




FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: John W. Dargle, Jr., Director 

FROM: Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

DATE: July 16, 2009

Agenda

Awards Committee

Wednesday, July 22, 2009 – 3 p.m.

Board Room – Herrity Building

Chairman: Harrison A. Glasgow

Vice Chair: Gil McCutcheon

1. Consideration of 2009 Elly Doyle Park Service Award Nominations*
2. Consideration of Nomination for Sally Ormsby Award
3. Discussion regarding details of awards night

*Enclosure



This page is intentionally left blank.



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

TO: Harry Glasgow
FROM: Judy Pedersen
DATE: June 30, 2009
SUBJECT: Elly Doyle Park Service Award Nominations

NOMINEE

Eleanor Anderson
Jane Barnes
Tim Beron
Frank Crandall
Tim Dokken
Ray and Cindy Hubbard
Kathi McNeil
Vivian Morgan-Mendez
George "Sparky" Pataluna
Jack Pitzer
Mike Rodgers
Merle and Beth Swival
Southwest Youth Association
Richard Thorpe
Serena Wilson

NOMINATOR

Robin Rentsch
Sarah Harmon
Kirk and Kelly Davis
Hal Strickland
Supervisor Penny Gross
Suzanne Holland
Harry Glasgow
Ken Quincy
Sarah Harmon
Tawny Hammond
Marcus Wadsworth
Rose Purple
Hal Strickland
Mike Henry
Supervisor John Foust and Kevin Fay

Sally Ormsby Award
Congressman Gerry Connolly

Hal Strickland



This page is intentionally left blank.

Elly Doyle 2009 Park Service Award Nominees Briefing Sheets

Mrs. Eleanor Anderson

Nominated by: Robin Rentsch

After a 27-year career working for the federal government, Eleanor Anderson became a committed volunteer in Great Falls. Aside from her work for the local citizen's association, she became extremely involved in Park Authority activities. She always loved Riverbend Park and became an active member of the Friends of Riverbend Park. Ms. Anderson helps organize the very successful FORB Native Plant sale that occurs each spring. The proceeds from the sale, along with other membership and grant monies help to support site interns, renovations at the Nature Center and also purchased a much-needed leaf blower. She orders the plants, picks them up, and keeps them at her house. Ms. Anderson has also arranged the plant sale advertising and volunteers the past two years.

Another popular activity is the Paint Out. She has helped organize this event which involves artists coming to Riverbend, selecting a site to paint, and at the end of the day, paintings are sold and prizes are awarded. A portion of the proceeds go to the Park Authority.

She has also served as a volunteer with the invasive plant removals at Turner Farm and Riverbend and took part in several stream valley cleanups. She played a significant role in the effort to mulch the grove of 47 oak trees at the Grange in 2008 and co-chaired the Great Falls Citizens Association Environment, Parks and Trails Committee. Presently she is involved with a project to plant more native trees and shrubs on that site. Ms. Anderson also worked with the bond committee, helping to ensure the successful passage of the 2008 Bond referendum.

Mrs. Jane Barnes

Nominated by: Sarah Harmon

Jane Barnes has been an exceptional volunteer at Greendale Golf course for over 25 years. During this time she has worked on several different projects. In 1983 when she started her volunteer service, she maintained the gardens all through the year. In the 1990's she took over "marking" the course including the stakes for the hazards and boundaries, as well as painting instructions on paths and drop areas. Ms. Barnes even painted lines for the cart parking lot.

Ms. Barnes has done so many things. She has sewn armbands for starters and a marshal, worked as a starter and marshal, purchased signage, and generally fills in wherever she is needed. She has also contributed to the improved appearance of the course. Her good cheer, quick smile, willingness to work outside and inside has made her indispensable at Greendale.

Tim Beron

Nominated by: Kirk Holley and Kelly Davis

Tim Beron is a member of the Disc Golf Club of Northern Virginia (DGCNV) and the principal designer of the Giles Run Meadow Disc Golf Course, a 46-acre, 18-hole championship disc golf course located in Laurel Hill Park. This is the highest caliber disc golf facility in Northern Virginia. DGCNV is a non-profit players' organization promoting disc golf and preserving and nurturing local courses. Mr. Beron is a certified disc golf designer who envisioned this course from the beginning and who performed all services at no cost to the Park Authority.

