

RFK Meeting #2: Questions (asked during session)

Note: The questions and answers appearing here are a synopsis of those presented during the community meeting. Please feel free to watch the video of the meeting if you wish to hear the questions and answers verbatim.

- 1. At the last meeting we asked you directly about whether you have engaged with the Redskins and you said you had not. Have you talked with the Mayor's office since that last meeting?**
No – we have not spoken with either the Redskins or the Mayor's office about the Redskins.
- 2. Who does support the stadium as a future use among the people/groups you have engaged?**
We are not asking for people to support any particular concept at this time; we are asking for feedback about what people would like to see on the campus.
- 3. This is the 2nd public meeting but no concepts have been presented. When will that occur?**
We will come back to the community in January to review and discuss the concepts.
- 4. Why does Events DC not know whether there is a ground issue under the site?**
We are in concept phase at this point. After a concept is proposed and selected, we would initiate an EIS as part of a formal redevelopment effort.
- 5. Why is this discussion not part of a more holistic discussion with the Reservation 13 redevelopment plan?**
We do plan to work with the city regarding the Reservation 13 redevelopment and to promote development efforts that are complementary to both sites.
- 6. In 1993 an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) was conducted. (Speaker provided an overview of the type of information compiled in that EIS, and how one could access that information. No direct question was asked.)**
- 7. Will the Mayor's office be included in the concepts that you are putting together?**
We are an independent authority and will be developing the concepts independently and then presenting them to various stakeholders, inclusive of the Mayor's office, Council, and the Community.
- 8. Can the space be activated now with short-term programming such as Bike Polo DC?**
The study has both a short term and a long term planning component, so we are looking for activation uses under both scenarios. We will definitely reach out to Bike Polo DC to discuss further.
- 9. Can the information you have obtained from Universities and other potential users be made public?**
The context of other users may be proprietary in nature, but we can share summarize the types of uses that have been expressed.

Can Events DC post options for feedback online?

Yes, we will use social media and develop tools to receive feedback.

Can you publish your financial constraints?

What we are looking for is not related to financial constraints, but what we are interested in is financial feasibility and sustainability for any proposed option.

- 10. One question from the last meeting was how you would get more input from underrepresented community members? You said on your website that you were open to suggestions on how to do this. I would suggest you flyer the neighborhood and go to libraries in order to get in front of the audience that is not in front of a computer regularly.**

Thank you, we will take that into consideration.

- 11. Who will the ultimate decision-maker be? What is Events DC's role in that process?**

The Mayor, the Council, and the community will be the ultimate decision makers. Our role is to conduct the study and make a recommendation based upon the analysis and feedback we receive.

- 12. When will the Environmental Impact Study be done? Will the EIS align with DC laws and provisions?**

After a concept is proposed and selected, we will initiate an EIS as part of a formal redevelopment effort. Yes, the EIS will align with both Federal and DC laws.

- 13. Where was the community input from the last meeting posted? I did not see our feedback from that meeting anywhere on the website.**

The input was posted on the following website the week of 9/21 and was emailed to all registrants and attendees: <http://eventsdc.com/AboutUs/Community.aspx>. There are two links on the page; the first takes you to the presentation and the second takes you to a page that addresses questions and answers as well as outlines the content and input provided during the group breakout sessions.

- 14. When did this process start? How long does the proposal take?**

The process started about a year ago. We hit pause on the study as we wanted to come to the community to gain your input and thoughts as to what you would like to see on the site. We also wanted to look in to the process of creating a sense of place and connective tissue throughout the entire campus.

- 15. Can we avoid spending money on another Environmental Impact Study since one was undertaken in 1993?**

As part of a formal redevelopment process we will still need to conduct an EIS once a concept has been selected. Additionally, it is a Federal requirement that we have an updated EIS.

How many proposals will you present and will you prioritize them?

We do not have a specific number of proposals that we will present. The proposals will be presented to the community, the Council, and the Mayor.

- 16. Define "financially sustainable".**

Financially sustainable means that it needs to generate enough revenue to offset costs or be supplemented by an identified funding source to cover operational expenditures...or some combination thereof.

17. It seems that there is major overlap between the recommendations being made in the community meetings and the 2006 NCPC study. Why is that study not being used as the guide for this process?

We are both aware of and familiar with the study. However, our lease with the National Park Service is very specific about what activities and functions can exist on the site, and so our study aligns with those lease provisions.

18. Have you considered the implementation of “Tiny Homes” as a short-term use that would assist in providing affordable housing?

