

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting

09 March 2005

Meeting Notes

Mr. Turk Sties, presiding.

In Attendance: David Clinger, Janice Nuckolls, Brian Ohlinger, and John Peters.

Note: Ms. Daniels is on a brief leave of absence to take care of family issues. Ms. Massie, the Vice-Chair was unable to attend and Mr. Sties kindly consented to manage the meeting.

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn of the Friends of Monroe Park, Ellen Canova, Florence Lunger, Rev. John Rains, Sue Kelly and Bill Thomas of the Monroe Foundation.

Mr. Sties opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

There was a brief discussion on the existing Master Plan for the Park. Brian Ohlinger inquired if the Advisory Council was using the existing plan for the basis of discussion on roadways, lights, generally fixing up the park, etc. Mr. Peters and the Advisory Council hold the opinion that the existing plan is our springboard and the basis to any other work projects that may come forward in the future. It was also a consensus that we are following the plan as best as possible with the limited resources available.

There was a discussion about the Perimeter Parking Plan with a guest to the meeting, Ms. Ellen Canova. She had concerns about the removal of the bus stop as well as changing the parking times in front of her home. As such, when she brought these concerns to light, the Advisory Council voted to rescind that portion of the Perimeter Parking Plan and leave the area in front of her house "as is".

Mr. Peters outlined the plan for the dedication of the Historic Marker, which is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, at 1:00 p.m. in the park. The program would include the Council representative (Mr. Pantele), the City Council President, (Mr. Loupassi), a representative from the Department of Historic Resources (TBD), and Dr. Trani of VCU. Invitations would be developed by the sub-committee and sent to interested parties by April 7th. Originally, the program did not include any refreshments for spectators or participants but in the past 24 hours the VCU Alumni Foundation has offered to provide a cake & light refreshments for the ceremony. This offer has been accepted by the Council. Mr. Peters and his co-chair, Mr. Clinger, both hold the opinion that the entire ceremony should take no longer than 20 - 25 minutes. Larry Miller is tasked with getting a drape to cover the marker before it is unveiled for the ceremony. He will also provide two tables for refreshments.

Mr. Bill Thomas, President of the James Monroe Foundation, offered to incorporate the Advisory Council's marker dedication ceremony into a much larger event that is being conducted in Hollywood Cemetery in remembrance of President Monroe. The Advisory Council graciously declined his offer as they held the opinion that the Monroe Park ceremony should focus on the park versus the man.

One of the guests, Rev. John Rains introduced himself as a minister who is interested in providing programs to the homeless in Monroe. The Advisory Council welcomed him and his efforts.

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Brian Ohlinger announced that new trashcans for the park have been bought by VCU and would be installed in early April. Everyone was very excited and pleased to hear this great news!

Elinor Kuhn asked about whether or not we may be able to get water for the fountain beds by taking a feed off the pump pit of the fountain. Larry Miller said he would investigate this.

Mr. Sties announced that the Monroe Park Cleanup Day as part of the City's Super Clean Up would take place on Saturday, 19 March at 08:00 a.m. (The cleanup day in the park was very successful) Thank you to everyone for the hard work in the beds, fixing and cleaning, etc. etc.!!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the **Monroe Park Advisory Council will be 4:00 p.m., April 13, at Richmond's Landmark Theater, Lounge B - upstairs.**

See meeting notice on next page.

MEETING NOTICE
MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, April 13, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

RICHMOND'S LANDMARK THEATER
(Lounge B - Upstairs)