

Monroe Park Advisory Council Meeting Notes

17 August 2005

Pat Daniels, Presiding.

Attending

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

Guests: Ms. Elinor Kuhn, President of FOMP, Kitty Winkler, FOMP, Rev. John Rains, and Sgt. R.H. Moore, VCU-PD.

Last month's notes were accepted by unanimous vote.

Todd Woodson made a brief presentation on gaining a commitment by MPAC members to support the restoration of the World War II Memorial and other minor upgrades to the Park. After discussion by the Advisory Council of the merits of this project, up to \$7,500.00 was allocated for the work project, which includes brick restoration work, power washing memorials, minor landscape work and possible landscape lighting to illuminate the Memorials at night.

Alice Massie and Elinor Kuhn suggest that MPAC investigate working with the local garden clubs to seek additional funding for these types of projects. These clubs have some funding available for special work projects such as the project outlined by Mr. Woodson. According to Ms. Massie, the funding cycle normally begins in November of each year with the submission of project proposals and cash awards are made the following spring of the New Year.

Messrs. Sties and Ohlinger were supportive of this approach, as it would "stretch" MPAC's funding by bringing in outside funds for work on the Park.

It was decided after additional discussion, that a standing Sub-Committee on Grant funding (investigation thereof) should be formed. Ms. Kuhn and Messrs. Clinger and Sties volunteered to staff this committee.

Ms. Daniels gave a brief update on the activities in the Park upcoming in September. The Grace & Holy Trinity Church as well as the Fan District Association (FDA) is sponsoring a cooperative event in the Park on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005. The Church is hosting a Parish Fair from 8 AM to 1 PM and the FDA is doing a concert from 1 PM to 3 PM.

Mr. Pantele may speak about the Wi-Fi in the Park project that has recently been completed at the FDA portion event, but that was unconfirmed. Ms. Daniels informed the Advisory Council that she would contact him on his availability.

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Mr. Ohlinger gave a brief update on the irrigation project for the Park. He is targeting Oct 1, 2005 to be completed with the project (testing and adjusting may take an additional 10-14 days). Mr. Ohlinger also brought up the temporary bike rack area and how long it could stay in the Park. After discussion by MPAC, it was decided that the bike rack area should be removed by 1 November 2005. As part of this discussion, MPAC also requested that VCU allow one (1) bike rack to be left in the Park for use Park visitors.

Pat Daniels reported on the successful National Night Out (NNO) program in the Park on 2 August 2005. Kids, families and fun were had by all in a grand showing of neighborhood cooperation in support of a safer City...and a safer Park.

Ms. Daniels also reported on some exciting news. Monroe Park has been "adopted" by a VA Tech's 3rd Year Landscape Architecture class! The students will be in Richmond between Sept. 9-11, 2005 talk with stakeholders (residents, civic associations, Dept. staff, etc. etc.) to glean ideas and suggestions for the development of a Landscape Plan for the Park. Ms. Daniels asked volunteers to assemble "welcome kits" for the students. Ms. Massie and Messrs. Sties, Clinger and Miller volunteered to assist.

All MPAC members are supportive of this and look forward to working with the Students. As Mr. Hill said..."This is a great opportunity to focus on our Roadway Plan and the Park "Master Plan" in general, so we can coordinate the energies of these students to assist us"

Rev. Rains reported that he attempting to coordinate the homeless feeding programs with some success, but there is a long way to go. There is an effort afoot to re-invigorate the coordination of these programs and other homeless services by various social & religious groups. MPAC is very supportive this.

Sgt. Moore of the VCU Police reported that their coordinated enforcement efforts with RPD in the Park are progressing well.

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There was a brief discussion on Fan Women Club's preliminary plans to host children's events in the Park this coming fall, winter and spring. Some events under consideration are: Harvest Program with Hayrides, Holiday Caroling, and in the spring a bike Safety Day and Bike Parade (within the Park). The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities & the RPD/VCU – PD are very supportive any work for children and will assist as necessary.

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

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 at 4 PM.
The location of the next meeting is the JACOBS HOUSE (on the corner of West Cary and Pine Streets).

See Meeting Notice on next page.

MEETING NOTICE

MONROE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 14 at 4:00 p.m.

**Location: JACOBS HOUSE
(CORNER OF WEST CARY AND PINE STREETS)**