

**John C. & Margaret K. White Horticultural
Public Hearing Monday,
May 8, 2006
7:00 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

FCPA Board Members:

Frank Vajda, Mason District; Ken Feng, Springfield District; Gil McCutcheon, Mount Vernon District; Ed Batten, Lee District; Harry Glasgow, Member at Large; Bill Bouie, Hunter Mill District

FCPA Staff

Mike Kane, Director, Park Authority; Lynn Tadlock, Director, Planning & Development; Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer; Sandy Stallman, Manager, Park Planning Branch; Irish Grandfield, Park Planning Branch; Andi Dorlester, Park Planning Branch; Sherry Frear, Project Manager, Park Planning Branch; Diane Probus, Park Planning Branch; Sarah Ridgely, Park Planning Branch; Mary Olien, Director, Green Springs Garden

Citizens

160 total citizens signed in. Approximately 200 in attendance.

Proceedings

The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. and was facilitated by Judy Pedersen. Following introductions of Park Authority Board Members and staff, Ms. Pedersen introduced Sherry Frear to present the Draft Master Plan Revision and Vehicle Access Report. After the presentation, Ms. Pedersen explained the process for public comment and the floor was opened to citizens and organization representatives.

Speakers

Dick Carpenter, 3301 Princess Anne Lane ~~Holloman~~

- Read recommendations for Princess Anne Lane and Goldsboro Road and found nothing accurate and fair.
- Report says minimal impact to Goldsboro and the substantial trees and shrubs destroyed at the Princess Anne entrance. Outrageous to characterize them the same.
- Princess Anne Lane speaks of the experience of entering the existing driveway. Neglects to say that this experience would be gone. Widening and grading the existing driveway would destroy large trees and shrubs and a stone retaining wall which gives it much of its character. Saying that the existing driveway would not have to be widened is incorrect as it would not meet emergency access requirements.
- The Goldsboro paragraph contains statements that screening would need to be required to shield the parking and entrance road from view. Judging that in a horticultural park adding decorative screening would be a major drawback.
- Distance to the house would present ADA access problems but the entrance design includes access road to the house for emergency vehicles and handicap parking or entire parking near the house.
- Omissions: minimizing impacts to neighbors is identified as management goal but access report dismisses this saying “impacts to neighbors is subjective and not addressed in this staff report.”
- Workshop shows overwhelmingly that neighbors preferred entrance at Goldsboro Road. Report ignores public opinion in violation of planning process
- These draft recommendations are not result of fair and open process but derived by hidden agenda presumably political pressure.
- Princess Anne would cost the most and have substantial adverse impacts inside and outside of park property against public wishes.
- Using a publicly owned strip of land to access a public park is clearly in the public interest.
- Park Authority’s responsibility to produce a plan that respects property deeds, preserves and enhances horticultural resources, minimize impacts of local community and is not held hostage by the residents of one street.
- ~~Represent Mason District taxpayers. There are two choices for the entrance, a right choice and a wrong choice. One entrance is already built with only the parking lot needing to be added.~~
- ~~Goldsboro’s costs are exaggerated.~~
- ~~At Goldsboro there is a barrier that could be taken down with a hammer.~~
- ~~Princess Anne Lane costs have been artificially minimized. Estimate it would cost taxpayers a million dollars if Princess Anne Lane were used.~~
- ~~Mr. Cotner, former Mason District appointed council member of human services board, appointed by Mason District Supervisor, lives on Goldsboro Road.~~
- ~~Mr. Cotner’s relationship with Penny Goss has caused her to proclaim that Goldsboro Road will be the entrance to the park only over my dead body.~~

Keith Sarson, Radnor

- Am a taxpayer.
- A right choice and a wrong choice.
- Cost for Goldsboro are exaggerated.
- Estimate \$1 million for Princess Ann entrance.
- Mr. Cotner, a county human services rep, is the problem, has influenced Penny Gross. Penny Gross said Goldsboro would be an entrance “over my dead body.”
- Call on Fairfax County taxpayers to shout.
- Announce recall campaign for Penny Gross .
- One person versus taxpayers is not worth \$1 million.

