

# **Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes**

## **14 December 2005**

***Pat Daniels, Presiding.***

Attending

Members: Dave Clinger, Brian Ohlinger, Eddie O'Leary, John Peters, Turk Sties and Todd Woodson.

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn, President of FOMP, John Rains, Kitty Winkler, & Lt. Nolan

Pat Daniels opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Ms. Daniels related that she is developing a monthly meeting agenda in "real time" so folks could access it online. Also, Ms. Daniels reports: A transfer agreement between the MPAC and the Friends of Monroe Park has been agreed to and completed which will transfer FDA funds in the Recreation and Parks Foundation to the Friends of Monroe Park account.

Ms. Daniels also announced that a work session on the VPI student landscape plans for the Park is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. This work session will focus on making some preliminary decisions in terms of a Park "master plan" before they are presented shared with our architect, Ron Worley. This meeting is for Council Members, but others are welcome to attend and listen. It is open to the public.

Ms. Daniels reminded all Advisory Council members to please bring their name cards to the monthly meetings.

Todd Woodson discussed the planting beds surrounding the fountain and requested input on plant types from the council. It was decided that no plantings would occur until early spring.

In relation to fountain maintenance generally, it has been noticed that there is some staining of the fountain and rust marks are developing. Mr. Peters took photos of these stains and forwarded them to Todd Woodson & Larry Miller to share with Robinson Iron Foundry to see what could be done to eliminate the staining. Brian Ohlinger, who has access to facility staff who work on these types of issues, said that he would investigate as well (update: Robinson Iron reports that the rust marks need to be carefully removed with a rag and new paint applied and offered a water softening solution to the stains that appear to be coming from hard water).

Todd Woodson shared that the Monroe Foundation is very interested in partnering with the Advisory Council on the resolution for a "rededication" of Monroe Park in April 2006. Mr. Woodson presented the initial language for the resolution which was unanimously approved by the Council.

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Mr. Woodson also brought up what has become a continuing issue in the Park as it relates to street lighting. Larry Miller reported that he has submitted a number of work orders to the Department of Public Utilities with little results so far (update: After repeated attempts by the Dept. of Public Utilities, all lights have been restored in Monroe Park. Everything is working).

Everyone agreed that having the lights worked on or improved is an important part of the overall master plan for the Park, however, Pat Daniels, as well as the rest of the Advisory Council membership, decided that this issue should be addressed in the Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> work session.

Lt. Nolan and Todd Woodson report that the Richmond Police Dept. is turning over day-to-day law enforcement in the Park, with the exception of major crimes, to the VCU Police Dept. Lt. Nolan noted that there had been a spike in robberies in the City during the pre-holiday period. It appears that the early evening hours (7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) seem to be the “prime time” for these types of incidents. Surprisingly, these statistics are not much higher than the previous year. Lt. Nolan also noted that the “Food Not Bombs” group was issued two tickets for illegal Parking within the Park during their food service program. Everyone applauded the fact that enforcement is occurring within Monroe Park, but everyone also noted that it had to be consistent as one tragic incident could throw all the good efforts out the window.

It was also noted that the feeding programs within the Park still create a problem with litter and occasionally illegal Parking. Rev. Rains noted that he has taken it upon himself to warn as many food groups as possible that the rules for using the Park will be enforced. There was concern about the inconsistency of law enforcement. As such, Pat Daniels proposed that an off-duty police officer be hired for Sundays in January 2006 to assist with “consistent enforcement” (update: Ms. Daniels has made these arrangements, and an Off-Duty Officer is on duty from 12:30 to 4:30 PM Sundays)

Rev. Rains reported that many of the food programs within the Park have entered into a cooperative agreement to use the Salvation Army Center on East Grace Street for their feeding programs. The majority of these groups are making the move to the Salvation Army Center with the exception of “Food Not Bombs”. Rev. Rains also presented to the Advisory Council what he considers to be “The Ground Rules”. These rules essentially outline the acceptable behaviors of the food program sponsors and participants in a feeding program. Pat Daniels volunteered to

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edit these ground rules for use by the police and other enforcement agencies who work in the Park. These ground rules would be shared with program participants and sponsors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 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, January 11, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.**

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