

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting

9 February 2005

Meeting Notes

Ms. Alice M. Massie, presiding.

In Attendance: James Hill, Turk Sties, Brian Ohlinger and Todd Woodson. Note: Ms. Daniels is on a leave of absence to take care of family issues. Ms. Massie will be in charge until her return.

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn of the Friends of Monroe Park and Mark Brewster, a student at VCU representing the SGA.

Ms. Massie opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

This meeting was quick and to the point. The following actions were taken:

1. In response to Peter Girardi's report on "Phase II" tree work in the park, the Advisory Council voted to allocate up to \$5,000 of funding from the Foundation account to trigger this work to be done by 1 April 2005.
2. Ms. Kuhn and Mr. Todd Woodson volunteered to review the planting/landscape plan for the bed surrounding the fountain. Funds were allocated to pay for this work from the Advisory Council's CIP. Up to \$3,000 were allocated for this project, if it should proceed as planned.
3. The WiFi project was discussed. It was decided that that up to \$5,000 would be allocated toward this project, which is to provide wireless access to the Internet in the park by patrons who have that type of laptop computer capability. Mr. Mike Rohde, who is our computer "guru" and supportive of the Advisory Council's efforts will take the project leader role to gather appropriate bids for this work. This information is to be presented at the next meeting of the Advisory Council.

Messrs. Sites and Woodson gave a brief overview of the meeting they attended concerning parking and security issues in and around the Monroe Park. This meeting was held with the Alliance for the Performing Arts, which is a group comprised of all the performance arts groups in the City (i.e. the Symphony, Ballet, Jazz Society, Opera, etc. etc.). This group was formed as part of the efforts of all the performance arts groups in the City to support the construction of proposed Virginia Performing Arts Center downtown. Mr. Sites and Mr. Woodson outlined to this group the Advisory Council's position on No Parking in Monroe Park (i.e. no public parking, but Park special events, police/fire/service vehicles are allowed). Larry Miller reiterated the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities position to the group, which mirrors the position of the Advisory Council.

Larry Miller presented the final version, a Citizen petition and cover letter about the Monroe Park Perimeter Parking Plan. A brief review was done, and the information was signed off and given to Mr. Miller to mail to all appropriate parties. (The mailing was done during mid-February 2005). As a side note to all: As of early March 2005, only one (1) party has responded, the Preswold Association.

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Larry Miller announced that the installation of the benches surrounding the fountain should begin in February, weather permitting (as of early March, most of the new benches are installed). The old benches, which are scheduled to be removed as part of the new benches' installation on a one for one basis (i.e. one new bench, remove one old bench), which will be begin in next week, weather permitting.

Brian Ohlinger was asked to provide assistance on two (2) items:

1. Create a map overlay of the park using his Engineering Division so the Advisory Council could better visualize proposed work in the park, and;
2. Use the recently completed Test Boring Study to better define a cost estimate on Roadway removal.

Larry Miller was also asked to also develop a better estimate and plan for the irrigation improvement project. This information is to be forwarded to Mr. Ohlinger for review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the **Monroe Park Advisory Council will be 4:00 p.m., March 9, at Richmond's Landmark Theater, Lounge B - upstairs.**

See meeting notice on next page.

MEETING NOTICE
MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

RICHMOND'S LANDMARK THEATER
(Lounge B - Upstairs)