



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

ANNANDALE CIVIC SPACE Board Matter July 11, 2023

Nearly six years ago, the Board approved a contribution from the Economic Development Support Fund, now known as the Economic Opportunity Reserve (EOR) for “Annandale Pilot Projects” to aid revitalization goals of the Annandale Business Center. Since 2017, the EOR funding supported work done in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority and other county agencies to construct a park in underutilized open space at 7200 Columbia Pike, a county-owned property in the heart of downtown Annandale. This years-long effort included a creative community visioning process in 2018, the installation of the Annandale “Pop-Up Park” and summer programming on the site in 2019, and the pursuit of land use approvals, permits, and the steady assemblage of multiple sources of funding for the park’s construction since 2020.

Happily, the Annandale Civic Space currently is under construction, and expected to open later this year. The park will offer a civic plaza with seating, an educational garden, a flexible lawn space with topography playground, a new ADA-accessible path from Daniels Avenue to Columbia Pike, and the adjacent parking lot will be capable of hosting pop-up programming. The realization of this project has required creativity and flexibility – in its vision, its partnership approach, and in its financing. As you might imagine, the estimated cost of the park has risen over the years and outpaced the assembled funds, and some design elements were modified or eliminated as a result.

While the project could be completed as-is, I believe strongly that the inclusion of certain design elements such as lighting and modifications to the parking lot would position the park for greater visitor safety and long-term success. Pursuit of these elements during a subsequent phase of construction would contribute positively to the park’s visibility, connectivity, and ability to serve as an anchor for civic connection in an important revitalization area. Additional one-time funding of \$100,000 is requested to pursue these crucial pending improvements.

Therefore, I ask, without objection, that DMB staff include \$100,000 as a consideration item for the FY 2023 Carryover Review.

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