Old Town Visioning Committee
Notes from September 5, 2019 Meeting

PART 1: Small Area Plans Presentation from Cunningham Quill Architects

PART 2: Refining Goals for Guiding Principles (continued from August 1 meeting)

Provide Convenient and Safe Accessibility and Connectivity
1. Improve mobility by designing and completing a grid of streets and shortening blocks for easier walking, while creating internal pathways / wayfinding where appropriate
2. Ensure a safe and comfortable walking environment
3. Create wayfinding plans to make navigating by vehicle and foot clear and convenient
4. Replace surface parking with parking structures and convenient on-street parking

Next Steps for the September 26 meeting:
- Finalize goal for Goal 5: Create Unique Experiences
- Develop summary statement/sentence that explains each Guiding Principle
- Review overall work product – Vision, Guiding Principles, and Goals – and make any final tweaks

** Note: Committee members were asked to consider what *statement would capture the essence/ describe each Guiding Principle* between now and the next meeting and to come to the meeting with their suggestions. **If possible, please email suggestions to Lyndsey prior to the September 26 meeting and we will compile these ideas as drafts/suggestions and use as a starting point to make this discussion more efficient.**

Summary: Work Completed to Date

<u>**Vision for Old Town**</u>: **A vibrant destination for all people to connect, innovate, and share unique experiences**

<u>**Guiding Principles:**</u>

1. Build Strong Partnerships (w/GMU, Fairfax County, State, etc.)
- Bring GMU into Old Town and create a partnership that provides redevelopment, education, and places to live for students, faculty, staff, and City residents
- Create a transportation plan between the City and GMU
- Encourage incubator space – create innovation and maximize research opportunities
- Create a strong liaison with the state to benefit infrastructure, business development, and tourism

2. Grow Business
- Substantially increase funding for and provide incentives to increase the variety of independent retail shops and businesses
- Increase the City's resources to support business owners
- Explore grant programs and other state and federal funding opportunities
- Establish entertainment anchors to activate Old Town and attract patrons on evenings and weekends
- Increase residential density in Old Town to support the Old Town business community

3. Enhance Culture
- Partnership with GMU to attract multiple entertainment venues
- Partnership with Fairfax County to enhance historical interpretation
- Focus on utilizing technology to promote culture and history
- Create street art and building art program

4. Provide Convenient and Safe Accessibility and Connectivity
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