

**PUBLIC HEARING: March 15, 2006
Lee District Park Master Plan Revision
MEETING SUMMARY**

Attendance:

FCPA BOARD MEMBERS:

**Edward S. Batten, Sr., Lee District; Harrison A. Glasgow, At-Large;
Georgette Kohler, At-Large; George E. Lovelace, At-Large; Gilbert S.
McCutcheon, Mount Vernon District**

**FCPA STAFF: Tim White, Deputy Director, Park Authority; Judy Pedersen -
Public Information Officer, Lynn Tadlock, Director, Planning &
Development Division; Sandra Stallman, Manager, Planning Branch;
Leonadus Plenty, Robert E. Lee RECenter Manager; Jesse Rounds, Project
Manager, Planning Branch; Andrea Dorlester, Planning Branch; Sarah
Ridgely, Planning and Development Division**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Dana Kauffman, Lee District

BOS STAFF: Christina Manning, Lee District

CITIZENS: 46 citizens in attendance

The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. and was facilitated by Judy Pedersen. Following introductions of Park Authority Board Members and Staff, she introduced Edward S. Batten and Dana Kauffman who welcomed the public to the meeting. Judy Pedersen then introduced Jesse Rounds to present changes to the Master Plan Revision developed in November of 2005.

Ms. Pedersen then opened the floor for speakers to comment. The following citizens spoke:

Doug Boulter, President, Virginia Hills Civic Association

- If fields are used to the maximum degree traffic problems will plague the area.
- Lack of parking near northern fields will encourage users to park in the neighborhoods surrounding the park.
- There is no high speed access out of the park to accommodate large groups of users.
- Noise will be a big problem. Essentially 4th of July every night.

- Lighting glare will be a problem for nearby houses.
- Please light in phases so the neighborhood can offer comments.

James Lucero, President, Pioneer Baseball

- 700 kids participate in Pioneer Baseball.
- Lee District Park is the home of Pioneer.
- These fields will be adopted by Pioneer. No one else will adopt and maintain them like Pioneer.
- Kids in Pioneer will not be playing late games at Lee District Park. There will not be huge traffic jams at 11:30 at night due to Pioneer games.

Frank Walter

- Who will use these fields?
- Who will have control of the light cut-off time?
- Traffic control on South Kings Highway is a huge concern.

Carl Sell, President, Rose Hill Civic Association

- Supports sports at Lee District but is concerned that intensity of use may be too great.
- Lights aren't really the issue anymore. They are bad but not insurmountable.
- Lee District is a community park in spirit.
- Worried that adult softball is going to take fields and play games until late at night.
- People will crowd onto Rose Hill Drive.

Bob Mehey, Trails Committee

- The connection between Huntley Meadows and Lee District is important.
- The Park Authority has done a lot of work on this.
- This is not going to happen overnight.
- The plan is a good one.

David Fletcher, Lee Franconia Football League

- This plan is a boon to LFFL.
- Lit rectangles will offer a huge opportunity to football players.
- Practices won't last late into the night.
- Lights should have been in years ago.

David Murphy, Lee Mount Vernon Soccer League

- Supports fields.
- Lee Mount Vernon Soccer League has about 2000 members .
- League organizers can work with the community to stagger games to reduce the impact of traffic.

William Cumming, Pioneer Baseball

- Adoption agreements come with exclusive right to use the fields.

- Pioneer will control the situation on the fields.
- Lights may actually reduce the traffic impact, especially around rush hour. Lights will allow games to be played in a more staggered format.

Stuart Herder, Citizen

- Would you rather the kids were getting in trouble or playing sports?
- Fences on fields will help reduce unscheduled play.
- Appreciate concerns of neighbors but benefits outweigh costs.

Tom Oraveck, Adult Softball

- Kids are the most likely to benefit from this plan.
- Lee District doesn't really cater to Adult Softball.
- He wishes it did but understands the impact on neighbors.

Question cards:

- What is the situation with the telecommunications tower?
 - o With approval from the Planning Commission the Park Authority applies its own rules to decide whether telecommunications towers can be placed on park property. A tower has been approved for Lee District and a lease agreement has been signed with a telecommunications provider.