

Hunter Mill District Land Use Advisory Committee Minutes July 20, 2010

Members Present: Steve Cerny (president), Sarah Newman (vice-president), Genaro Pedroarias (recorder), and Steve Akinbileje

Frank de la Fe and Goldie Harrison were also present.

The meeting began at 7:38 PM.

New Committee Business

Status Discussion on Stratton Woods Park with Patricia Rosen

- Ms. Rosen gave a brief update on Application 2232
 - A public hearing took place at which there was considerable opposition from the Polo Fields Home Owners Association
- Ms. Rosen took questions from the Committee
 - Mr. Genaro Pedroarias questioned the amount of games played at the baseball field
 - Ms. Rosen explained that games must be reserved on a two-game basis only; no single games are played
 - Ms. Rosen was asked if there is a way that residents can complain to Fairfax County about noise coming from the park
 - Ms. Rosen explained that there is a public system in place to investigate complaints by using field monitoring personnel
 - Ms. Sarah Newman asked about the possibility of adding more landscape buffering to reduce noise
 - Ms. Rosen explained that landscaping is an option the Parks Authority has agreed to
- Comments from the Committee and residents
 - Mr. Gerald Douglas presented in opposition to the proposed lighting. He displayed photos showing a lack of sufficient foliage to act as a sound buffer
 - Mr. Douglas cited statistics on the satisfaction level of county residents for baseball games
 - Ms. Stern asked Mr. Douglas about his experience with usage of the ball field and noise levels in the park
 - Mr. Cerny had a question about the Dulles Corner baseball field and what has been the reaction to it by residents over time
 - The point was made that the Reston Association has no lighted baseball fields within its jurisdiction, however, representatives from Reston attended the Planning Commission hearing to show support for lighting at Stratton Woods Park
 - Ms. Terry Cox, a member of the Polo Fields Home Owners Association, read a prepared statement in opposition to the proposed lighting
 - Ms. Cox's concern is the increase in noise, which she claims will happen if the lighting installed due to late games into the night on weekdays
 - Mr. Douglas commented on the fact that originally the county's master plan did not call for lighting at Stratton Woods

- Ms. Rosen countered that that stipulation in the master plan was based on older lighting technology available at the time
 - Ms. Stern asked about the foliage at Lewensville Park and observed that the foliage there is much more mature
 - Mr. Frank de la Fe talked about two examples of parks that were retroactively lit after the parks were built
 - Ms. Cox made the point that the lighting is not the main point of contention with the residents; it is the increase in noise that the lighting will cause
- Committee Discussion and Action
 - Mr. Cerny made a motion to make a recommendation on Application 2232
 - Ms. Newman observes that this is an established community surrounding the park and that more should be done to use the existing baseball field as-is and preserve the residents' right to peace and quiet
 - Mr. Steve Akinbileje commented on the importance of noise generated by night games. He recommended that the light timers be set back to 10:00 PM or 10:30 PM at the latest (as opposed the current time of 11:00 PM)
 - Mr. Cerny stated that in his opinion the game schedules of the baseball leagues should be changed to benefit the community at large
- Motion was made by Ms. Newman to approve the application *contingent upon* adjusting the time the lights are in operation to no later than 10:00 PM *and* making buffering of the noise a priority for the county
- Motion was seconded by Ms. Stern
- A vote took place at 9:10 PM
- The motion passed unanimously by the Committee

Administrative Business

- No August meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.