SYMMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC USE WORKING GROUP

Recommendations on policy and planning principles, Public uses of the Symmes site

RATIONALE

Our community will be investing in the future of the Symmes site financially, and part of the return on that investment should be the benefit of public uses of the site. As indicated by the survey results of Vision 2020, Arlington needs -- and its residents want -- more and improved public amenities, recreation areas and open space.

The areas of highest elevation in any community possess symbolic and aesthetic qualities that make public uses especially appropriate. Finally, the history of this site is one of community service. After a century as the locus of public health care in Arlington this site has a special meaning to the residents of our Town which its future uses should respect.

PUBLIC USE PRINCIPLES

Public uses created at the Symmes site should:

- Be determined in an open public planning process, alongside of and as important as the planning of commercial, residential, and medical uses.
- Be selected by evaluating alternatives on the basis of a set of consistent criteria built on these principles.
- Enhance and protect open spaces.
- Address unmet and under-addressed Town needs.
- Provide a place for community members to interact.
- Relate well to, and respect, the abutting neighborhoods.
- Be open to all Arlington residents.
- If necessary involve affordable user or rental fees to support new public facilities.
- Take best advantage of the site's geography and views.
- Be part of a coherent and complementary mix of uses.

Adopted 18 Oct 01