



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries

December 9, 2013

Council President Nancy Navarro
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council President Navarro,

The Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee (AWCAC) is the citizens arm of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership (anacostia.net), the joint effort by area jurisdictions to restore the Anacostia River. The Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership includes Montgomery County. In May 2011, AWCAC wrote to you (http://www.anacostia.net/AWCAC/Downloads/AWCAC_Wheaton201105.pdf) about the importance of the Wheaton Sector Plan for the Anacostia restoration effort. AWCAC does not think Montgomery County's initial proposal for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission building and town square is adequate to bring about an improvement to water quality in Sligo Creek and the Anacostia River, and asks that you significantly modify it.

In a March 8th, 2012 blog post (<http://www.councilmemberriemer.org/2012/03/what-does-wheaton-need-que-necesita.html>), Councilmember Hans Riemer envisions the future Wheaton town square as potentially an East Coast version of Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco. However the actual proposal (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/WheatonDev/Resources/Files/WheatonProposedPlan.pdf>) lacks any green features whatsoever. There are no Environmental Site Design (ESD) features on the proposed glass box Park and Planning Commission building and the town square is a concrete slab wedged between Georgia Avenue, Reddie Drive, and the bus bays. It is hard to imagine local residents coming to use this space.

AWCAC asks that the Park and Planning Commission building be reconsidered to incorporate ESD practices such as green walls, a green roof, bioretention areas, and rain gardens to the maximum extent practicable. It further asks that the town square be reenvisioned as a garden with water features and highlighting the sites relationship to Sligo Creek and the Anacostia River.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Matuszeski
Chair, Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee

c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington DC 20002-4329
anacostia@mwkog.org