That has not been considered as a short term use as it conflicts with the current National Park Service lease provisions.

19. The 2006 NCPC study calls for “more city”. Can Events DC include mixed-use development as part of the design recommendations?

Our lease with the National Park Service is very specific in setting forth the parameters under which the site is to be used. That said, the idea of a single use entity is long gone and so whatever items are constructed on the site will have multi-use functionality. This site should serve as a conduit between Hill East and other ongoing developments, which will have those mixed-use development concepts.

20. Anacostia Watershed Society—there is a major need for a toxic cleanup to match any future development of the RFK site.

Agreed. This will all be assessed and steps taken to address mitigation will be conducted in partnership with interested parties.

21. You indicated that the Mayor’s Office, Council, CFO and community will be the final decision-makers once a recommendation is made by Events DC. How will the community be a part of the decision-making process?

While we cannot speak on behalf of the Mayor and the Council, as part of their respective decision making process, we anticipate that there will likely be public hearings and other forums for the community’s participation.

22. What is in store with respect to the stadium long term? Do all potential plans call for the existing stadium to be demolished?

We do not have any plans as of yet, but we anticipate that the long term concepts will contemplate demolition of the existing stadium.

23. I see that you filed for eminent domain today at Buzzard Point for the DC United Stadium. Will this have an impact on the RFK site if the suit is unsuccessful—will the team return to the RFK site?

The District Government, not Events DC, filed for eminent domain as it relates to the DC United Stadium project. Events DC will plan the RFK campus to the best of our abilities, based upon what we know today. Ultimately we do not control what happens with the DC United Stadium deal or whether DC United stays in the District.

24. When you come back to the community with the various concepts will you release the related financing as well?

Yes, we will include an analysis of financial feasibility that accompanies the various concepts.

25. Is there a conflict of interest for Events DC?

We do not believe there is a conflict of interest as our study is focused on developing options that will be best for the site and that are financially feasible as a project, not as a revenue generator for Events DC.

26. Would you be willing to hold online input?

Yes.

RFK Meeting #2: Index Card Questions and Answers

1. What is the time frame for public comment? Are you accepting formal public comment?

In addition to the quarterly neighborhood meetings that are held with community members, The September 30th citywide community meeting was the second meeting to hear input and feedback regarding future uses of the RFK site. The design team will be using that feedback while creating conceptual designs for several options for the site. In addition to the two community meetings we've held to-date, we will create online tools to capture feedback. We also intend to come back to the community in January with some proposed options.

2. Will Events DC act in the interests of DC residents or the interests of the Mayor?

As an independent authority, we are acting objectively to conduct this study on behalf of all of the stakeholders involved. The community meetings regarding the RFK study are incredibly useful opportunities to hear from DC residents regarding desired options for future uses of the site. Events DC will develop several options for future uses of the site and make a recommendation to the Mayor, Council, and the community.

3. Please explain how Events DC staff are paid and whether your compensation is linked to fees or the value of the development of RFK.

Events DC is an independent authority that owns and manages the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium, the DC Armory, Carnegie Library at Mount Vernon Square; in addition to being the landlord for Nationals Park. Our mission is to promote conventions, meetings, sports, and entertainment within the city. Staff compensation is not linked to fees or the value of the development of the RFK campus.

4. If a Superdome is built, will there be large parking lots like there are now and if so, where will the land come from?

It is too early to predict the parking requirements of any of the options for the future use of the site. When we propose the options for the site, they will address parking requirements for each of the options proposed.

5. Can something be done on part of the parking lots even if a decision on the existing stadium structure takes a long time; i.e. a hybrid approach?

Yes. As part of the study we will propose short-term options for the campus. We welcome any ideas stakeholders have for these short term options on the site.

6. What proportion of the DC population is supporting a stadium?

We have not conducted any surveys for any one option, including a stadium.

7. Affordable housing?

The site is subject to a National Park Service lease that limits allowable future uses of the site to mainly recreational purposes. Thus, housing is not currently allowed under the constraints of the NPS lease terms.

- 8. Inevitably this space will be used/continued to be used for revenue generating activities, can you inform us of your practice of how you will be letting the community know of activities taking place in the area? (i.e. Gam races with loud music).**

As per our current standard operating procedures, Events DC will continue to hold quarterly meetings at RFK Stadium, email our current mailing list as well as public officials (ANCs, etc.) and post on our website (www.eventsdc.com/calendar) to notify the community of upcoming events. If you would like to be added to the email list, please email pkirschner@eventsdc.com or tdubois@eventsdc.com.

