

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

August 14, 2008

Alice Massie, Presiding

Members Attending:

David Clinger, Elinor Kuhn, Alice Massie, Janice Nuckolls, Brian Ohlinger, John Peters, Turk Sties, and Todd Woodson.

Guests Attending: Steve Taylor, with Richmond City Council Staff.

Mr. Sties opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and then turned the meeting over to Ms. Massie.

The notes from the previous June meeting were accepted.

Mr. Ohlinger gave an overview of the upcoming VCU move in later in August. VCU has taken extensive steps to insure a smooth move in terms of traffic flow and pedestrian movement. In a sense this is “a gift to us as it made us seriously plan and rethink how we do move in due to the parking restrictions in Monroe”.

This year on campus there will be 5200 college residents.

Total students at VCU this year will be approximately 32,000; 3750 of which will be Freshmen.

There was a long discussion about the “patio joint project” with VCU. It was decided that Larry Miller will work with Richmond Purchasing Services and VCU Purchasing Services to craft a “partnership” agreement to work together on the install of the patio and electric feed at an area near the Checkers House (exact placement to be determined). [Update: Larry met with the City Attorney and Purchasing Departments, who are now “on board” with the concept. A meeting with VCU/City is set for 16 September 2008 at 10:30 AM]. Details next month.

Mr. Sties gave an update on the MPAC's/Friends of Monroe Park participation in the 40th Anniversary Celebration in October. He is soliciting ideas for our booth displays. Ms. Kuhn, who is co-chair of this effort, suggested that a power-point presentation outlining the new master plan for the park be incorporated into the displays. Mr. Woodson suggested that the VCU Archives at their library has a fairly good collection of early 20th century postcards of the park that could be enlarged and included in the displays. Everyone liked these ideas, however it was suggested by Mr. Peters that additional thought should be given to our display and a discussion group comprised of Ms. Kuhn and Messrs. Peters and Sties would continue to refine MPAC's approach to our booth display.

Janice Nuckolls reported that City Council is extending the term limits of the MPAC to allow them to continue their work. This Council paper should come forward in September.

There was concern raised about an "event" entitled a "Really, Really Free Market" in the park. The position taken by MPAC was that if they leave a mess of old items in the park (essentially this is a give away program of old items such as clothes); the City should cite them for littering/dumping.

Mr. Woodson raised the issue of a conservation easement for Monroe Park. Larry Miller reported that we are close on the James River Park System conservation easement and if this goes well it should be in place by the New Year and this easement concept can be used for other parks like Monroe Park.

Mr. Sties reported that a final draft of a letter to coordinators of feeding programs in the park is almost ready. Some changes to the text are still occurring.

Mr. Taylor reported that he was at our meeting to take notes to update Councilor Graziano of City Council.

Larry Miller was requested to get an update on a re-circulating pump and water treatment system for the fountain in the park. Mr. Miller also updated folk on the RFQ proposals for Construction Documents. [Further update: A meeting with the panel to review the proposals is set for 18 September 2008].

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until September 10, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTICE

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

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