Chris Delta, 6619 Goldsboro Road

- Open house reminded her how wonderful it is to be near a rare horticultural treasure.
- Proud of how neighbors have conducted themselves.
- Misconceptions about entrance options. 1) Princess Anne would require acquisition of private property. Facts are contrary to signs in community, no land acquisitions would be required. Goldsboro entrance would require acquisition of property because Fairfax County Board of Supervisors abandoned the entrance to Goldsboro in 1988. 2) Princess Anne entrance would require uprooting of numerous horticultural assets. Fact: Princess Anne would require only a few large trees be removed and a few shrubs be relocated. Placing parking in meadow at Goldsboro entrance would destroy the meadows and the overall feel of the White Park which is nearly as important and the other horticultural features. 3) Goldsboro already has the infrastructure in place and cheapest entrance option. Fact: Once the fence is taken down additional expenses would be required, like substantial and costly screening, emergency access road will need to be constructed, cost to make Goldsboro ADA compliant would be significant, placement of utilities would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars; however, connecting utilities to Princess Anne would be the shortest and cheapest option for the county.
- Oppose Goldsboro entrance to the park.

Dierdre Prahm, Glenmont Street

- Fortunate to have horticultural park available.
- Real estate taxes increased 43% last year, like to believe increased tax dollars will be well spent.
- From a financial point, an entrance at Goldsboro is the logical choice. There are wide streets with large turnarounds for emergency vehicles, sidewalks already in place, additional parking at Sleepy Hollow School is convenient.
- Entering property from Goldsboro would require little or no destruction of trees, shrubs and flowers that people are coming to see.
- Horseman Lane would also require little destruction of Mrs. White’s property. It is also a wide street with turnaround area but it is on purely a residential road with no convenient satellite parking available besides someone’s front lawn.

- Princess Anne is most expensive option. Would require destruction of dozens and dozens of beautiful old trees and bushes on the White property and the property leading up to it.
- Purpose of park is horticulture. What sense is there in destroying trees to drive into a park to see trees?
- Goldsboro residents say it would affect the safety of their children who walk to school. There is a school in our neighborhood and many of our streets don't have sidewalks.
- Neighborhood is cut through from Sleepy Hollow and Annandale Roads, and additional traffic from Korean Church and the many soccer teams who play at Beech Tree School on the weekends.
- People on Goldsboro say it is hard to make turn onto Sleepy Hollow at the end of the school day, try making a left turn from Holloman onto Annandale at any time of the day. Intersection at Annandale and Holloman is already dangerous and additional traffic would intensify the problem.
- Agree between neighborhoods on the uses of the park, minimized use of park, no classes, sales or visitors.
- Urge Park Authority to take a stand against Penny Gross statement that Goldsboro is off the table.

Bob Walker, Clearwood Court

- Support horticultural park.
- Providing vehicle access through the Goldsboro stub is illogical alternative.
- Goldsboro stub ends approximately 600 feet from the White residence.
- The analysts assume those with disabilities cannot visit horticultural would not mind walking from the parking lot to the distant house and if they did maybe the county could run shuttle buses to the house or construct a full service road through the park.
- Goldsboro opening would also create the possibility of linking Annandale Road to Sleepy Hollow Road through the White property. Even without this possibility, opening the stub would result in additional cars circling through the Sleepy Hollow resident cul-de-sac in search of shortcuts.
- Need for traffic light at Goldsboro & Sleepy Hollow Rd, did the analyst think of that?
- Princess Anne is logical alternative. Seven houses are the only ones affected. Has no adverse effect to pedestrian access to and use of entire White Property.

Lawrence Pierce, Goldsboro Road

- Why is Goldsboro Road still listed as a drive in entrance, blind eye to critical issue of 1988 order to abandon Goldsboro Rd at the White Property line.
- Adverse effects to surrounding neighborhoods but you fail to tell us what they are. Security is a complete blank.
- Congressman Davis supported the abandonment motion. Foreclose any future entrance to the White property from Goldsboro.
- Heavy traffic threat to public safety.
- According to VDOT, only the section nearest the park would have to be widened.

