# MAY 13 COMMITTEE MEETING – TABLE NOTES RELATED TO SITING CONSIDERATIONS

Question 1. Drawing from your own experiences and from what you learned from the case studies, what should be carried forward for future siting efforts for county facilities and schools? What should be done differently?

# Follow up questions:

- **1a.** The study committee charge states, "consideration should be given to finding more efficient ways to use existing facilities and sites, colocation of appropriate uses, and temporary or permanent use of private space." How should new uses be determined for existing facilities or sites to maximize county and school resources?
- **1b.** Some of the case studies took many years to reach community consensus. How could a new siting process address needs that are time sensitive?

# **GROUP 2 - FACILITATED BY GREG, KELLY, AND HANS**

The 2003+ fire station process had a better, more open charge than other examples. By empowering group to understand all dynamics and fully embrace problem, the ownership of resulting recommendations was better.

TJ group seems to have moved outside of charge by addressing the question of whether TJ is really the best/only available site. But that group was hamstrung by an overly narrow mandate without the scope to own the outcome. Was both given a narrow scope and expected to own recommendation – impossible situation. (Group felt the more narrow question of could a school be built there was answered: yes.)

Surprise was a huge issue with the TJ site, as at Cherrydale fire station. Surprises kill community ownership and buy-in. Need better transparency.

Perhaps we need to re-define what does success mean? If success means involving the usual suspects, who ask lots of questions and burn lots of time, then maybe these examples are okay. Maybe we can't have both fast decisions and full inclusion. We need to define what tradeoffs are driving our decision processes.

Where do we as a community want to go – that will drive the outcomes. Our group and the whole process around it is the community calling a time out: we need to re-evaluate the process. Let's hope it

results in some groundwork which makes future decisions happen more efficiently. The purpose of the group is to prepare ourselves to make decisions, we'll know what's available and what criteria we should use.

New processes need to be applied to new properties just coming online now, in particular new acquisitions that have been popping up in the news.

# **GROUP 3 - FACILITATED BY LYNN AND JASON**

- Time is \$\$\$; fire station delays cost \$\$; process vs. cost
- Involve people up front or it will get bogged down later
  - o Columbia Pike streetcar: took too long; too many studies; sending uncertainty now
  - o PL4PG fiasco; ideas weren't floated
- Give people information
- Listen to what people say
- Stay with stakeholders; don't get too ahead of stakeholders
- Who are your stakeholders?
- Are you hearing both loud and soft voices?
- Look at the full county needs; clarify needs of entire County
- Better balance of information (i.e. schools, parks, fire) –
- Planning Silos: aff housing study; PSMP is 7 years late

#### 1a.

- Arlington Mill is empty & others that are empty match needs
- Can we use some to match needs for schools?
- We set arbitrary constraints; rigidity of talking (?)
- Set parameters to site things more creatively; preconceived policies keeps people from doing creative things
- There are County facilities to use for schools while still maintaining County functions (community activities)
- Use County facilities as schools at least temporarily (i.e. Fairlington); be careful to not not displace existing activities
- Patrick Henry & next door facilities
- Madison Center affordable housing only on transportation line; think outside the box
- Schools have senior centers apartments above; modular so you can claim floor or give back space as needed; Why not have housing above new HS on Wilson (new HB Woodlawn location)?

- More colocation
- 8 empty buildings in Crystal City; Ballston empty buildings
  - o Possibly earmark housing for school, county employees
- Private buildings; why just for schools? Could we move community center uses to commercial space? Use office buildings for community facilities (art, yoga, etc); would be a lot less \$\$
- Lease then different financing
- Retrofit state mandated codes
- Limitations in space issues in office buildings; No gym
- Trade off housing for county employees for affordable housing
- Housing over schools? Or county facilities
- Creative problem solving start with notion that there is no bad idea; let everything be out there
- Pedestrian mall
- Resolve prior to site plan; can we resolve conflicts that emerge through different plans (i.e. MTP; PSMP need joint open space plan); Community facilities plan element
- What ever works well together

