

Minutes for the MPAC meeting of October 10, 2007

Attendees: Alice Massie, David Clinger, Pat Daniels, Greg Hall, Jim Hill, Elinor Kuhn, Ofc. Kleinholz (RPD), Sgt. Ronald A. Moore (VCU-PD), Janice Nuckolls, Brian Ohlinger, John Peters, Tyler Potterfield, Turk Sties, Todd Woodson

Chairwoman Alice Massie called the meeting to order and noted a quorum was present.

Tyler Potterfield handed out a memo dated October 10, 2007, subject - Walkway surfaces for Monroe Park. This was followed by a discussion of the various proposed materials and methods as well as comments providing some background and anecdotal information about some of the surfaces being considered. Major considerations included durability, suitability for regular mechanized maintenance, and compatibility for both wheeled and foot traffic.

After the discussion, Todd made a motion to recommend the light colored stone dust to the consultants as our preference for the walkways, Janice seconded the motion, the question was called and the group voted in favor, unanimously.

The RPD and VCU police representatives had no specific items to report. Some questions were asked and answered and comments were made about weekend police coverage in the park.

John Peters asked about a spot light seen in the park in August, Alice responded that it was there as part of the Neighborhoods Night Out activities in early August.

A statement regarding uplighting of some trees in the park led into Alice reporting on the most recent presentation to the Urban Design Committee (UDC). Tyler and Alice had appeared before the UDC and Tyler made a presentation, he and Alice then replied to questions from the UDC. The UDC had some comments, which included how flat the park would look in winter with only deciduous trees, a desire that the MPAC not rule out for all time the presence of evergreens and ornamentals. The UDC was also concerned that adequate provisions were included to allow emergency vehicles timely entrance into the park. One UDC member suggested allowing dogs in the park and having a pooch station with plastic bags available to help owners clean up behind their pets.

The UDC also expressed a general approval of the work and the direction the Master Plan was headed.

Todd asked the cost of converting all the paths to the planned design and with the stone dust. That figure has not yet been calculated, but Tyler was to ask the consultants to provide that information.

James recommended that Tyler be added to the MPAC broadcast e-mail address list. Alice said she would request that Larry add Tyler's e-mail address to the list.

Alice advised that many people had been asking about the proposed Master Plan and reminded us that we should be thoughtful and considerate in explaining the ideas of the plan and why a new plan was necessary.

We discussed a letter from MPAC member Eddie O'Leary and the consensus was to take no action, but it was also the general consensus that although the seat was assigned to Eddie by name that in the future it would be more relevant for a seat be designated for whomever was the current president of the VCU SGA.

Future meeting dates of note: October 15, 2007 - Planning Commission; November 8, 2007 - UDC if the plan is ready for presentation at that date.

Alice mentioned that Jackie Decker, the parkkeeper, has been keeping notes and turning them over to Larry Miller. Also she noted that Jackie had reported a steady progression of feeding programs in Monroe Park on the weekends. This led to a discussion of feedings in the park. Pat recommended that Jackie should work directly with Melba Gibb on feeding issues. Alice noted we are still researching the propriety

of the feedings in regard to health and sanitation regulations. The group also discussed that our standards for feeding programs should be consistent and applied consistently.

Brian noted that VCU's emergency siren had been tested and that it worked well. Individuals commented on their notice of lack of notice of the siren and Brian assured those who had not heard it that the siren is definitely loud.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05.

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