- Little or no cost to Princess Anne entrance.
- Lynn Tadlock response to difference in cost said cost difference not significant.
- Reviewed cost estimate and numbers in need of repair. Portions of data skewed, overstated or perhaps understated. Off site costs of Princess Anne are overstated substantially. VDOT report shows minimal improvements.
- Reduce 51% contingency add on.
- Goldsboro grasscrete understated at least \$50,000. No cost given for screening parking lot. Add more dollars to add 700 foot path from parking lot to upper garden. When all corrections are made, costs exceed Princess Anne by \$50,000, \$75,000 or more.
- Goldsboro is not the cheapest road.
- 1988 order of abandonment is a severe legal hurdle to overcome, which will cause legal fees and delays.

Arlene Pierce,

- Goldsboro has 30 homes, Princess Anne has eight, and 8 on Rolfs.
- Goldsboro from Sleepy Hollow to White property is 4 blocks with twists and turns with three cul-de-sacs feeding onto street. Eight children live within a hundred yards of entrance, compare to eight straight streets of Princess Anne and Rolfs each a block long.
- Goldsboro is not number one choice because it intersects with Sleepy Hollow directly opposite of Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. Student struck by car at this intersection.
- At various times in the day, it is impossible to make a left hand turn at Sleepy Hollow.
- Weekend traffic is impacted by the cars coming and going to soccer matches.
- Sleepy Hollow Road left turn lane accommodates 3 cars, a fourth car backs up into main lane of moving traffic.
- Traffic and safety issues caused Board of Supervisors to vote abandonment for Goldsboro Road at the White Property line.

Patricia Gordon, Clearwood

- Oppose Goldsboro on grounds of safety.
- Safety concerns at Goldsboro and Sleepy Hollow.
- Sleepy Hollow has two lanes of traffic, parking lanes, metro bus and traffic lights all brought to bear the ever demanding traffic
- Sleepy Hollow has 13,000 vehicles a day passing in front of Sleepy Hollow Elementary.
- The most dangerous part of Sleepy Hollow is the divided portion just one block of either side of Goldsboro Road.
- Area 2 bus planning picks up students on wrong side of the intersection which makes children cross a divided road.
- Goldsboro Road has the 1988 abandonment that was mainly on safety.
- Divided portion of Goldsboro Road doesn't need any more traffic.
- Princess Anne is now the current entrance and is the perfect choice for an entrance to the park

Dan Cornette, Friends of White Horticultural Park

- No preferred alternatives for the vehicle access road.
- Urge the Park Authority to minimize the effects on the horticultural resources at the property.
- Property is peaceful oasis.
- Master plan overall provides an excellent survey of the horticultural, historical resources on the property that will facilitate the planning process and the development of the park.
- Appropriately recognizes the need to preserve, protect, and enhance the existing horticultural resources.
- Support proposed uses of the park.
- Programming should compliment programming offered at Green Springs and Hidden Oaks Nature center.
- Do not support private parties or receptions.
- Support caretaker living in residence to promote security after hours.
- Support parking lot of 25 spaces, sufficient to accommodate low level uses of property.
- Encourage use of pervious materials for parking to preserve character of property.
- Support the inclusion of amenities for public use such as restrooms, water fountains, and benches.
- Visitor information area such as a kiosk should also be provided
- Encourage control of invasive plants.

Dennis Conlon, Rolfs Road

- Acrimony, ill will and political hackery surrounding the White property.
- Major assets of park, wooded entrance and trees, are concentrated on west side of property which has three possible entry points Princess Anne, Kerns Road and Rolfs Road, any of which would be a costly construction project and would destroy the plants and trees.
- Other side there is an entrance, Goldsboro Road, that would be cheaper to develop and would not harm important assets of the park
- Supervisor Penny Gross' comments: Will honor commitment to residents of Goldsboro Road, we don't have status to request the BOS to reopen the road, and substantial cost to make the entrance somewhere else does not count.
- Lead to believe that BOS do not wish to oppose Mrs. Gross which makes master plan a sham document.
- Goldsboro spite strip is obsolete and should be reversed. Created to thwart commercial development and that has been accomplished by the county owning the property.
- BOS in 1988 claim that there is no legitimate need for this road which is wrong as we now see it.
- Reassured by Mr. Batten that the BOS will do the right thing.
- BOS should schedule a hearing to reopen Goldsboro Road.

