

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes 8 June 2005

Note: This meeting took place at Grace & Holy Trinity Church as the Landmark Theater was hosting high school graduations. Our sincere thanks to them for the use of their meeting room.

Attending:

Messrs. John Peters, Dave Clinger, Richard Stutts, Todd Woodson, Turk Sties and Brian Ohlinger.

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn, President of the Friends of Monroe Park, Rev. John Rains, Lt. Tom Nolan, RPD, and Cpl. L.C. Ray, VCU-PD.

Larry Miller conducted the meeting.

Mr. Miller reported that there were only two issues of substance on the agenda:

- A. Should we hire a City Contractor for Landscape Architectural Design to assist us with the park planning process concerning the roadway removal project?

It was decided after discussion by the MPAC that up to \$15,000 should be allocated from existing funds to hire a firm to assist us in the planning process. Larry Miller is to have a potential contractor attend the next MPAC meeting to discuss the conceptual aspects of what the work would entail.

Everyone agreed that the general theme of the park should remain as best as possible "Victorian"

- B. The City Parks and Recreation Department was working on developing a "Park Safety Plan" for key park locations Citywide. Volunteers were requested to sit on a Park Safety Sub-Committee. Messrs. Sties and Woodson volunteered to sit on this Sub-Committee along with representatives from both the RPD and VCU-PD. Ms. Daniels was also asked via phone to attend this meeting. (A meeting of the Safety Sub-Committee was held on 15 June 2005 – copies of the notes concerning this meeting will be would be available in hard copy format at the next MPAC for greater discussion of ideas/suggestions and comments).

This work is part of an overall push from the RPD in cooperation with Parks and Recreation and other interested parties to develop a Citywide Parks Safety Plan for the City's park system.

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Larry Miller made the announcement that Monroe Park is very close to being a Wireless Computer (WiFi) hot spot. He was asked to investigate whether the park might be the "first public park with WiFi installed within it" in Virginia.

My report: Not all agencies or Departments responded to my inquiry about this...but 90% of the Departments in the State did...While there are some public recreation centers, libraries, campgrounds and specialized locations within the State that do have WiFi hot spots, it appears that our MONROE PARK is the first PUBLIC WiFi "hot spot" in a PUBLIC PARK, sponsored by a local PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT...in the Commonwealth!!! (WAY COOL!)

Our most sincere thanks to **Mike Rohde**, who headed up the WiFi installation project. Without his expertise and considerable time investment, this project would not have been completed!

(An event celebrating this latest improvement to the park is being planned).

Brian Ohlinger reported that the initial bids for the irrigation system came in too high (\$237,000), so VCU is revising the bid as well as the timing of the work (moving to later in summer/early fall). They will re-advertise the irrigation bid with the hope of getting a more reasonable price for the work.

There being no other business, the Advisory Council adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at 4 PM. The location of the next meeting is the Landmark Theater, Lounge B - Second Floor.

See Meeting Notice on next page.

MEETING NOTICE

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, July 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Richmond's Landmark Theater, Lounge B