He attended all Laurel Hill planning and stakeholder meetings in an effort to obtain approved use and location on the master plan. Upon approval, he designed the course and conducted the majority of site assessments required due to the historical importance of the site. The assessment, mapping and lobbying activities were significant and required the upgrade of his personal computer and programs in order to process all the information.

Tim Beron donated hundreds of hours, and battled the elements to develop this top rate disc golf course.

Frank Crandall

Nominated by: Hal Strickland

Mr. Frank Crandall serves on the Environment Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) and in that capacity has acted as a leader on light pollution in Fairfax County. At the request of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Crandall became actively engaged with Park Authority staff in the review of the athletic field lighting standards and provided input toward their improvement. Currently Mr. Crandall is working with staff to complete a "White Paper" on the control of Obtrusive Light for athletic field lighting.

Since 2004 Mr. Crandall has been actively working with staff to update our athletic field standards. It was hoped that these new standards would help the Park Authority secure state-of-the-art lighting systems for control of trespass, glow and glare and would thus allow the Park Authority to continue to install athletic field lighting systems in highly developed areas of the county. This has come to pass. Mr. Crandall's input into development of the standards was instrumental in the Park Authority's success.

Tim Dokken

Nominated by: Supervisor Penelope A. Gross

Bel Air Park is a 1.5 acre park nestled in the Bel Air section of Mason District. It is accessible only by two small asphalt trains. This hidden gem was in danger of being swallowed up by invasive vines and plants. New families with children were moving into the neighborhood, but the park was disappearing with barely room for the swings. Tim Dokken, whose property abuts the park, decided something needed to be done. He began working with the Park Authority's Invasives Removal program and convinced the neighbors to clean up the area. As a result, the non-native, invasive plants and vines have been removed. The area was covered in plastic and mulch and trees were donated.

Mr. Dokken has continued his volunteer hours to maintain the planted area and to work on removing non-native invasive plants, expanding the area around an unusual rock formation. In addition he has worked with park staff on herbicide treatments of Tree-of-Heaven plants. Twice a year he leads a community effort to maintain the park. This ongoing, multi-year endeavor to restore and improve Bel Air Park makes Mr. Dokken a worthy nominee for the Elly Doyle Park Service Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hubbard

Nominated by: Suzanne Holland

Hidden Oaks Nature Center staff is grateful to Ray and Cindy Hubbard. In March, 2008 they were walking the trails with their dogs, Gabby and Bella when they spotted the smoldering remains of a ground fire. Ray stayed with the fire while Cindy hiked to the nature center. Meanwhile juveniles were spotted starting another fire, but ran off when challenged. The firefighters came lugging water on their backs to douse the fire. The firefighters and staff at Hidden Oaks thanked the Hubbards for their quick response which averted a potential catastrophe. The Hubbards became more involved with Hidden Oaks after the nature center honored them for their Good Samaritan stewardship.

The Hubbards were concerned about the concrete steps that led down the steep hill to the stream which had suffered from years of erosion and presented a potential safety hazard. Mr. Hubbard envisioned broad steps with attractive wooden frames. Area 2 Maintenance did not have the budget, but Ray Hubbard had a plan. As vice president of Clark Construction Company, he met with Mike McDonnell and Richard Maple in August and offered to repair the steps. By November the steps were completed. It is estimated that \$7,500 of labor, materials and planning were donated. What a benefit to all, including short-legged users like terriers and pre-schoolers. Fairfax County citizens love their parks.

Kathi McNeil

Nominated by: Harry Glasgow

Kathi McNeil is the quintessential volunteer. She seeks no material reward; she works for the purest altruism; and she gives unresistingly. Her contributions are divided into two categories: she is president of Friends of Huntley Meadows and she is a volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park. This doesn't include the time she volunteers in her community besides being a wife and mother of two who works outside the home.

As president of the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, Kathi directs the activities of a group approaching 400 members. In the county's recent budget hearings, she played a prominent role in organizing the Federation of Friends Groups to lobby for the Park Authority's budget preservation. The effort returned \$150,000 to the park's budget.

