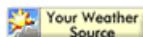




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Edition of Jan. 4, 2008

ResTown Task Force Proposed

By Jackie Allder
Observer Staff Writer

Despite some opposition from the county and other Reston-based groups, the plan to incorporate Reston as a town continues to move forward.

On Saturday at a hearing of the Fairfax County legislative delegation, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association plans to request that a task force form to "address the mechanical issues of how the self governance of Reston should be implemented, identify and analyze the options, and make recommendations as to the governance of the proposed town of Reston," according to Jeff Parnes, president of the Fairfax County Federation.

The Fairfax County legislative delegation includes local representatives in the General Assembly, and Parnes said his group plans to ask the delegation to establish the task force to include General Assembly members, Fairfax County government officials and representatives from Reston Citizens Association and other Reston-based organizations.

Parnes said RCA, which is pushing the ResTown plan, asked the Federation to endorse its plan, but after discussion, the Federation decided additional review was needed.

"We felt that the Reston Citizens Association was not the complete population of Reston and we need a more widespread input," Parnes said.

Additionally, he said, they were concerned that the "proposal by the Reston Citizens Association might not have been vetted sufficiently by the county and by residents," so it could be voted down if it were at a referendum because people did not like the charter, not because they opposed the idea of incorporation.

Marion Stillson, vice president of RCA, said the task force "sounds like a very good next step." She said she hopes that after the General Assembly's session ends they will be able to prepare an agenda and timeline for the task force.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36th) and State Sen. Janet Howell had asked several key Reston organizations about their involvement in the ResTown plans and whether they supported the idea. They requested final responses by mid-December, and several groups, including the Reston Association and the Alliance of Reston Clusters and Homeowners, said they would need more information before determining whether to support the proposal.

Fairfax County, the Reston Town Center Association and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce said in letters to Plum and Howell that they did not recommend the town plan.

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Plum said Wednesday that, "It appears to me that any action this legislative session would be premature." He said he did not plan to recommend any action this session and that "this clearly needs more discussion and more participation in the community."

The delegation's hearing is scheduled for Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. The public is invited to attend the hearing and address the delegation.

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