

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes

11 January 2006

Pat Daniels, Presiding.

Attending

Members: Dave Clinger, Ali Faruk (representing SGA President Eddie O'Leary), Janice Hall Nuckolls, Mr. Pantele, John Peters, Turk Sties and Todd Woodson.

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn, President of FOMP, Kitty Winkler, Aaron Samsel, Christie Burwell, Lt. O'Berry & Officer Ellis.

Pat Daniels opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Ms. Daniels related that the Off-Duty Police Officer is in place and will be on duty in the park on Sundays through 22 January. The hours are generally 12 Noon to 4:30 PM. The officer on duty, in addition to keeping out illegal parking, is to be on the lookout for illegal alcoholic beverage consumption, sleeping in the park and other activities that are against existing City Ordinances.

Ms. Kuhn related to all that the Friends of Monroe Park are working with Karen Kelly of Shipp and Wilson to develop a planting plan for the circle bed at the fountain.

Larry Miller reported that Robinson Iron reviewed the photos taken by Mr. Peters in relation to staining at the Fountain. The foundry is of the opinion that these stains are caused by hard water and can be cleaned annually. Larry was to check on whether a water softening system could be installed on the pump. (Update: The system is a non-circulating type, as such; a water softening system would not be workable).

Lt. O'Berry reported that the MOU between the RPD and VCU-PD has been signed off by both Police Chiefs. This MOU gives enforcement priority to VCU-PD on most law enforcement issues, with the exception of major crimes. As the primary responder will be VCU-PD, it was suggested that signs be placed in the park with their emergency dispatcher's number: 828-1234. There are still some communication details to be worked out in relation to communications between VCU and the City's Emergency Communications.

During the discussion on this matter, it was suggested that perhaps an unoccupied squad car could be parked in the park as a deterrent. However, Mr. Peters brought to everyone's attention that this type of approach is of limited value, as sooner or later, people will see it's just a "ruse". Everyone agreed with this observation.

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Mr. Woodson asked about the status of the spring Arts Show in cooperation with VCU. Mr. Faruk said he would check with Eddie O'Leary on the status of this event.

Mr. Woodson also asked about the re-dedication of Monroe Park for President Monroe's Birthday in April. There was some discussion about just focusing the re-dedication to the presentation of the City Council Proclamation about the subject and not doing a "major event". There was not any formal consensus on this subject and the subject will be discussed again in February's meeting.

Pat Daniels raised the issue of the Master Plan for the park, and whether funds could be found for the work within the Mayor's newly proposed "City of the Future" bonds. Mr. Pantele related that lobbying informally for this may be a good idea later this spring and would bring attention to the park. It also thought that at some point, perhaps VCU could help out with some funding.

Mr. Pantele stated that this would assist in "recapturing a Vision" for the park.

Everyone agreed that this was a good idea and that whatever the result of a final "plan" it should be flexible, focus to historic nature of the park and have the ability to be phased into place. This was part of the Advisory Council's VPI work session in early January 2006, whereby Advisory Council members "pulled ideas" from the various plans presented by the students.

Turk Sites related that there were two other items to keep in mind: Any plan should improve the attractiveness of the park and should bring people back into the park to enjoy it.

There was a brief discussion on updating and altering Rev. Rain's "ground rules of behavior" for the park by feeding groups. Todd Woodson and Turk Sites volunteered to sit on a sub-committee to address this, and present their findings at the next meeting.

These edited ground rules will be available for use by the police and other enforcement agencies who work in the Park. These ground rules would be shared with program participants and sponsors.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 February, 2006 at 4 PM. The location of the next meeting is the LANDMARK THEATER – Lounge B - Upstairs.

See Meeting Notice below.

MEETING NOTICE

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

**Location: RICHMOND'S LANDMARK THEATER
 Lounge B - Upstairs
 6 NORTH LAUREL STREET
 RICHMOND, VA 23220**