



BABY STEPS

Dear Constituents,

I found myself saying to a friend yesterday “I can’t even make a ‘Venn Diagram’^[1] out of this!”. I was referring to how it is challenging to draw Venn circles that represent logical relationships around the variables associated with the proposed hotel and underground garage project at City Dock.

Allow me to backup. This past Tuesday, January 23, I attended the Ward One Residents Association monthly meeting to provide a legislative update and status of City projects and summary of my initiatives. I prefaced the meeting by asking the attendees to answer or complete the following sentence: *What do you want Annapolis to become?* I thought a fair enough question as we are in an administration transition, and at the same time presented with an aggressive ‘project specific’ implementation of the City Dock Master Plan (CDMP). Here is a representation of the answers I received on the provided index cards:

I want Annapolis to become:

- a historic city
- a city with a vibrant residential historic district
- a product of a cohesive plan and a collective identity
- a community again with people who care about each other and the integrity of the city,
- a city where people of all ages, backgrounds and interests can feel welcome
- more less us vs. them
- a diverse community
- a leader environmentally, artistically & entertainment
- a city taking care of citizens through jobs, housing and health.
- cleaner
- no more bars and restaurants
- a premier destination to live, work and visit.
- eco-friendly
- visionary

So let’s unpack this. We certainly have a visionary Mayor, and it is a proven fact that re-emerged historic cities such as Charleston, Frederick, Madison, and Newburyport, to name a few, were the result of a visionary Mayor implementing a plan. These Mayors were successful in balancing the associated uneasiness and high emotions when new

ideas are presented. Those of you who gave up your Saturday morning this past weekend experienced that uneasiness when Peter Fillat presented his progressed conceptual plans for the hotel and underground garage project at City Dock, replacing the old Harborside Restaurant and introducing a 55 and 70 ft roof and penthouse line, respectfully. The attendees were engaged, asked intelligent, thoughtful questions and left somewhat open minded. That is commendable considering the depth of the proposed project. I felt the resident's needs to ask specific questions, albeit too premature to be answered, but were important nonetheless. Having all my career experience in construction I can confidently tell you that this project is still in 'programmatic stage' meaning there is no defined program. We don't have defined users and consequently don't know the associated area and parking ratios to accommodate them. There are no soil tests, no budget, no single Owner, no schedule or cash flow which are needed, not necessarily in that order, to commence design. There is no possibility that this project will commence in 6 months. In addition, the parking garage, unless it adds another level, is not a replacement for Hillman. These soundbites need to be studied and stated accurately to the public when they are known. I do know as a fact that several bi-weekly city coordination meetings have been held so that a final plan for flood mitigation per the CDMP can move forward with what *may* happen at this 'opportunity site'. It is important to note that the City has procedures to follow for a project to become a reality. So, at present I would summarize that this project is in conceptual stage, with discussions of land ownership and use ongoing. It may be decided that a zoning overlay of the proposed development area would need to be done due to the proposed height increase. That's a big deal. So, with that, I will circle back to my question above but ask you to do so considering these realities:

- What do we do with an existing building, (the temporary AYC), which has failed at least three times as a restaurant?
- How can we make the north side of City Dock more accessible and inviting by foot?
- Where can we offer alternate parking for the surface parking that is blocking access to the water.

To continue dialog I feel we should trust that we can agree that something needs to be done at this site. This is important as the alternative is tragic. In an air of mistrust, whether it is politically driven or just shy of facts, the air becomes toxic and *nothing* will get done. And then we are left with an unacceptable status quo: a concrete sea of parked cars, an unusable 'mall', a deteriorating Burtiss House and an empty restaurant.

So, what about my intersecting circles? My bet is that the repeated words on those notecards: history, community, vibrancy will bring us back to shared values that will be the springboard for positive discussions about what WE want as we move forward TOGETHER with or without this project. My job is to keep you informed and engaged as we take this journey.

I apologize for devoting my monthly newsletter to this one topic as there are other items to discuss in the Ward. Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at elly@ellytierney.com with

any questions. I will be in the window at 49 West next Tuesday 12-3 if you want to chat more.

P.S. Please take a walk down Cornhill street while the brick masons are installing the brick sidewalk in a beautiful herringbone pattern with an in-kind granite curb on a 5-inch sub base of concrete with impeccable sand brushed joints. That's the stuff I know we can agree on.

Kind regards,
Alderwoman Elly Tierney
February 1, 2018

[1] John Venn was born on August 4, 1834 in Kingston Upon Hull, England. He was a logician and philosopher best known as the inventor of diagrams, the Venn diagram. He also made important contributions to symbolic logic, probability theory and the philosophy of science. He was ordained an Anglican priest in 1859 and died April 4, 1923 in Cambridge. He was an unusual guy in that he believed any subject could be represented visually and approached from the mathematical side, and therefore he used orderly circles to attempt propositions. Venn himself did not use the term "Venn diagram" and referred to his invention as "Eulerian Circles".