#### 1b.

- Set the table layout the facts; options; criteria
- Don't blackmail community into a rushed process; APS seat crisis or Artisphere; quick decisions cause long term problems
- Without facts it appears that staff or schools are pushing an issue or position
- Long discussions between County/schools w/o open to all
- Stuck in staff; get it out earlier and not just with staff
- Silence poisons the process; foresee the need for HS seats!
- Look to other urban areas for solutions
- Share facilities with Fairfax for salt/sand, as an example
- Contracted service if cannot find space for facilities
- Pair up with other jurisdictions for bus siting and other things
- Think creative in architecture to mitigate uses

# GROUP 4 - FACILITATED BY KATHLEEN AND SAUNDRA

- involve the stakeholders early on
- make sure that the broad interests and inputs of people are considered

- being more transparent of our needs as a community; ongoing community needs list.
- How do you define needs? Who defines them? The important thing is to get stakeholders involved early on to help define those needs
- keep people engaged and informed

#### What differences?

- differences between the corridors which have plans and single family neighborhood which define their NC plans
- green space and amenities are located more in neighborhoods rather than in corridors
- renters and low income people aren't represented in community processes

#### 1a.

- change mindset from building a single use to multi functions.
- more communal spaces should be the default
- no option to think outside of the zoning box; we may need more tools that are more flexible
- senior centers in conjunction with nursery schools
- cooperative agreement with businesses and preschools in APS
- leasing church parking lots or church spaces

# 1b.

- engaging people from the beginning avoids the blowup and setbacks
- creating common principles and guidelines that can be used from group to group.

# GROUP 5 & 6 - FACILITATED BY MOIRA, JACKIE, TOBY, AND CAROLINA

Fire station process seemed like a good process—had criteria, consensus understanding of the need, committee had free range to pick a site within a moderate area.

Fire station—has a clear "catchment area" (whatever the term is)

Specifically in the instance of the fire station, the problem arose because the County choose not to follow recommendations based upon previous community engagement processes (e.g. the 1989 Advisory committee and then the Cherrydale/Lee Highway Revitalization Plan) for reasons that were not made transparent to the community.

TJ group was asked to evaluate one site and didn't have a comparison which likely led to a split (no consensus).

In the future, the committee could compare sites. Seems like being able to compare sites helps community process.

Decisions about specific sites should be considered in the context of the County level plan for the specific need so that any alternatives and potential relationships are transparent.

School boundaries can change, etc. which makes it harder to get your arms around siting. For example, at TJ specifically, we didn't know what kind of program would go there (choice or neighborhood).

The County contributes to some of the communications problems. The fire station and TJ were troublesome because proposals were put on the table or taken off the table without community involvement.

Need an answer to the question—when does the siting process begin?

- With CIP? A County Board charge? From the community?
- When the County says something is important enough that we are going to spend money on it (when staff identifies a need that requires funding), should have a way to involve people right away (or if people feel the need and can convince the Board to spend the money)?
- The starting point for the process and information to the public should be clearly identified when the need is identified and with continuous information and documentation as it is refined; even before a committee or workgroup is identified
- Similar process should be used for schools and county, regardless of who owns the land. Processes should be integrated.
- Should the Comprehensive Plan spell out the needs before they move ahead with trying to fund money? Except schools are not in the Comprehensive Plan? How do we reconcile the different recommendations and needs stated with the various elements, and things that are not even mentioned in the plan, such as schools?

TJ shows us that the schools need to involve the community, be more transparent, earlier engagement with the community

If considering a public-private partnership, it should involve community when start envisioning the relationship

• The pros and cons of a public private partnership for a specific need/facility and the decision of whether or not to proceed with a process that is assuming or exploring a partnership should be considered in a community process BEFORE any specific public/private process begins.

