



ReView

Golf Course View Cluster Association

October 2005

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Playgrounds

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Reston Document Revision Update

I'm still attending RA Board meetings and trying to keep track of the changes they are still making in the proposed restated Reston Documents. Another draft of the documents is due out later this month. At a meeting earlier this week, RA President Jenn Blackwell said that the next draft would be "considerably different" from the one that was published in September.

In the face of mounting criticism, it's apparent to me that the RA Board is "trying" to make the documents more palatable. However, they have so far been unwilling to deal with the core issues. They have also been forced to push back the timetable for the referendum yet again. As of this week, no new timetable has been announced.

In the past month, many knowledgeable, longtime Restonians have stepped up to confront the RA Board with their serious concerns about the language in the current draft documents and the negative effect the proposed changes in the "power structure" will have on the relationship between RA and its members and the quality of life we enjoy.

The media campaign (Reston/YES) the RA Board will soon mount to encourage you to vote in favor of the restated documents will probably focus on the revised assessment "cap," the \$250 resale fee and the additional financial flexibility they will offer RA. I'm not troubled by the assessment issue. What's most important is whether RA will continue to exist as a homeowners' association that serves its members or become a "government" that controls its citizens and their property.

When the referendum finally comes, please make sure you understand how the documents will affect you. Unless there are significant changes made in the final draft, I will continue to encourage you to vote NO. In the meantime, I'll try to keep you informed.

Sandy Dresser, GCVCA President

Website Update

Due to technical problems, the Cluster website has not been updated for a couple of months. We apologize for this inconvenience and promise to get the problems resolved in the very near future.

November Board Meeting

The November board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30 pm at 2096.

Interested residents are invited to attend.

Planning for 2006 Has Begun

The Cluster Board began planning for the 2006 budget at its meeting this week. With little change anticipated in our standard monthly costs for trash collection, landscape maintenance, financial management, etc., the Board focused its attention on needed improvements to our common areas.

One highly visible improvement we're working on for 2006 is a complete renewal of the entrance to the cluster near the swimming pool. Plans include a new sign to replace the current badly listing one and exciting new landscaping along the "circle." New, more visible and informative signs at the entrances to the courtyards are also in the plan.

Another long-needed improvement the Board will begin to address is the outdated and failing playground equipment in the upper playground near Courtyard D.

Repair of some of our most noticeably decrepit sections of sidewalk is also in the planning stages, and the landscape and tree budget for 2006 includes adding several new flowering trees to the property.

The November meeting will focus on our short- and long-term capital improvements needs and how much money we'll need to put into our capital reserves fund to undertake those improvements over time.

A Sigh of Relief and Some Thank You!

After weeks and weeks of drought, the rain finally came, and you could almost hear a sigh of relief from our stressed trees, shrubs and grass. Because of the diligence of a number of residents in watering common areas, our landscape suffered much less damage than it might have. **Thank you everyone** who took the time and made the effort to water our valuable shrubs and trees!

And **thank you** Patty Williamson for taking the time to contact Fairfax Supervisor Cathy Hudgins about landscape issues that affect us all. In response to Patty's letter, the County has already started to address the very dangerous broken sidewalk across GCD from the swimming pool, and Hudgins has contacted both VDOT and RA about the lack of attractive landscaping in the medians in south Reston and promised to pursue this issue.

Dog Owners, Do Your Duty

Several neighbors have complained again about dog owners who don't clean up after their pets. Please, please be sure you do your duty! Dog waste is dangerous to our health.