- 9. I understand there are significant contaminants at the site. How will the site be altered in a way that doesn't place contaminants into the River?**

We have not conducted any environmental studies at this time as we are in the conceptual planning phase. As part of a formal redevelopment process we will conduct environmental studies and develop necessary mitigation strategies.

- 10. Why is Events DC the planning authority here and not the Office of Planning?**

Events DC is the leaseholder of the RFK campus site. As an independent authority whose mission is to provide convention, sports and entertainment services for all District residents, the RFK site is under our purview and thus Events DC is charged with studying the optimal future uses for the site.

- 11. Have you considered setting up a community task force to help this process? That would help with trust.**

We are eager to hear from the community so would consider this as an option moving forward.

- 12. Determine flood impact of 100 and 500 yr. habitat and wetland restoration. CSO issue? Edible landscape/community garden. Activities for all ages (and access). Impacts of sea level rise? Is there infrastructure capacity to support desired development? How does development of this site fit within DC Master Plan?**

We are in the conceptual planning phase. After concepts has been selected we will engage in a formal redevelopment process that will address these issues.

- 13. Will any alterations made to the site take into account the established toxicity of the soil? During construction of the Grand Prix race track, residents had dirt in their kitchens (counters, window sills) for the duration of the project.**

We will engage in environmental studies once a concept has been determined and the formal redevelopment process begins.

- 14. DC Museum Bus to explore Metro, how the water wades, how Blue Plains works.**

This was transcribed as best as possible from an index card from the meeting. If you have written this question and could further clarify your question, we would be happy to address it in further correspondence.

- 15. Seriously, what do we have to do to take the NFL off the table?**

We are working to develop several options for the campus. Events DC is interested in hearing the feedback regarding the various options we will propose as part of the study.

16. Will Events DC provide at least 3 weeks' notice of future meetings and allow for online input in order to maximize community input?

We will make best efforts to maximize the ability of the community to opine as the process move forward including providing ample notice for the next community meeting, tentatively scheduled for January 2016.

17. Is there a space requirement (acres etc.) required for a pro sports stadium?

As part of the concept development process, we will identify requirements for a stadium as one of the options. We will present those requirements when we come back to the community with the various concepts.

18. Timeline for the EIA? Since this is District-leased, how will you ensure this development can contribute to achieving the city's environmental goals to improve the quality of the Anacostia and meet the city's tree canopy goal? True opportunity to be an exemplary sustainable site, but this involves collaborating with various DC agencies.

We are in the conceptual planning phase right now. Once a concept has been selected we will undergo a formal redevelopment process that is inclusive of environmental goals. Events DC will also follow the required Local and Federal laws with respect to environmental and sustainable goals.

19. What would the local community gain with having an expensive football stadium?

We have yet to propose any concepts at this time. When we come back to the community we will present the programming and various attributes of each option for the community's review and feedback.

RFK Meeting #2: Table Breakout Session Notes (from easels)

Note: Some of the tables were vacant, so only those tables that had participants seated at them will have breakout session notes, as provided below.

Table #9

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - CRYSP
 - Playing fields
 - Green spaces & trees
 - Community meeting spaces
 - Low-Level retail/low-intensity commercial space—Benning Road
 - Prioritize community benefits FIRST. Prioritize over big sports arenas/facilities
 - Minimize runoff by incorporating LID/Green Infrastructure
 - Fishable & Swimmable Anacostia by 2032
 - User of the river
 - 40% Tree Canopy goal (also 2032)
 - Minimize digging up parking lots-build green infrastructure/green space on top to minimize community health issues
 - Build relationships with strategic partners-public/private eg. Business investment, Casey Trees
 - Chelsea Pier-like space
 - Accommodate many youth sports teams w/ playing fields. Prioritize children/youth over millionaire athletes
 - No new stadium—at least no mega stadium; Build now, not later

Table #10

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - Dog park
 - Soccer fields
 - Multi-purpose fields
 - Boating along the waterfront
 - Environmental education center(s) along the waterfront
 - Nature trail
 - Aquatics Center
 - No NFL stadium
 - Mini-golf
 - Large playground to accommodate different age groups
 - Tennis complex
 - Indoor playground
 - Veterans outreach program/climbing wall
 - Integrate public art
 - Farmer's market (temporary structure)

