

Tysons Committee

MCA's Tysons Committee operates through and chairs the Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition (GTCC). The GTCC is a multi-jurisdictional coalition that includes MCA members, elected town officials in Vienna, and on occasion, representatives from the Providence District Council and Hunter Mill Defense League. It meets bi-monthly at the McLean Community Center; its next scheduled meeting is July 18, 2019.

The GTCC focuses on larger policy questions and the degree to which the Tysons Comprehensive Plan Guidance is followed. It operates by consensus and works with other committees and organizations, as appropriate. Most often, when issues are identified, its members bring the issues back to their respective "home" organizations for formal letters or resolution.

In the last program year (June-May), the GTCC met with the Fairfax County Parks Authority staff, Fairfax County Department of Transportation staff, the leadership of the Mclean Police District and the Fire and Rescue staff, Fairfax County's Office of Community Revitalization, and the Tysons Partnership. We also met with Dalia Palchik, the Providence District School Board members. Some of these meetings were joint meetings with other MCA committees or included other organizations.

- Following our meeting with the Park Authority staff, the Park Authority Board committed to annually adjust the monetary proffer rate for parks and fields that small developers (those who need to provide 1/3 of a field or less) pay; the updated rate should be out shortly. Based on the Park Authority staff report, Tysons is on track in meeting the park and field goals for 2050.
- We hosted a meeting with FCDOT to address progress in meeting the transportation goals for Tysons and, in particular, progress in efforts to reduce traffic congestion through the Traffic Demand Management (TDM) program. We subsequently met with FCDOT staff and are now reviewing the employer TDM reports that FCDOT has shared with us. While employers currently are

meeting the TDM reduction goals established in the Comprehensive Plan, traffic congestion continues to increase as those goals only reduce but do not eliminate the congestion caused by Tysons growth and through traffic. We are continuing to monitor the progress in mitigating traffic increases due to Tysons growth, and have discussed extending our inquiries to include steps that the County is taking or might consider to reduce through traffic.

- We worked extensively with the leadership of the McLean Police District this last program year, to ensure that growth in Tysons and the concomitant demands on police staffing did not degrade public safety in McLean and other surrounding communities; the Tysons Partnership joined us in this effort. We learned that service calls (e.g., traffic accidents) are the biggest drivers of calls in the District. Also, while there has been an uptick in shoplifting at the Tysons malls, there has been no spillover into McLean and overall crime has remained relatively stable, even as the metro stations have come on line and Tysons has begun to grow. We drafted a Vision Statement outlining our expectations for policing services in the future that included no reduction in services or outcomes for the surrounding communities and adequate services for Tysons; this vision has been shared with the County's Police chief, who reportedly supports the underlying goal. Further, using the information that we gleaned from our dialogue with the McLean Police District, the MCA members of the GTCC provided the language that was incorporated into the MCA Budget Resolution to urge funding in FY 2021 for the District's 5-year staffing plan to increase staffing to cover Tysons and the assignment to the McLean District of some of the new police officer trainees ultimately slated for assignment to the South Run Police District station when it opens.
- We also met with Fire and Rescue staff to learn about their plans to provide service to Tysons; the Office of Community Revitalization on its efforts to track achievement of the public facilities needs identified in the Comprehensive Plan; and the private Tysons Partnership on the progress and challenges facing land owners, developers, and residents to implement the vision of a livable, walkable, mixed use, and mixed socio-economic residential community in Tysons.

- We participated in a meeting hosted by MCA's Education and Youth Committee with Dalia Palchik, the Providence School Board member. Our focus with her was on our concern that the estimates of the number of Tysons students may be far too low; our concern regarding how the needs identified in the Plan for at least 3 elementary schools and 2-3 middle schools in Tysons would be met (given that land for only one school in Tysons has been proffered so far and the likely reluctance of developers to offer land, since land costs are high in Tysons); and our concern that the current approach for acquisition of land and construction/outfitting of schools in Tysons is inadequate to meet the future needs of Tysons.

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Issues under consideration for 2019-2020 include the following:

- Discussion with County staff on land use and other challenges to achieving the vision for Tysons, including but not limited to the recent propensity of developers to seek authority to significantly exceed height limitations in the Comprehensive Plan guidance.
- Discussion with County staff of the extent to which Tysons has become the economic engine for Fairfax County that underpinned the rationale for the Comprehensive Plan.
- Update on the extent to which Tysons is achieving its parks and athletic field goals and any changes in those goals due to demographic or other factors.
- Update on transportation issues, including TDM progress and efforts to mitigate through traffic increases, including options under consideration for the 123/7 interchange.
- School proffers, particularly whether there should be modifications in the proffer formula for Tysons to account for land acquisition in Tysons to build future schools.
- Police staffing and office acquisition.

Our next meeting will be on July 18 at 7:30 pm at the McLean Community Center.