She organizes the group's participation in the annual Huntley Meadows Wetlands Awareness Day, she has been an advocate for access for the blind and she is a gifted teacher. Her keen interest in the preservation of has helped in the preservation of Historic Huntley Mansion. She has also worked to create puppet shows for visitors, led programs for teens and in general, is constantly giving and improving the world around her.

Mrs. Vivian Morgan-Mendez

Nominated by: Ken Quincy

Mrs. Morgan-Mendez has volunteered her time and services freely towards the betterment of Fairfax County Park Authority programs. She essentially heads the Friends of Nottoway, coordinates and recruits for this friends group. They are active in invasive plant control, habitat restoration projects and the Nottoway Nights Concert Series.

Mrs. Morgan-Mendez is an avid gardener and an active advocate for the garden plot program. Whenever there is a park bond referendum she is an active supporter and member of the team as she was in 2008. She is a dedicated volunteer who undertakes all these activities unselfishly and in a positive manner. Vivian is truly a volunteer's volunteer.

Mr. George "Sparky" Pataluna

Nominated by: Sarah Harmon

George "Sparky" Pataluna gives an extraordinary amount of time and expertise to Greendale Golf Course. Where valued volunteers will give 300 hours a year, Sparky gives double that. He volunteers for his regular shift which is responsible for Greendale's largest league play, covers for others willingly, offering seamless service. He aids in training new volunteers and any other place where there are needs such as maintenance on the course, maintaining carts, gardening and tournament set up.

All of Sparky's contributions provide quality customer service. Volunteers are essential to the operation and he is an amazing asset to Greendale who goes above and beyond the norm over and over. He performs the highest level of customer care.

Jack Pitzer

Nominated by: Tawny Hammond

Jack Pitzer is a visionary and Frying Pan Farm Park has been the beneficiary for the past 25 years. Jack became involved with the Founders, Benefactors, Supervisors and Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park in the mid 80's when his sons were involved in 4-H. Jack began his service on the Board then and has continued his support and contributions. He has served the past six years as president and under his leadership the organization has flourished and grown.

His role in the re-location of the 100-year-old Middleton Barn was invaluable. Under his guidance the cider press is operable and a special part of Kidwell Farm. He spearheaded the site's initiative to obtain adequate insurance protection for the antique equipment and tools. Jack is responsible for increasing the Friends membership from 77 to over 300 in six weeks. That figure continues to increase. The Friends program boasts a new website, electronic newsletter and improved signage. His years of service have provided fiscal guidance and financial support to the evolution of the park. He sees a great future with increased partnerships with individuals as well as the corporate community. Having grown up on a farm in Illinois, he is committed to spreading the word about the importance of America's farms today.

Mr. Mike Rodgers

Nominated by: Marcus Wadsworth / Supervisor Jeff McKay

Mike Rodgers has been an active member of the Athletic Council as an appointee on behalf of the Lee District Supervisor. He works tirelessly on a variety of issues pertaining to the parks. While focusing on athletics, he is a great steward for our parks.

His outstanding accomplishments as a soccer coach are well-established. His philosophy of coaching is well-respected. He has coached soccer at TC Williams High, Edison High, six years head coach for Lee Mount Vernon Soccer Association among the years of coaching, training and mentoring the travel leagues and little league teams. He is an outstanding volunteer.

Merle and Beth Swival

Nominated by: Rose Purple

Merle, retired Navy, and Beth, retired from Fairfax County Schools, have been gardening at Pine Ridge Park for more than 20 years. When that park was going to be lost to development, the Swivals stepped up to the plate to save it. Some of their outstanding activities include: the organization of the spectacular party to honor "Bo" White for whom the Pine Ridge Gardens are dedicated; volunteer coordinators for the last nine Annual Earth Day and Arbor Day Festivals; helped organize the Pine Ridge Park Watch which evolved into the Fairfax County Park Watch.

When the Pine Ridge Association contacted the Park Authority in 1998 about reforesting the tree buffer, Merle and Beth set up semi-annual park clean-ups. The Association partnered with ReLeaf and developed a reforestation project through Mastenbrook funds. After planting 175 trees, and picking up trash, recycling the cans and bottles, Merle then created beds in the park and planted lilacs and other sustainable plants. He has been personally maintaining all the beds for over 10 years.