#### 1a.

Time and percolation needed to get people with diverse viewpoints to consensus

# 1b.

Can there be an expedited process that is inclusive of the community?

- Maybe we can identify criteria that would help –e.g. incorporate the development of a statement of pros and cons into the process such as the statement that the TJ group came up with.
- If was time sensitive, maybe could start by describing the pros and cons, early

Process is helpful—gives the decision makers (the Boards) all the input before they make their decision, otherwise feels like its not transparent/the community was not engaged

Deadlines are good and needed. TJ was given a short timeframe (but didn't get to consensus—just surfaced the issues).

Is it best to follow the TJ process where no votes are taken or should siting committees be forced to take a vote? Trying to reach a consensus might not always result in a clear path forward or provide a clear answer in the same way the taking a vote might – or does the group raise the issues and the Board takes the vote? If there's a vote, should record the counts pro/con

# **GROUP 7 - FACILITATED BY ALAN & TANNIA**

- A principal in the siting process should be: When framing the process and engaging the community consider how big the scope of the charge is and is the scope open enough to allow a productive and useful result to the process. (ex: TJ)
- Plans for sites should include understanding of how the site fits into and affects the community if the plan is laid out without knowing how the dominoes will fall then it will result in no community support.
- Understand the scope of involvement will it be big, small should it be limited and to who? Should there be a radius rule so that everyone gets a say but it limits the scope of involvement.
- Need one system for siting.
- Chart that Carrie provided in PowerPoint is a great tool!
- County has a history of not engaging in full disclosure.
  - o County should ensure that any siting plan changes by County are transparent and made known to the public. For instance, if property sited for specific development by the County is then bought by a private developer after discussions with community members regarding the County development or if Park Bonds that were approved by the voters are then reallocated due to a change in the original site plan.
  - o County should ensure that it can follow through on plans advertised to the public
  - o Park bonds for Artisphere how did that happen?
  - o County needs to disclose legitimacy of investment if county wants to repurpose bonds then it should be put to a vote by its citizens or if the bond repurposing is within scope then inform

citizens of the reason for the change. This will provide community support as these changes are made.

- o Do not package park bonds.
- o Unbundle bonds!
- Multi-functional facilities becoming a necessity
- Siting guidelines should provide how sites can be multi-use sites
- Park land per capita has dropped due to population increase need to address and ensure green space
- How does an urban setting ensure green space?

Parks:

- Should not put non-park uses on parks
  - **Community Centers**
- Ensure availability for mixed-use

#### **GROUP 8 - FACILITATED BY KATE & SAL**

- Making decisions unilaterally has disastrous impact.
- County tends to keep things quiet until they've made a decision "benevolent dictator model"
- Be clear what the County staff is looking to achieve
- County and Schools have been unable and unwilling to work together
- TJ, Lubber Run, Reed School, Stratford & Wilson sites example of School Board dumping things on the community
- Fire Station 8 Barbara Donnellan said community consultation would take place, but it hasn't
- Projects need a more clear process process and needs should be better communicated
- Opportunity for influence without being adversarial shouldn't need T-shirts rallying around a cause to have a voice
- Consider County taking a posture every year like the military does heat map this year we're going to be \_\_\_\_\_
- County increase communication to get through to citizens
- For time sensitive siting processes meeting and focus need to be results oriented, people can't come in with preconceived ideas need to be open to flexibility

- Utilize Civic Federation to reach Civic Associations re energize Civic Federation, create a refreshed communication study
- Committee of 100
- Look at opportunities for civic engagement beyond late night meetings utilize technology, video tape meeting, use social media
- Next door

### GROUP 9 - FACILITATED BY KIRIT AND ANNE

Decisions by County and schools often presented as a "done deal" despite states process. Also, time it takes to completes this process (fire station took 21 years). Another example is that students are still in trailers despite years of discussion to solve this issue.

Everyone cannot always agree but disclosure by County staff of plans seems to be a concern. Expectation management is important to let citizens know about participation. Ultimate decision may be made by County board.