George Delta

- Oppose Goldsboro for three reasons
- 1) 1988 abandonment: Unanimous vote to abandon the strip of land where Goldsboro Road ends and the White property begins. Primary reason was safety.
- 2) Child safety: Goldsboro Road is directly across from Sleepy Hollow Elementary school. Opening Goldsboro Road will endanger the lives of many children
- 3) ADA: Park Authority would be required to have a paved access from Goldsboro Road to the house. Such a road would destroy the beauty of the open lawn and meadows and it's too far from the house to be a suitable handicap entrance.

Margie Morris, 6360 Merrit Lane, Lake Barcroft

- Anticipated entrance at Goldsboro, which would be an easy entrance from Lake Barcroft.
- Stunned that other roads were being considered as an entrance which had beautiful trees that would be destroyed.
- Mrs. White desire to share the entrance.
- Park Authority plan would destroy the beautiful entrance at great cost to the taxpayers.
- Report recommends Goldsboro as best entrance site

Paula Sherman, Goldsboro

- Support park.
- Oppose Goldsboro Road as entrance to park.
- Purchased home with the understanding that there was no vehicular entrance to the White property. Three of the seven homes on Princess Anne Lane were purchased after the White property was deeded to Fairfax County.
- Safety issues with Goldsboro Road entrance include traffic problems at intersection of Sleepy Hollow and Goldsboro.
- Hundreds of students and teachers pass through Goldsboro Road and Sleepy Hollow intersection. Goldsboro Road entrance will increase traffic. Poses an increased threat to the safety of the students.
- Princess Anne is the shortest distance from the secondary road to the property, closest entrance to the most focal point so that visitors would not have to walk over a thousand feet uphill to enjoy the house environment.

Dennis Stephens

- Need to thank Penny Gross for statement that lit up our neighborhood.
- We live in a country where there are fair processes, elected officials serve us. Don't appreciate our elected officials telling us how it will be.
- Staff lost written reports from groups at the charrette, behavior is wrong.
- Transportation Department said they could probably waive the width requirement for Princess Anne Lane, you need to walk that road, it is narrow, you can't get a fire truck or ambulance up that road.

- Goldsboro Road pipe stem was closed to prevent development of McMansions, never was a discussion to prevent use of a park.

Susan Carpenter, Holloman Road

- Oppose use of Princess Anne Lane for future entrance to park
- Hope that as good stewards FCPA will 1) Study all the reports thoroughly to clearly understand the true impact of this park on the surrounding neighborhood. 2) Given fair consideration to all entrance options 3) Thoroughly studied the cost involved.
- Good steward does not uproot plants and cut down trees unnecessarily when other less expensive, less destructive, more appropriate solutions exist.
- Park Authority needs to ask the BOS to remove the impediment of the spite strip at Goldsboro Road.
- PA needs to assure neighbors in surrounding communities that everything will be done to maintain a minimal use park.
- PA needs to support community efforts to prevent destruction of plants and trees that define the White property.
- PA needs to work to maintain a safe and secure environment.

Michael Sherman, Goldsboro Road

- When you approach the property through the driveway, it is clearly landscape designed to be approached that way. You are presented with an incredible sense of the beautiful meadow.
- If you put parking lot at Goldsboro, the first thing you will see is the parking lot.
- Handicapped people, older citizens, parents of young children will have quite a walk uphill that is difficult and uncomfortable.
- Cost for Goldsboro aren't considering a number of things like access road and ADA compliance

Carie Stephens, Princess Anne Lane

- All should be given consideration, all children will be affected by this.
- Need to consider cost to taxpayer.
- Annandale Road has higher traffic than Sleepy Hollow.
- Spite strip is public property, Goldsboro is a public road and the park is going to be a public park, we ask that it not be blocked from a public land.
- Politics need to be put aside.

