

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

July 11, 2007

Turk Sties, Presiding

Members Attending: Turk Sties, Dave Clinger, Elinor Kuhn, Janice Nuckolls, John Peters, and Todd Woodson

Guests Attending: Jackie Decker, Monroe Park – Park Keeper

Mr. Sties opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Turk Sties circulated the meeting notes which were approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Sites began the meeting with a discussion about aggressive panhandling. In comments made it was suggested that we discuss this with Brian Ohlinger to see if some better method of dealing with the situation could be crafted. Ms. Decker stated that it is better, but still very aggressive and the local feeding programs seem to add to the situation. Ms. Decker stated that she had the cards that were created to pass out to homeless individuals outlining services and other feeding program options and she is giving them out in her conversations with people in the park.

There was a discussion about the plants within the fountain bed and that they needed to be trimmed and the bed generally cleaned up. Ms. Decker reported that she would take care of this.

Discussion then turned to the latest version of the master plan regarding the roadways. Mr. Peters reminded everyone that five (5) different roadway treatments were discussed with the majority of the Advisory Council voting for the roadways to have a new surface treatment and be brought to grade to eliminate “trip hazards”. Mr. Woodson stated that there was a meeting to be set with DHR to discuss not having curbs to make sure that any of the work to be done doesn’t conflict with any of their provisions. The statement was made that while the park is not a historic landmark, it is a contributing element to the Monroe Park Historic District. It was reported that this fact could possibly lead to historic tax credits from the state to assist with the restoration/renovation of the park area.

Mr. Woodson brought up the continuing issue of police and service vehicles routinely (not in an emergency) going around the bollards and driving on the grass. This has and does lead to damage of the irrigation system.

It was stated that a special meeting with the police should be set up to once again discuss this issue as it continues to be a problem. MPAC were at a loss as to why this subject keeps being a problem...

Mr. Sties raised the issue of pot holes on the roadways. Larry Miller said he would work with DPW to have repaired.

Ms. Kuhn discussed the perimeter trees surrounding the park and said while it important to have a master plan for this, regardless, the trees should be replaced as they die off and are removed.

Mr. Sties said we should renew our limbing up efforts and many of the trees need to have their limbs raised again to keep the park “open”.

Mr. Woodson agreed with this statement, but urged caution in any tree work done so that the work done is consistent with the master plan efforts.

This brought up everyone’s concern that any future hurricane, such as Hurricane Hazel in the 1950s, could decimate the park’s tree inventory if they are not maintained and should be addressed.

Ms. Decker asked about the enforcement in the park of rules and regulations. Ms. Decker was informed that “day to day” enforcement in the park is done by VCU Police and if she has a problem with any park Patron she should call the VCU Police for assistance.

Both Mr. Sties and Larry Miller reported that individuals who cease to be agreeable to obeying the rules and regulations in the park can be banned using a City administrative process. This will be brought up at the next City-wide Park Safety Committee meeting in September. It was also suggested that a Monroe Park Safety Sub-Committee be established. Janice Nuckolls, Turk Sties and Todd Woodson said they would work on this concept.

At the end of the meeting, the advisory council members present voted not to meet in August.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to Monroe Park to tour and inspect trees.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 4 PM.

The location of the next meeting is the Landmark Theater – Lounge B – Upstairs.

SEE MEETING NOTICE – NEXT PAGE

MEETING NOTICE

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007 AT 4 PM

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