Possible new uses might include schools commingled with parks and affordable housing. We need to provide options to keep green spaces. Must realize that school decisions impact entire community. Public participation does not have to prolong process. Process must come to fruition and ultimately, decision needs to be made. County cannot unnecessarily delay decisions based on process.

# **GROUP 10 - FACILITATED BY CHRISTER AND TYRA**

- The experience from case studies suggests the importance of a clear-cut purpose and goal for the siting effort, as opposed to an opportunistic approach or a vague objective.
- Important that all options are systematically reviewed and considered, and that no options are removed for unclear or questionable reasons.
- County must be clear and open about its intentions and must avoid being blind-sided by competing bids/objectives (Fire Station 3)
- There needs to be coordination and 'master planning' for the whole spectrum of county facilities to ensure optimal land use; not clear why, in our Study, some types of facilities, e.g. for human services, are excluded; they compete with all other facilities for land and dollars;

### 1a.

 Joint planning would facilitate co-location, sharing of facilities; increased collaboration needed to ensure maximized use of facilities;

- APS needs to be more flexible regarding the type and size of facilities that they can use to combat over-crowding; for instance, why not have smaller facilities for elementary schools, and why so rigid regarding design and 'standards' of school buildings;
- We need to move away from traditional approaches; for instance, apart from gyms and class rooms, schools have facilities and resources that could and should be used by the broader population and for non-traditional purposes;
- Why are school libraries not used for the non-school population; and why are public libraries needed as stand-alone facilities instead of being seen as components of community centers etc?

#### 1b.

- The problem is <u>not</u> really that processes are too time-consuming when siting efforts are timesensitive; the <u>real</u> problem is that planning is started much too late when the existing and emerging needs already should have been known;
- Matching the demographic forecasting, we should have <u>continuous</u> planning with dedicated planning staff for all relevant needs, in order to avoid sudden and piecemeal planning;
- The County needs to be more open and transparent about its future needs and about the relevant background information for the planning and siting processes; this Facility Study has provided lots of basic information which is normally unknown to the public;

**Question 2.** How should the facility needs of the county as a whole be balanced with concerns about a facility's impacts on surrounding neighborhoods?

# Follow up Questions:

- **2a.** What role should your community organization(s) have in the facility siting process? When and how should the community be engaged in siting decisions?
- **2b.** The current system of planning for facilities seems to lead to a process where most people are reacting negatively to a proposal. What could be done to change this dynamic in the community process?
- **2c.** What communication tools should the county and aps be using to get information out to everyone?

# GROUP 2 - FACILITATED BY GREG, KELLY, AND HANS

Better educating and marketing to the public is the clear theme here.

We need a vision of the County that precedes these processes. We need the public to "get" the bigger picture – need them to step out of their immediate neighborhood and recognize how our community is interconnected and is changing.

There is a "Mayberry mindset" (a la Westover) that we can no longer support. We need to actively educate broad community on new/emerging usages and mixes and that change is coming. Arlington IS a mixed density community that will need to extend deeper into neighborhoods

Community needs to trust that we can make a site decision now whose usage details might change later.

Clear, County-wide owned and adopted criteria should help overcome the NIMBY effect.

Back-of-house needs have been a huge ah-ha moment for participants. (ex: Not enough parking spaces for buses, North Arlington vehicular needs.) We need the broader public to understand these challenges.

We need public to understand that green space being preserved at (say) TJ means trailers need to go elsewhere. Again: we need to reinforce County-wide thinking with all community participants.

Make sure to focus on positive impacts... for everyone! Search out ways to expose people to what's possible. Find people that love it and have them lead walking tours.

