

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes **June 14, 2006**

Pat Daniels, Presiding

Members Attending: David Clinger, James Hill, William "Bill" Pantele, John Peters, Alice Massie, Janice Nuckolls, Brian Ohlinger, Eddie O'Leary, Turk Sties, and Todd Woodson.

Guests: Rachel Flynn, Tyler Potterfield, R. H. Stutts, Lt. Tom Nolan

Pat Daniels opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Ms. Flynn and Mr. Potterfield of the Department of Community Development were introduced to the MPAC. After introductions, Mr. Potterfield presented three documents that could be useful to our development of a historic landscape master plan for Monroe Park. Those documents were a landscape plan for Capitol Square; "The Trees of the City", a 1904 City Engineer report on trees within the City; and a staff report concerning Monroe Park from the Dept. of Community Development.

As part of the assistance that DCD is offering us is the advice given to us by Mr. Wooten who is a member of Capitol Square Preservation Council. This Advisory Council was formed by the State in 1999 in response to numerous tree ceremonies that were getting out of hand in Capitol Square. The individuals on the Preservation Council initiated a public input process, as well as a workshop, that eventually selected an architect to develop a master landscape plan for Capitol Square. This master plan made very specific recommendations concerning the pathways within the Square, how the perimeter of the park was to be preserved, what type of species would be used to replace trees, and created a template of appropriate plant materials for the Square. Any plant materials that would be removed would be saved for use in other parks. As part of the process for developing a plan for Capitol Square, the Preservation Council did a design "charett" which was very useful in defining the overall sense and theme of Capitol Square.

Pat Daniels asked how the Preservation Council was able to determine the priorities in relation to the landscape plan. It was primarily determined by the renovations/restoration work of the Capitol Building itself and, as such, the Preservation Council took advantage of that timing to bring forward their historic landscape master plan which was incorporated into the overall work.

Pat Daniels thanked Mr. Wooten for his input and advice and requested that he continue to lend his advice as they go through their Monroe Park process. Mr. Potterfield announced that the Planning Commission had accepted the staff recommendation in relation to the removal of two roadways in the park. Larry Miller was to get a firm proposal of the expense of this project and Construction Drawings from our architectural consultant, Ron Worley.

Mr. Pantele shared with the MPAC that he was able to have a \$750,000 dollar appropriation entered into the City's CIP budget! Everyone was very pleased and excited to hear this great news! Mr. Pantele went on to thank the members of MPAC for all their hard work, new ideas, and diligence. Mr. Pantele said he remembered how different the park was two years ago and what a wonderful difference everyone's hard work has made to reinvigorate the park.

Mr. Pantele also made it clear to both DCD and Park staff that your opinions (MPAC's) are most important as you will be the client and the beneficiary of a historic landscape plan for Monroe Park. He urged all Advisory Council members to move forward with their work.

Todd Woodson related that there was a great article on Chicago parks by Neil Perce in the paper.

Rachel Flynn shared with the Advisory Council that she was very appreciate of her warm welcome and looked forward to working with them on the development of the landscape plan.

John Peters stated that he wanted to make sure everyone understood the heritage of the park and acted accordingly. This point of view was also reflected by Mr. Stutts who opined that we must respect the park and its many historic aspects.

Members of the Advisory Council made it clear to City staff that they wanted to have input on the selection process on the contractor who would provide the planning services for the landscape architecture plan.

Turk Sties offered a motion that the Council continue on the removal of the two roadways as approved by the Planning Commission and that the Advisory Council assist City staff in the development of a RFP for the Landscape Master Plan. This motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 12, 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, July 12, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

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