

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes

27 September 2006

Pat Daniels, Presiding.

Attending

Members: Dave Clinger, James Hill, Janice Hall Nuckolls, John Peters, Turk Sties and Todd Woodson.

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn, President of FOMP, Lt. Ladin, RPD.

Pat Daniels opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Ms. Daniels related that the Monroe Park Website has a survey question on it that asks how many times a user has used the WiFi service in the park. The results are enlightening. Please see below:

365 users to date

108 repeat users to date

79 users report that their use is the "first time"

98 users report that they use the Park's WiFi ***everyday.***

Ms. Daniels solicited the MPAC members to see if new question should be developed for the Website. Members reported that they would contact Ms. Daniels directly after they had thought it over.

There was a discussion on installing a fence around the water meter box in the Park. Larry Miller was asked to get an estimate on this work and report back to Advisory Council on the project cost. The estimate to install such a fence is \$4500.00. After discussion by Ms. Kuhn and Mr. Peters, a motion was passed by the Advisory Council to defer this project as no vandalism had occurred to the box or meters.

Larry Miller was also asked to get an estimate on installing a manual gate at the Pine and West Main Streets entry. After discussion about this expense (\$4800+), it was decided that enforcement of the no parking regulations would be the better approach to solve the illegal parking issue.

Turk Sites informed the MPAC that Saturday, Sept. 30 will be VCU "Into the Streets" day and students will be working with Mr. Sites to clean and mulch flower beds in Monroe Park. Members were invited to participate and assist.

Todd Woodson informed everyone that *once again* the lighting system in Monroe Park is partially off. Larry Miller submitted a new request to DPU for repairs. It was discussed that, as part of the Master Landscape Plan for Monroe Park, lighting repairs and upgrades to the existing light system should be a priority.

Lt. Ladin, the new Sector 413 (encompassing Monroe Park) Commander, introduced himself to the MPAC. Lt. Ladin presented statistics from July 1, 2006 to date that show a 39% reduction in crime overall for the Sector. There was a discussion about acquiring more detailed information concerning Monroe Park only. Lt. Ladin reported that he would seek this information for the MPAC. Lt. Ladin also discussed the existing operations agreement between VCU PD and RPD. Basically, this agreement breaks down the enforcement focus to manageable levels with VCU PD focusing on day-to-day criminal activities (loitering, illegal parking, drinking, etc. etc.) and RPD focusing on major crimes (if any) in the Park.

Mr. Peters reminded Lt. Ladin that one of MPAC's prime concerns is preventing illegal parking within the Monroe park area. Parking can only occur via permit or official vehicle (City/VCU PD or emergency vehicles, City/VCU service vehicles, special event parking passes).

It was also noted by MPAC members that the illegal parking issue, while it does re-occur occasionally in the Park, is much better than it was prior to the efforts of both Police Departments.

Larry Miller reported that the RFP review panel work for the Monroe Park Master Landscape Plan is progressing well, with a final selection of a firm slated to occur in late October/early November.

There was a discussion on vending rules for the park, which were developed last spring and implemented as part of the park permit process. The question was broadly asked as to whether these rules should become City Code?

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8 November, 2006 at 4 PM. The location of the next meeting is the LANDMARK THEATER – Lounge B - Upstairs.

NOTE: Larry Miller will be out of town on 8 November 2006. Ms. Suellen Cansler from DPR&CF will take notes at this meeting.

See Meeting Notice below.

MEETING NOTICE

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

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