# GROUP 3 - FACILITATED BY LYNN AND JASON

- Too much input to surrounding neighborhoods too narrow stakeholders; need to look at full county (TJ park not being used means loss of open space at Glebe)
- Too much concentration of specific types in limited areas
- Facilities do not need to be ugly; match to neighborhood setting
- Neighbors should be consulted for traffic but also larger area
- Be more equal with burdens throughout the County
- Transportation "building along routes"
- Not to exclusion of whole; Needs and burdens should be equally distributed
- PSMP don't know how all spaces serve us
- Retail action plan affects other plans
- Salt dome facility dog park
- Traffic impacts everywhere, but is such as a common issue it shouldn't drive the process

#### 2a.

- Result is not always very good if there are predetermined decisions [from staff]; TJ process failed because public had no say in siting decision; would have been better with more transparency
- Give multiple locations to discuss instead of pre-determined options
- APPS will select a site and then cave if pressure is too great
- Loud and \_\_\_\_ voices get heard more

# 2b.

- Be clear about our needs so people understand it better
- Be more open of all needs of the County & Schools; this will lead to more involvement
- Land acquisition for fire station and other needs
- Policy that any private home could be acquired next to park or school
- Every possible site gets an honest evaluation; no bad ideas at start
- Parks land acquisition should not or should be used for other uses
- Follow what Cherrydale uses; all sites were considered and evaluated evenly

#### 2c.

- May be too much information already; The takeaway, 1-pagers are very helpful
- Hard to engage average residents
- APS engaging the PTA's and community was helpful

# **GROUP 4 - FACILITATED BY KATHLEEN AND SAUNDRA**

- think about circles of impact with every process
- consider mitigation: if an area gets a sewage treatment plant, that area should get the next big park, for example
- again, communication and education with the community is critical
- the citizen is a good way to communicate needs; would like more information on APS;
- gather more than one civic association at a time, across a larger geography, to provide information and get feedback from more than one group and obtain multiple perspectives

#### 2c

- explore non-traditional methods
- leverage partner groups like non profits and schools
- work with apartment buildings and landlords, especially to communicate with millennia
- School Board and County Board need to communicate more often, and publicly

# GROUP 5 & 6 - FACILITATED BY MOIRA, JACKIE, TOBY, AND CAROLINA

Communication is the key. Need to involve immediate neighbors around a site.

#### 2a.

Who is the community?

Good to involve whole County so don't get each neighborhood being NIMBY and the site need getting ping-ponged around the county

- All potential sites should be on the table at the beginning of the process. The TJ example is one where this appears not to have been the case.
- Representatives of county wide organizations should be included in each process, in addition to immediate neighbors, to facilitate communication and to be transparent about the county level context and potential impacts on other areas or the county level plan for the identified need.

#### 2b.

If people feel a decision has been made that will affect them, and they've had no opportunity for input, the process will likely get bogged down and have to undertake a "restart" > if can engage earlier on, would be more involved and the process would likely actually be smoother and take less time.

Look at geographic "service areas," if appropriate for the type of facility you need (fire station concept—could other facilities such as parks and playgrounds be distributed intentionally, not just where there is space)

- Some needs could just have one county-wide multi-purposes facility (esp recreational stuff) instead of many small ones
- Could also consider population density and the density of the specific population with the highest needs for the service, not just geographic distribution around the county.
- Could help planning commission—when a developer wants to build something, are those amenities there for people? If not, get concession from developer
- Would need maps showing these overlays

#### 2c.

- Digital resources, social media
- Or the opposite—putting signs up in community centers, libraries, etc.
- Leverage mail that already goes out—tax bills, etc. county sends out a fair amount of snail mail (although may not be time sensitive to certain events)
- Backpack mail in schools
- Video on county website
- Surveys
- Interactive comments like for "public land for public good"—posting them so people can see
- Word of mouth doesn't work well
- People who go into the communities, town meetings, etc. use civic associations etc but also some way to reach out to other people who aren't involved in civic associations
- Also some of the dense areas (Crystal City etc) don't have them, just have tenants/condo associations
- Gap—communication with rental spaces, also hard to reach condos and townhouses
- So much information on the county website there needs to be a clear place to direct people