They continue to help in every way. If it's not food for an event or hauling equipment, it re-writing the rules for garden plots in the county. They do so much and go unnoticed in the true tradition of Elly Doyle.

Southwest Youth Association

Nominated by: Hal Strickland

Southwest Youth Association (SYA) has a long history of participation in the Park Authority's Adopt-a-Field program. Their efforts have been invaluable. The program has been helpful in tough budget years and SYA has supported this important program in every possible way.

Southwestern Youth Association currently adopts the following fields: The full adoption of Ellanor C. Lawrence fields 1, 3 and 4; the partial adoption of fields 5, 6 and 7. They have accepted this responsibility since 1994. They added the partial adoption of Herrity field 1. They fully adopted Popes Head Park field 1, 2 and 3 which they also have done since 2004.

Not only have they adopted fields to ensure that local athletes can play on the fields all year long and stay involved in a vast array of opportunities the SYA sports program offers, but they also accepted responsibility for gravel parking lots SYA actively participates in the Athletic Field Monitoring program. They partnered with the Park Authority to provide bleachers and bleacher pads at E.C. Lawrence field 3 and to furnish new goals on fields 1, 3 and 4 also at E.C. Lawrence Park. SYA has also developed and maintains facilities at schools which include Colin Powell Elementary, Cub Run Elementary, London Towne Elementary and Mountain View Alternative School as well as Field of Dreams which is private property. Their work supplements the Park Authority's efforts to provide recreational facilities.

SYA is currently working with the Park Authority to establish a trail in Poplar Ford Park. This may require a short segment of trail to be routed across property owned by SYA at their Field of Dreams. SYA is and has been an outstanding partner with Fairfax County Park Authority and well deserves its highest service award recognition.

Mr. Richard Thorpe

Nominated by: Mike Henry

Richard Thorpe volunteered to help out with carpentry, his area of interest, at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site. Since he started volunteering he averages about 200 hours annually. As a civil engineer he is fascinated with the mill's machinery and as the miller's helper he tackles all jobs including cleaning the mill, carrying the grain and bagging flour as well as leaf raking and weed pulling. All of his volunteer activities are greatly valued but pale in comparison to the carpentry projects Rich has completed.

He has built brochure racks, exhibit cases, made repairs, and hung the wooden plaques. The truly outstanding work is the working model that shows how the waterwheel turns gears to power the grinding stones. Rich Thorpe took the blueprints for the gears built during the restoration of the mill 30 years ago to study. When he returned a few weeks later, he had created a masterpiece.

His gear model makes educating the public, especially the school children, and grinding demonstrations possible. Everyone involved with the mill appreciates the value of the model and the benefits it provides as a new teaching tool along with all his other improvements for the Mill. The words initiative, dependable, creative and leader describe Rich Thorpe perfectly. He is a problem solver, always does more than asked, and is always on the look-out for projects that need to be tackled with this can-do spirit and enthusiasm.

Serena Wilson

Nominated by: Supervisor John Foust and Kevin Fay

Serena Wilson is an attorney with outstanding credentials as an environmental lawyer, a law professor, a Presidential appointee to NAFTA Advisory Committee and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. She is also a licensed wildlife rehabilitator with the State of Virginia, an avid runner of park trails and a medical technician who has taught survival skills. Ms. Wilson is beginning her third year as President of Friends of Riverbend Park (FORB) and previously served as treasurer of FORB. Under her leadership the budget has tripled. In November, 2008 she applied for a Mastenbrook Grant to update the nature center and with matching funds the center will be vastly improved with permanent displays and larger classroom. The year before Serena purchased all new furniture for the Nature Center.

In March 2009 Serena began a campaign to restore funding for Riverbend Park. These reductions, part of the agency's overall FY2010 General Fund constraints, were restored. She wrote letters, attended numerous meetings, orchestrated an e-mail canvassing effort to educate and mobilize the citizens. This remarkable effort reached the goal and Riverbend will remain a safe, popular natural environment.

Serena Wilson also oversees FORB's native plant sale, an important annual event. She is working on two grant applications: one to request funding for a maintenance shed in the park; and another to fund a ropes course and outdoor classroom. Serena has donated her skills as a negotiator, hands-on teacher and environmental expert to our park system. She is a deserving recipient of the Elly Doyle Park Service Award.

This page was intentionally left blank.