

# Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes

## 12 October 2005

*Pat Daniels, Presiding.*

Attending

Members: Alice Massie, Janice Nuckolls, Dave Clinger, James Hill, Eddie O'Leary, Brian Ohlinger, Turk Sties and Todd Woodson.

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn, President of FOMP, Lt. Nolan, RPD and Cpl. Ray, VCU-PD and Ron Worley of Worley and Associates - Architects.

Verbal notes were read by Ms. Massie, concerning last month's "split" meeting.

Pat Daniels opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked that the notes reflect that a Yahoo notification group is available to all who would like to have automatic meeting reminders sent to them on a monthly basis. The web address is [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). (NOTE: Larry Miller suggests you contact Ms. Daniels directly for details on how to make this notification program work). Larry stated that he too sends out a meeting reminder to members.

There was a discussion at last month's meeting about covering the expenses of the VPI Landscape Design student project. Based on last month's vote, only \$1,500.00 was allocated to cover the cost, however, in Tech's original proposal, their estimate for their expenses was \$2,484.00. As such, a new vote of the Council was initiated to amend the original \$1,500.00 allocation and increase it to \$2,500.00. This amendment was brought forward by Mr. Peters and passed unanimously.

Ms. Daniels announced what the plans are for the Va. Tech visit on Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>. Originally, plans were to caravan down to VPI for the class presentation but, based on a suggestion from Mr. O'Leary, it was decided that the majority of this work, if not all of it, could be done by video conferencing. Brian Ohlinger of V.C.U. was asked to check on the feasibility of this and report back to Pat Daniels. (UPDATE: Mr. Ohlinger did arrange for video conferencing and we send **our thanks** to him for making these arrangements)

**(UPDATE: FINAL STUDENT PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at 12:15 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Please mark your calendars).**

Alice Massie announced that Freedom House is working on a plan to move as many feeding programs as possible out of the park and inside to the Salvation Army Center on East Grace Street. Ms. Massie also reported that they are seeking ideas to assist on funding the additional expense of hosting this program at the Salvation Army Center. The additional expenses were defined as increases in utilities and

Page 2  
Monroe Park Advisory Council  
Notes  
12 October 2005 Meeting

other operational expenses of the Center. Ms. Massie has asked the Freedom House Representatives to update us on the progress of this plan as it develops.

There was a discussion about the surplus bike racks in Monroe Park. Brian Ohlinger kindly consented to donate the four to five extra bike racks to various park sites around the City. Those park sites include one to Monroe Park, two to James River Park, and one to Oregon Hill Park. Mr. Ohlinger also requested that the monthly special account balance sheet reflect the in-kind donations to Monroe Park that VCU has given over the past twenty-four months. Those items are: \$25,000 in bike racks, benches, and trashcans, \$5,000 in repainting the parkhouse, \$175,000 for the new irrigation system. Wow! Thank you, VCU! Larry Miller stated that he would update the account balance report to reflect this.

Todd Woodson announced that the Land Use and Housing Sub-committee of City Council was going to discuss conservation easements and a possible resolution concerning this by City Council. He urged that Advisory Council members contact their City Councilperson or attend the sub-committee meeting to show their support of this resolution (UPDATE: This conservation easement resolution passed unanimously in City Council on 10/24/05).

Mr. Woodson complimented department staff on the restoration brickwork done on the Checkers House and the World War II Memorial. There was a discussion about Landscape lighting in the northwest sector of the park. Not all bids or proposals are in and the Advisory Council will take up this question at its next meeting.

While most everyone agrees with the need to upgrade the lighting within the park, it was also decided that the master plan needed to discuss lighting at greater length as it is being developed. Pat Daniels stated that she thought that the VPI park design projects would incorporate lighting as part of their general "master plan".

Ron Worley, the consultant hired by the Advisory Council, gave a presentation on what his thinking is on an overall plan. It was decided by all that roadways would no longer be called roadways, but rather pathways to begin setting the tone for elimination of certain pathways in the park. As such, Mr. Worley suggested that the Advisory Council devote some thought to the definition of entrances of the park and determining a pathway surface material.

Eddie O'Leary, who is President of the VCU Student Government Association (SGA), made a suggestion that this coming spring the Advisory Council and VCU host a spring arts sale in the park. Everyone on the Advisory Council thought this was a great idea and a sub-committee was set up to discuss the concept at greater

Page 3  
Monroe Park Advisory Council  
Notes  
12 October 2005 Meeting

length. This sub-committee includes Alice Massie, Janice Nuckolls, and Turk Sties. They will report back to us about the feasibility of this program.

Lt. Nolan reported that for our sector (413), crime was down 18% from last year; however, highway robberies were up 35%. Another pressing issue that seemed to be in the area was the break-in of private vehicles. Lt. Nolan urged everyone not to leave items in plain view that may be of value as that attracts thieves to break in your car.

Corporal Ray announced that VCU is doing a concerted effort in cooperation with Richmond RPD to eliminate illegal behavior in and around Monroe Park. VCU Police, in cooperation with RPD, has banned three to four people from the park since they started this effort.

There being no other business, the Monroe Park Advisory Council adjourned.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2005 at 4 PM. The location of the next meeting is the LANDMARK THEATER – Lounge B - Upstairs.**

**See Meeting Notice on next page.**

**MEETING NOTICE**

**MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday, November 9, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.**

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