all of our deeds in perpetuity to extra taxes. She said that we already pay the County for recreation facilities. We've been in business for 50 years in Reston. We are a community center; a recreation center is different. She said she wants these facilities as much as anyone else and that RCC should be putting the pressure on the County to give us our due. RCC should not be funding and building it. She said a performing arts center is fabulous too if partnerships can be made and RCC can help with the effort. But she said that if RCC will be paying taxes to run it in perpetuity, we need to think about it. She asked the Board where the young people will be when we're gone and what legacy are we leaving. This is her major concern.

Follow-up

Leila thanked everyone for coming and reminded the group that on March 10, at 6:30 p.m., the Committees will reconvene to receive a staff report on the input and ideas received.

The meeting concluded at 8:19 p.m.

Additional Public Comment Provided Before/After the Meeting:

Dick and Betty Podol, Reston Residents, provided the following comment:

We are sorry but we will not be able to attend the RCC meeting on Monday night. We did want to let you know how much we appreciate the programs and trips that Karen Brutsché plans for us. We only wish there could be more. How could that be arranged?

Emily McPhie, Reston resident, provided the following comments. The text in red is Leila Gordon's response to Emily's e-mail:

Thanks for the opportunity to publicly make our request for an additional deep water aerobics class at the RCC annual meeting last night. It was also a good opportunity to learn more about what's going on in Reston in the coming year plus.

A couple of thoughts have come to mind since last night's meeting which I don't believe are necessarily RCC's direct responsibility, but if/as appropriate during your further conversations with the various other organizations with which RCC works, I would like to propose the following points:

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- *Reston was built on the idea of everyone living, working and playing together; this includes not only people of all races, religions, cultures, etc. but of all different income levels as well. However, many of the things which seem to be planned for Reston (Destination Reston, arts programs, etc.) potentially leave out the lowest income populations in Reston (including perhaps many of the more recent immigrants for whom English and Western cultural events may be less familiar) without targeted efforts to specifically invite their participation. Various organizations (GRACE, Reston Chorale) might want to consider taking small, free samples of their events (e.g., samples of art exhibitions, small choral groups for mini-performances) to apartment complexes to work particularly with children in a way that might encourage them to become more interested in the larger events offered. Similar samples of events might also be shared with senior residences where people might not be able to get out to the actual performances and events. **RCC has a robust fee waiver program that assures that all of our patrons can participate in our offerings regardless of their means. In addition, the arts organizations you mention offer free programming in addition to ticketed events they schedule; GRACE has scholarship options for their children's art program offerings as well. Regarding outreach to non-English speaking populations your thoughts are very much on point and I will bring the ideas forward in the context of our ongoing joint planning. For our Festivals, actually, the participation across the entire spectrum of the community – regardless of ethnicity—is very robust. It's the smaller events and programs that we can probably do more to target in terms of multi-ethnic participation.***
- *While the idea of a "party bus" to RCC events (and Wolf Trap) seems like a very good one, as a Reston resident, I'm concerned about my ability to get around my own community, to events in Reston or to conduct my normal day-to-day business when an event is happening, if/as Reston becomes more of a destination for Reston businesses, arts events, etc. I would encourage those organizations looking to boost Reston's tourism potential to think about how to minimize the impact on those of us who live here so that we can continue to enjoy living in Reston, even as others are invited to share our wonderful community. **It's a valid point; however, from the preliminary conversations I have had, I believe the initial targets are to bring people to the large footprint special events the community already hosts and that the various event organizers want to have reach their full capacity in terms of attendance. This could contribute to some congestion around those calendar dates and locations; however it would have little to no impact on the weekday travel experiences of the community's residents. It will certainly help to improve our civic and cultural organizations' bottom lines which in turn will enable these organizations to do more of the things you describe above for the community. We are currently exploring a number of transportation pilot options as well and hope our efforts will yield good information about how we can support making it easier for folks to get around the community.***

*Also, does RCC partner with Reston Hospital? **Yes, we do.** If not, would it make sense to pair health classes that the hospital could (and does, I believe) provide (e.g., nutrition, CPR, disease prevention) with wellness classes (yoga, zumba, etc.) that RCC already provides? **Will explore that with our Fitness program providers.** Could some of any such paired classes be made available in Section 8 housing complexes and other lower income communities around Reston (perhaps with the financial support of Reston businesses)? **The distribution in Reston of subsidized housing and people requiring financial assistance is much more diffuse than many people might know. As it is, RCC program staff work very closely with our partners in the public and non-profit sector to bring the broadest possible variety of programs to youth—whether in neighborhoods (e.g. we partner on programs at Southgate Community Center), or in the schools in Reston, or in our shared public events and plazas (e.g. summer concerts and programs at Town Center and Lake Anne. Did you know there is substantial subsidized housing in the Reston Town Center area in addition to the Embry Rucker Shelter?)***

*Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in last night's meeting. We look forward to learning if an additional morning drop in deep water aerobics class can be made available. **Duly noted!***



**Board of Governors Annual Community Input Meeting
February 10, 2014
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Program/Policy and Community Relations Committees**

UPDATE ON INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY PLANNING:

Reston Community Center (RCC) expressed interest to the Park Authority to consider a partnership to build an indoor recreation center that would provide aquatic, gymnasium, and fitness options. At the RCC Annual Public Hearing for Programs and Budget held on June 17, 2013, the Board of Governors authorized funding in its FY15 budget to support the costs that might be associated with preparation of a bond referendum item on Reston ballots to determine whether or not the community would approve funding an indoor recreation center. The Board affirmed its commitment to seek proffer and other funding resources to support building an indoor recreation facility in Reston in order to reduce the scope of the contribution that might be provided from RCC.

RCC further charged its Building Committee to review potential sites for an indoor recreation facility. The Building Committee completed its review with a report dated October 29, 2013, that recommended pursuing two site options: Baron Cameron Park and Reston Town Center North. In addition to those two sites, the recommendations identified the current Hunters Woods site as having potential to be expanded if the preferred two locations for a new facility proved infeasible. The Building Committee determination, which is available for review from the RCC website, was accepted and endorsed by the Board of Governors at its monthly meeting on November 4, 2013.

The Park Authority planning staff presented a draft of the Baron Cameron Park Master Plan to its Board Committee for Planning and Development. A copy is available on the Park Authority website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/baroncameron.htm>

There will be a public meeting to launch the discussion of the draft plan on March 27 at Buzz Aldrin Elementary School. This meeting begins the 30-day comment period that is part of the Park Authority process.

In parallel with this process, RCC will continue to pursue and respond to the potential for an indoor recreation facility that could be located at Reston Town Center North. At present we have no further information about the status of the County's planning effort regarding Reston Town Center North.

UPDATE ON PERFORMING ARTS FACILITY PLANNING:

RCC has assured that a performing arts facility is listed among the public facility outcomes desired in the development of the Silver Line corridor as reflected in the current draft of the Reston Master Plan to be considered by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on February 11.

We remain ready to partner in any development opportunity that arises that presents the potential for realizing this goal. Our criteria for success also (as with the indoor recreation facility) include the contributions of others to funding of such a facility. We are focused on a new performing arts venue that particularly serves the needs of the large-footprint performances involving music and dance for which there is no appropriate venue as yet in our community or the immediate area.