#### **GROUP 7 - FACILITATED BY ALAN & TANNIA**

- Planning process has to be inclusive of all communities but how?
- Affects are usually felt locally but can't ignore countywide ripple effects.
- Arlington has been suburban last 50 years
  - o Going forward not so much

- o Siting impacts not only surrounding neighborhoods but impact on population increase.
- How do you maintain park space for increased population?
- Parks need to be preserved.
- Preserving single family neighborhoods does that still hold?
- In Urban corridors include green space when building be creative.
- Public does not have input in the "charge" assigned to community committees formed for opinions and recommendations. Does this affect outcome of recommendations/utility of the outcome?
- Parking spaces should be underground
- Create a criteria for siting process where we could get creative ideas on the planning during siting process.
- County exploring options to see how to purchase more land.
- Need more aggressive land acquisition policy
- County resisted using imminent domain but this should be revisited.
- Don't have the reserves for park acquisition
- County should consider more creative use for sites look at empty offices space for community needs
- Board in 1960 took initiative, regarding Ballston, to counter balance with green space Gulf Branch was purchased this type of focus is needed at County level.
- Negotiate with developers
  - o Ask developers how they can provide facility use to the county
- Mistake often made is assuming that County knows what a community wants
  - o Maybe on a sector level engage community: for example, tell affected community "we need a new school, library and fire station in the next 10 years, how does the community envision this implementation regarding schedule, location." Engage community to assist in planning and resolving needs to ensure community support and cooperation moving forward.
  - o Let community provide solutions.
- County staff tends to define problems without talking to the community
- County staff should first explain to community why and what the "need" is and then community will be more willing to work with staff to address the site issue.

- Staff is good intentioned but lacks community engagement. Community engagement is necessary for productive and supportive action.
- Ask County and Schools to think harder how the impacts on community can be compromised with community.
  - o For instance, the Salt Dome Facility: how can it have a minimal footprint and still be effective?
- Reassess tools needed for different environments/communities we are more urban.
- Innovation stems from discussion
- Engage community earlier and sell the need
- Legitimate needs have to be communicated
- Set up process for community engagement
- Nimby can be turned down/avoided if the community's input is valued and taken into account in the beginning!

# **GROUP 8 - FACILITATED BY KATE & SAL**

- Need to be aware of all of County's needs for siting needs
- Communicate needs to citizens
- Look to other cities for examples (some thought not looking to other places, being insular, group consensus Arlington does look to other communities, but maybe needs to communicate that better)
- Encourage co-location of facilities
- Adaptive re-use
- Northern Virginia Mediation Service look at utilizing to resolve community conflict
- Determine vision of Arlington modernizing, urbanizing
- Projections based on population growth (not time) ie when population hits X, we'll need another school, when it hits Y, we'll need another fire station. That way no one is caught by surprise.
- Sector Plans are done "without a method to the madness"
- County Manager can't do a master sector plan because feel County Board would never follow it.
- Planning department often ends up being the "reacting" department
- Discussion regarding Weldon-Cooper study & Washingtonian population projection and problems with that messaging when Arlington is messaging growth

• Community sees facilities that aren't schools anymore and don't understand why they aren't schools any more or can't become schools.

## GROUP 9 - FACILITATED BY KIRIT AND ANNE

Community does not always have to be involved in siting decision from beginning, but at key points in the decision making process. Needs of the County have been identified but communities are often opposed to site in their actual community.

Education of the honest options is necessary to get community "buy-in", important to follow process in place to ensure all parties are at the table. Civic association is not always reflective of actual residents.

County needs to try new tools to reach different residents. Need to find out how to reach millennials. Also, how to reach residents without children in school system. Social media will play a key role in informing residents of issues.

