

# **MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**

## **January 10, 2007**

***Pat Daniels, Presiding***

Members Attending:

David Clinger, James Hill, Brian Ohlinger, Janice Nuckolls, John Peters, Turk Sties, and Todd Woodson.

Guests Attending:

Tyler Potterfield, Officer Abrams of VCU Police, Rachel Flynn, Tyler Potterfield

Ms. Pat Daniels opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

The notes from the previous meetings (December 2006) were accepted by unanimous vote.

Larry Miller followed up on a request to the Advisory Council for an additional \$84,000 in funding for the Monroe Park Landscape Master Plan. The original proposal offer from the consultant was \$197,000. In a staff review of the proposal components, staff was able to eliminate what they considered to be "fluff" and reduce the cost of the Master Plan work to slightly over \$159,000. As each member knows, the Department of Community Development had committed to paying \$75,000 toward the Master Plan. The additional funding (\$84,000) will be used to make up the difference in order to pay for the new revised pricing.

This new price was agreeable to the proposer and the Purchasing Dept. Larry Miller reported back at the meeting on this and final approval of the funding was voted on. A date will be set for a "kick off" meeting with the consultants at February's meeting.

After this discussion, Officer Abrams discussed the illegal parking issue that is occurring in Monroe Park. She stated that all supervisors have been reminded that public parking within the park is not allowed. It is only allowed for supporting special events or if a City/VCU owned vehicle is providing service.

Officer Abrams also reported that the VCU student population will return on 15 January 2007.

Todd Woodson noted, and all the other members concurred that they are very appreciative of the high level of support given to MPAC by VCU.

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Larry Miller has informed DPU that MPAC was working on a Master Landscape Plan for the park and that any utility work that may be planned in terms of street light replacement should be incorporated into this work when it is on-going. DPU understood this approach and is working on the engineering drawings, but as best as possible will hold up on any construction.

The Park Keeper concept for Monroe Park was discussed. VCU had developed the job specifications and will be doing a hiring process later this spring. A proposed operations budget for the park has been developed and is under discussion by various parties.

There was a discussion on the new Conrad Center which has recently opened on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. This center is designed to assist the homeless population in the City. It was the impression of many MPAC members that all the feeding programs in the park would transition to this new center.

However, it was pointed out that weekend feedings are not offered at the Conrad Center and as such the center would have little impact on the homeless feeding programs offered on the weekends at the Park.

Tyler Potterfield shared his Report on the history of Monroe Park, which was very well received by all the members. Larry Miller is to inquire of MPAC members and Mr. Potterfield on a possible date for a public lecture on his outstanding report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until February 14, 2007.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. The location of the next meeting is the Landmark Theater – Lounge B – Upstairs.**

**See meeting notice on next page.**

**MEETING NOTICE**

**MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.**

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