

Crystal City Citizen Review Council (CCCRC) Meeting
May 13, 2021
Meeting Summary
7:00-9:00 pm

CCCRC Attendees: Christer Ahl, Rob Mandle, Judy Freshman, Susan English, Jane Siegel, Pamela Van Hine, Michael Dowell, Darren Buck, Emily Norton, Robert Vaughn (substitute).

Staff: Matt Mattauszek, Margaret Rhodes.

Members of the Public: Carol Fuller, Brooke Oberwetter, Jeffrey Williams, Elizabeth Gearin.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Livability 22202 Connectivity Map

Michael Dowell gave a presentation on the Livability 22202 Connectivity Map. He spoke about connecting the various neighborhoods, initiating and sustaining commercial activities, reducing reliance on cars, increasing pedestrian safety and connecting with nature. He said that connectivity between open spaces, residences, commercial facilities, transit nodes and retail high streets is important. He discussed how connectivity can be accomplished in a biophilic way. For instance, a park-like feel can extend along a connection, the connections do not always need to be aligned with the street grids, there can be increased opportunities for engagement with nature and ecological characteristics should be considered. Superblocks and spaces between sites should be addressed. Green ribbons, connected nodes, emerald necklaces are all ideas to consider by connecting existing (retrofitting) and proposed (new) green spaces along paths geared toward pedestrians, focusing on Joyce and Fern Streets and internal passages, creating a “branded” route with a unique identity and providing a sinuous path through the interiors of superblocks.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

The CIP was also discussed by the Council.

Comments and questions on the aforementioned topics included the following:

- Safety should be considered when planning and installing plantings.
- Many big projects are finally getting built.
- The County cannot rely on private development alone to effect major change and there is a lot of competition for CIP dollars, so donors may be needed.

- The park and transportation sections of the Crystal City Sector Plan need to be re-evaluated.
- Micro-transit offers an important new option for connectivity.
- The Crystal City Sector Plan needs a refresh.
- Streets and sidewalks should be viewed as important public spaces.
- Connections to Columbia Pike should be enhanced.