

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes
May 10, 2006

Pat Daniels, Presiding

Members Attending: John Peters, Janice Nuckolls, David Clinger, Alice Massie, Turk Sties, Todd Woodson, Charles Pool, Eddie O'Leary, Brian Hollinger

Guests: Elinor Kuhn, Rachel Flynn

Notes taken by: Suellen Cansler for Larry Miller

Pat Daniels opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. She advised that she had received the invoice from Virginia Tech for expenses in the amount of \$1,669.88. Ms. Daniels spoke about the UDC status. Plans to remove the roadways and replace with turf passed six to three. She stated that this was going to be presented to the Planning Commission on Monday, May 15, 2006, and felt that a better strategy was needed for this presentation. (Update: this meeting was moved to Monday, June 5, 2006 and the request passed as conditionally approved to allow for a two (2) roadway area on the eastern side of the park next to Belevidere Street to be removed).

Mr. Peters said that he had concerns about the Monroe Park Advisory Council being able to do any future planning beyond what has been approved already. He felt that UDC came close to deciding that the Monroe Park Advisory Council should not be able to do any planning. Mr. Sties said he has talked with Ms. Flynn and she suggested putting this on the Mayor's Roundtable. He did not think they should do that until she met with Monroe Park Advisory Council. Mr. Peters said that it needed to be stated at the Planning Commission meeting that the only goal at the present time was to eliminate roadways, not a long-range master plan for the park.

Mr. Ohlinger said, in his opinion, MPAC was executing the master plan which stated that the number of roadways would be reduced. He felt as long as MPAC was consistent with the master plan; other actions could be taken as funds become available. Circumstances can change that can cause some aspects of the master plan to change somewhat.

Ms. Daniels asked that as many members as possible attend the Planning Commission meeting and she would prepare an introduction to put things in context. She stated that she would circulate what she prepared to the members.

Eddie O'Leary thought the Council should address the process for responding to e-mails. It was discussed that e-mails should be acknowledged and people should be thanked for offering their input and encouraged to come to the monthly meetings. Ms. Daniels stated that she responds to general inquiries or asks Mr. Woodson to respond to some. If the e-mail asked about the Council's position, however, the inquiry should be brought to the Council for discussion before a response is given.

Mr. Ohlinger advised that the backflow pre-venter was being installed that day in Monroe Park, which was the last piece of the entire setup. He said testing of the sprinklers should be able to begin. It was discussed that the landscaper will be able to come in to plant once the water is on and Mrs. Massie said that the young people she is working with can assist with weeding. (Update: The irrigation system is functional and the two youth volunteers worked with Ms. Kuhn and others to plant the surround bed around the fountain....looks great!)

Mr. Woodson stated that the lead eagles have been installed. A motion was made to keep the eagles in their present condition with no painting. This motion was seconded and passed.

Ms. Kuhn said that the bike event in Monroe Park was successful with approximately 18 to 20 children participating. She also said on May 20th there would be a parade of children with various types of bikes decorated, with games and prizes.

Mr. Sties said the birthday commemoration to President Monroe at Hollywood Cemetery was very nice and there was a reception at the Virginia War Memorial. He also mentioned the plans for the memorial to President Monroe in the Park. He will invite some people to Council's meeting to get specifics on money from Dupont.

Ms. Rachel Flynn, Director of Community Development, joined the meeting and was introduced to the Advisory Council and shared her background with the members. Ms. Flynn said she sees Monroe Park as the most important park in the City and was grateful for all of the work the council has done. Mrs. Daniel asked Ms. Flynn about her views of what the next steps should be after the roadway work is done. Ms. Flynn said she thought a landscape architect who has proven to be successful should be hired and this would show immediate results for people to see. A one-year plan and a five-year plan should be developed which would gain credibility and support. She stated that she could talk with the Mayor and Mr. Harrell and would do all she could to keep the momentum going forward.

The Advisory Council thanked Ms. Flynn for coming. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. The location of the next meeting is the Landmark Theater, Lounge B, upstairs.

MEETING NOTICE

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

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