Susan Richardson, Kerns

- Member of National Rhododendron society and founder of the Friends of the White Horticultural Park.
- Agree that the house can be used by a caretaker who is involved in horticulture and preserving the property.
- Sun porch can be used for garden club meetings and educational programs.
- Art leagues could present art shows
- Cost effective and safer to incorporate restrooms into the house.

- Greenhouse could be used for plant development and available to those taking horticultural programs.
- If the barn could be restored and structurally secured it could be used by the public. Many options are available.
- Park should open at 9:30 a.m. to help with traffic and have a set closing time.
- Should be one entrance and exit and no additional paths or walkways giving public access to the park limiting use as a cut through and protect the trees and wildlife.
- Pedestrian entrance on Kerns Road would be dangerous because of poor visibility, curbs and gutters, children, and there is no parking
- Facts show that Kerns, Princess Anne, Horseman Lane are unacceptable as main entrances; costs, safety and environmental impacts would be too great.
- Emergency vehicles could use the Grasscrete pavement to reach the house.

Jean Komendera, Goldsboro Road

- Believe Princess Anne is a wonderful location for the horticultural park.
- Park should remain a passive horticultural park and not be used for revenue generating activities.
- Princess Anne should be selected as the entrance because it has been the entrance for the last 60 years.
- Provides the most direct access to the park amenities.
- Does not require long walk to the house and gardens and makes park more accessible to more of our citizens.
- Goldsboro vacation is a promise to the community that should stand, one of the key points of the vacation revolves around the safety and the impacts of the increased traffic a clear threat to the safety of public.
- Princess Anne is more than ½ mile from the nearest school and Goldsboro is just several yards away from the entrance to Sleepy Hollow Elementary School.
- Using entrance to park at Goldsboro would greatly increase traffic entering and exiting via Sleepy Hollow Road

Joe Stevenson, Sleepy Hollow Elementary School, resident of Goldsboro Road

- Streets have become significantly developed.
- Sleepy Hollow Road has had a severe impact predominantly due to the fact that it is a cut through from Columbia Pike to Seven Corners.
- Sleepy Hollow Road has thousands of cars a day.
- Opening up Goldsboro Road exacerbates a dangerous situation.

Kathleen Holmes, Glenmont Street

- This is a stable residential neighborhood, recognized as such in the comprehensive plan.
- Compatible uses in surrounding areas are residential use R-1 & R-2, big lots fortunate to have trees and plantings to go with it.
- Land use objectives 8 & 14 in Jefferson District are to maintain the stability in the established residential neighborhood, no adverse impacts or commercial uses.

- Plan contains uses that are commercial, inconsistent with comprehensive plan and urge them to be rejected.
- Placement of the parking lot: Severe stormwater drainage problems within the area and placement of the parking lot should take this into account, draft plan doesn't address this in a specific way.
- Within the radius bordered by Route 50, Route 7, Route 620 (Braddock Road) and I-495 there are eight park area sites. Within the western part of the county there are areas severely underserved. Urge that this park not be a priority but focus attention and our tax dollars to area in the west where land acquisition and park development is severely needed.

Neal Straker, Rolfs Road President of Holmes Run Homeowners Assoc

- Excited about having a horticultural park in our back yard.
- Park Authority was given a clear opinion from community that a light footprint is desired.
- Park should have limited use to minimize the impact on existing natural resources.
- Draft master plan does not reflect the sentiment of the community.
- A 24 feet plus freeway for an entrance is not what Mrs. White has in mind for her legacy.
- Mrs. White doesn't believe that the Park Authority staff takes the gift seriously. They don't care about her opinion. They are going to do what they want because she won't be here.
- Princess Anne Lane has been proposed as a park entrance impacting the north ends of the property; areas near and dear to Mrs. White.
- Read letter from Mrs. White; preference on entrance to the park would be Goldsboro.