Table #11

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - Tennis facility
 - Golf courses
 - Neighborhood amenities (restaurants)
 - 5* hotel tied into events
 - Stadium with a dome for year round events
 - Multi-sports and learning facility with everything (youth soccer, track, etc.)
 - Water taxi to other activities (National Harbor, Nationals Stadium)
 - Aquatic Center
 - Group Yoga
 - Farmers Market

Table #14

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - Multi-Use outdoor court/rinks
 - Educational facilities
 - Museums
 - Development on island
 - Bicycle infrastructure
 - Local anchor memorial feature
 - Activate waterfront
 - Aquatics center
 - Connection across Anacostia River
 - Adult fitness
 - Boathouse
 - Pedestrian and cyclist connectivity
 - Pool time
 - Logical circulation and connectivity within site
 - Case study: Central Park
 - Community garden
 - Habitat and wetland restoration
 - Signage as educational opportunity
 - Outdoor films
 - Multi-use community oriented arena
 - No NFL sized stadium
 - Tie property in Anacostia neighborhood

Table #15

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - No NFL at RFK
 - No professional sports w/ public funds
 - Infill Metro station on campus
 - Central Park-like uses, fields

- Amphitheater
 - Great Lawn
 - Running paths
- Aquatic Center
- Playing fields
- Environmentally responsible use of land
- Wolf Trap-like space
- Japanese tea garden

Table #17:

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - Merge communities in Ward 6 and Ward 7
 - Find ways to connect campus with Anacostia Park and Islands
 - Reach out to more local stakeholders for sports/athletic purposes
 - Work with NPS to modify the lease
 - Outdoor pool/splash pad
 - High frequency use
 - Screen on the green
 - Farmers market
 - Picnic/festival amenities
 - Supporting facilities (restrooms, lights)
 - Grills
 - Sports fields
 - Soccer
 - Baseball
 - Frisbee
 - Rugby
 - Special use fields
 - Volleyball
 - Bocce
 - Climbing walls
 - Chicago is a good example
 - Columbus OH has a good man made structure
 - Running/walk/bike/trail that connects the entire campus
 - Staging areas for marathon should be considered
 - Dog park
 - Public transit connectivity
 - Utilize all aspects/area of the site and make all areas points of interest/activated
 - Blended aesthetic
 - Modern architecture and existing architecture; consider other area developments
 - Enhance existing assets such as the river, parks
 - Enhance transportation mobility and movement
 - Community facing elements should face the community
 - Infinity pool within the river
 - See Brooklyn's "Plus Pool"
 - Sustainability
 - Handicap accessible playground

Table #21

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - No NFL
 - Monuments
 - Keep Farmers Market, add arts/crafts
 - Ball fields
 - Community sports facilities
 - Boating
 - Interact with the river
 - Flexible space
 - Pop-up space
 - Indoor sports complex (like PG Sports & Learning Complex)
 - Still no NFL
 - Track & Field
 - Really Still No NFL
 - Safe Bike trails & bike services
 - Grade separated roads
 - Amphitheater
 - Skate park
 - Permeable parking
 - Design to connect to schools, safe access for kids
 - Softball
 - Tournament style fields
 - Community garden
 - Urban farm
 - Not kidding about the NFL thing. Just don't.
 - Integrate the island-swimming in the river (clean between island and shore or build floating pool)
 - Like Yards Park
 - Did we mention No NFL? No NFL
 - Partner with Arboretum or water gardens
 - Education for kids

Table #22

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - No stadium
 - Alter lease—mixed use
 - More city on non-flood plain
 - Sports/rec fields on flood plain
 - Connectivity between neighborhoods and between neighborhoods and river.
 - Waterfront use—active (think Yards Park)
 - DC needs more housing—this site offers opportunity to address
 - Unique site
 - Rec facilities

Table #23:

- What Is Important To Us / What We'd Like To See At The RFK Site
 - No NFL
 - Align to Reservation 13 development
 - Amphitheater
 - Stormwater management/green infrastructure
 - Waterfront similar to Georgetown/Navy Yard
 - Recreational fields
 - Running trails/nature trails
 - Aquatic center – indoor and outdoor
 - Kayaking/canoeing/boathouse
 - Ecotarium/wetlands restoration/environmental education center
 - Ice skating/roller rink
 - Dog park
 - Community gardens/farmers market
 - Connection to Kingman Island
 - Picnic area
 - Café (like at Canal Park)
 - Must be climate-change resistant/adaptable
 - Fountains/splash park