

Symmes Land Disposition Agreement

Arlington Redevelopment Board Enters into Symmes Land Disposition Agreement

ARLINGTON---- The Arlington Redevelopment Board (ARB) has agreed on the essential terms of the sale of the 18-acre parcel of land known as the Symmes Site. In response to a two-to-one majority vote on Proposition 2 ½, Debt Exclusion, the town of Arlington acquired the Symmes property in 2002 in order to ensure responsible and sensitive development.

“This is good news for the residents of Arlington,” said Mr. Ed Tsoi, Chairman of the ARB. “The Board was determined to regulate the density of any development and to fulfill the goals as set out by the Board of Selectmen including the maintenance of open space and making the project at minimum revenue neutral.~ With Symmes Redevelopment Associates, we found a developer with a proven capacity for undertaking a project of this magnitude, and a demonstrated commitment to joining with the town in a collaborative process.” The development, according to Mr. Tsoi, will provide a thriving new centerpiece for the Town.

This process, led by the Symmes Advisory Committee Chairman Charles Foskett, has involved more than two years of outreach by our community leaders, participation by our citizens, and a mutual dedication to creating not only a dynamic mixed-use and mixed-income community, but a commitment to continued and expanded healthcare facilities.

“It’s a great example of different constituencies working together for the common good,” stated Selectman Charlie Lyons.

The Land Disposition Agreement will be signed by the ARB at a joint meeting of the ARB and the Symmes Advisory Committee on Monday, August 16th. The board will present the terms of the agreement at this meeting. One condition of the agreement includes an appropriate zoning change subject to Town Meeting Approval in September.

“This has been an intensive and well orchestrated negotiation between the ARB and the developer. Reaching agreement with a developer in six months on a project of this scale demonstrates an impressive commitment on behalf of the ARB. I am impressed with of the results of these negotiations,” stated Mr. Foskett.

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