

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes 9 November 2005

Pat Daniels, Presiding.

Attending

Members: Alice Massie, Janice Nuckolls, Dave Clinger, Brian Ohlinger, John Peters, Turk Sties and Todd Woodson.

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn, President of FOMP, John Rains, Kitty Winkler, & Debbie Wood, Fan Woman's Club/Fan District Association.

Pat Daniels opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and presenting a resolution of thanks from the Monroe Park Advisory Council to Debbie Woods of the Fan Women's Club/Fan District Association thanking her for the outstanding efforts concerning **the 1st Annual Children's Harvest Festival** in Monroe Park. (It was great!). This resolution was introduced by Mr. Peters, and adopted unanimously by the Advisory Council members

Mrs. Elinor Kuhn, President of the Friends of Monroe Park also presented Ms. Woods with a Certificate of Thanks from their organization.

These items were graciously accepted by Ms. Woods with the kind assistance of her daughter.

Turk Sties also brought to everyone's attention that the Fan District Association also sponsored a parks clean-up day in the Fan District, which was very successful. Teams from throughout the Fan worked on sprucing up the District's parks.

In other business, Larry Miller announced that Officer Jim Woo of the RPD is coordinating "park clean-up days" using jail prisoners on Tuesdays in Monroe Park. This has been very successful and so far, the prisoners have removed over one hundred bags of trash and litter from the park. Additionally, approximately 50% of the light poles have been repainted and the paint job of the second floor room of the Checkers House is slated to be completed this week.

Kitty Winkler announced that there would be a Holiday sing-a-long program on Saturday, Dec. 3rd in Monroe Park. All were invited from the Advisory Council to participate (update: this event was very successful and drew about 50 folks to sing and enjoy goodies in the park. Thank you Heather and Kitty!!).

Turk Sties raised the issue of "banning" from the park disruptive individuals. Larry Miller announced that a procedure has been reestablished between Parks & Recreation and the Police Department to make sure that any new banning notices are forwarded to the appropriate park personnel.

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Advisory Council members expressed their thanks to Brian Ohlinger of VCU for making the arrangements for the video conference with the VPI students to present their interim progress report on the park designs for Monroe Park. Pat Daniels announced that the final design presentation from VPI would take place in City Hall Council Chambers on December 7th at 12:15 pm. Advisory Council members were urged to attend and bring guests to this public presentation. Pat Daniels also announced that she would make sure that City representatives from the Community Development Department were invited as well.

Todd Woodson relayed a sincere thanks to VCU for the bike racks that had been donated to James River Park, Oregon Hill and Monroe Parks. These surplus bike racks have been very useful in these parks. The question was raised, however, as to who can get the trenching machine removed from Monroe Park, (it had been parked at one location for over 30 days). (Update: It was gone the next day...)

Advisory Council members, with Todd Woodson leading the discussion, decided that a birthday celebration should be conducted on April 28, 2006, for the 248th birthday of President James Monroe. Brian Ohlinger thought that this was a great idea and perhaps a VCU student art show could be incorporated into the event. There was also discussion about a proposed resolution from City Council re-dedicating the park in James Monroe's name. Tentative plans were made to establish an art show/248th birthday sub-committee for this event.

Larry Miller announced that the City's Law Department in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department are beginning a process of establishing a conservation easement on the James River Park system.

There was discussion by members of the Advisory Council about formulating a landscape design for the park and to solicit help from the local garden clubs. The key focal point would be to design a planting around the fountain in the beds located there, which would, as stated by Mr. Woodson, "dress up the park". Pat Daniels & Alice Massie suggested that this was an excellent idea but we should wait and see what the final designs are from VPI. Everyone agreed with this approach.

The Rev. Raines suggested that once a final plan is determined about landscaping, perhaps volunteers could be used to install the plant material.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 4 PM. The location of the next meeting is the LANDMARK THEATER – Lounge B - Upstairs.

See Meeting Notice below.

MEETING NOTICE

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

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