#### GROUP 10 - FACILITATED BY CHRISTER AND TYRA

- Neighborhoods need to be more willing to accept facilities which provide the services they need, instead of the typical NIMBY attitude;
- However, the <u>balance</u> between countywide and local interests must then be achieved by having the County show <u>respect</u> for the concerns of the neighborhoods. This is done through careful and successful <u>mitigation</u>, e.g., choosing the specific location that is optimal, through elegant 'camouflage', with noise abatement;
- The County may offer a 'quid pro quo', by combining a 'less desirable' facility with some features which are wanted by the neighborhood;
- Ensure that buildings design fits in with the neighborhood; focus on aesthetics and not on being 'cheap';

#### 2a.

• Affected civic associations should be involved early; also need to be given an understanding of the 'big picture', e.g., why a particular location is essential from a countywide perspective;

#### 2b.

- The planning needs to be more holistic and continuous; surprises and 'railroading' must be avoided; local knowledge and arguments must be respected;
- Instead of asking for reactions to a County proposal, ensure that the community gets to participate in developing the proposal; generally speaking, empower the participants from the local community;

# 2c.

- County and APS should have <u>one</u> joint web site where all planning and siting efforts can easily be found, and where all Site Plans and development projects in the pipeline can be followed from the outset;
- It is recognized that not all County technical staff and planners can be expected to be communications experts; but this needs to be remedied through special PR/communications efforts; especially the project managers need to focus on communications; attaching 'outreach' or 'liaison' staff with inadequate project knowledge is not a solution;
- Once a facility is complete, there is a continuing need for information and PR, to ensure the fullest possible awareness and utilization of the facility;

# GENERAL CONVERSATION/OBSERVATIONS

# GROUP 2 - FACILITATED BY GREG, KELLY, AND HANS

Clearly it's a challenge not to be forced into a short term solution. It's a balancing act between long/short. This group can be valuable if it actually leads to a strategic process vs emergency to emergency.

How many people are too many people? Are our leaders delegates or trustees? Shouldn't the Boards carry us along on a vision and a stick to it?

Communities expect too much of a voice and Boards abdicate to decisions to advisory boards. The role of groups like ours should be to raise questions, concerns – not make the decisions. A large group will never be able to make a tough decision.

Anxiety about HS crowding but doesn't feel velocity to actually deal with it. MS & HS needs seem to have flexibility vs elementary level, thus less secondary concerns. HSs are squishier in their ability to utilize the space utilization but that doesn't change fact that we need a new school

We have a brain trust in Arlington and there's a whole community that we're not engaging. Problem is that we don't know what we don't know. We keep using traditional routes to get input. Need to reach out differently, otherwise you get same voices and same type of voices. Self selection of the same people. We should look around the room and be concerned about seeing the same ole faces. We are missing single parents, two job parents, millennials.

It's hard to figure out what's going on when and where.

It would be good to know how people who are involved in this group were appointed and who they represent. Otherwise the validity of the outcomes will collapse.

# GROUP 4 - FACILITATED BY KATHLEEN AND SAUNDRA

What are some compelling pieces of information that should be communicated at the June 2nd event?

- information like where public facilities now sit.
- reality of where our infrastructure is and what our needs are
- make information relevant to the audience
- ask how people get their information, and how they would like to be communicated with;
- communicate good news as well as concerns

# GROUP 5 & 6 - FACILITATED BY MOIRA, JACKIE, TOBY, AND CAROLINA

One person disagrees with the idea of public-private partnerships—County should spend its own money

Should be a high bar for going ahead with a project like that

How to reconcile the CIP process, should be 10 years but needs change over time

Too often, plazas are getting accepted as "green space"  $\rightarrow$  open space  $\neq$  green space

# GROUP 7 - FACILITATED BY ALAN & TANNIA

Communication Tools:

- ARLNow is a communication vehicle (one member stated that has found some discrepancies and does not depend on this source for valid information)
- Civic Association newsletters
- Emails
- Variety of methods, twitter, Facebook, Schools, County Fair, Starbucks, Libraries, Community Centers all should be used.