John Turro, Goldsboro Road

- Mrs. White has been misled.
- Facts: 1) There is an entrance to the White property that has existed for over 60 years. 2) VDOT shows Princess Anne as their number one choice for an entrance. 3) VDOT says no major work needs to be done to Princess Anne, no trees will be cut; no property will be taken, no widening of the road. 4) Princess Anne is the closest entrance to a secondary road. 5) Entrance at Princess Anne will affect eight homeowners as opposed to 28 homeowners on Goldsboro Road. 6) Lynn Tadlock said there is no difference between Princess Anne and Goldsboro Road. Once you get into the property it will cost you a bundle to go from Goldsboro uphill a thousand feet. 7) Master plan says no horticultural resources will be destroyed. 8) Parking lot at Princess Anne will be closest to the White Gardens, Goldsboro is the farthest. 9) Princess Anne has no ADA compliance issues. ADA expert says there is no way to make Goldsboro compliant. 10) Princess Anne is the cheapest entrance.
- Goldsboro is legally closed; the abandonment is the law.
- How is a parking lot in the meadow going to be beautiful?

Michael C. Trahos, Goldsboro Road

- Critical legal issue: Any decision made by the Park authority must be sustainable in circuit court.
- Any decision must be able to withstand a petition for motion for injunctive stay filed in circuit court.
- Four prong test for the issue for the stay that is set forth by the US Court of Appeals.
- Goldsboro residents will with certainty meet the four prong test for upholding of circuit court order issue of an injunctive stay against the entrance being on Goldsboro Road.
- Princess Anne Lane cannot meet this four pronged test for injunctive stay.
- Once the Park Authority reviews the litigation potential it will disapprove Goldsboro Road as the entrance to proposed park.

George Gordon

- My home is 200 meters from the proposed Goldsboro Entrance.
- Draft master plan is a thorough document that considers many aspects of park planning, commend staff for their efforts.
- Significant safety issues; also economic impact on Goldsboro community.
- There are 29 homes on Goldsboro Road. If Goldsboro Road is chosen as the entrance to the park, the tranquil nature of the Goldsboro community will be disturbed and individual property values will be reduced \$50,000 or more.
- Fairfax County tax base would also be reduce by ½ million dollars.
- This decision financially benefits neither individual homeowner nor the Fairfax county tax base.
- Princess Anne Lane only 8 or 9 homes would have proportionally less impact.
- Urge board to reject Goldsboro Road as the entrance to the park.

Dr. Stephen Kauffman – Goldsboro Road

- Surrounding property was constructed long after the Whites moved in; they had every opportunity to cut through Goldsboro after it was put in; they obviously found that Princess Anne was the most convenient to get to their house.
- A driveway will have to be constructed if the Park Authority decides to use Goldsboro as an entrance to their property.

David Kauffman

- Grew up on Goldsboro.
- Impact to 28 homes versus 8 houses. From an economic and safety stance, 28 homes means more children and more economical impact
- Safety: Annandale Road and Sleepy Hollow Roads are not safe roads to cross; however, one is straight and not very long versus windy road with blind spots.
- ADA/emergency access: Need emergency access. Can't imagine it is easier to travel up the hill to her property than it would be at the other entrance.
- Cost: No doubt that Princess Anne would have to be widened. It would be improvement. No doubt that Goldsboro is already developed and could handle more traffic but costs would be greater at Goldsboro.

Diana Venskus, Goldsboro Road [Handout with technical analysis on physical activity and kinetics has been added to the public comment file.]

- Favor access to the park at Princess Anne Lane as opposed to Goldsboro Road.
- Goldsboro creates a physiological barrier to persons aged 55 and older
- Goldsboro is at 276' above sea level, at the White Estate it is 315' which is 39' rise over 700 feet.

Peter Deede, Holmes Run Valley

- Looking at draft report, as stewards of park land and tax revenues, there is only one decision to make and that is Goldsboro Road because of the impact on all the other streets and the cost involved.
- Large number of trees and bushes will have to be removed for access at Princess Anne Lane, Rolfs Road are tremendous.
- Horseman Lane would impact a major pond area.
- None of the same issues at Goldsboro Road.
- Horticultural issue alone should drive the decision but add in the cost factors and the loss of irreplaceable greenery and the unique country roads makes the decision more clear that Goldsboro Road should be the right answer.
- Fairness: Holmes Run Valley has been dealing with cut through traffic from park on the western side of neighborhood.
- Access from Sleepy Hollow Road to Princess Anne Lane or Rolfs Road would require going through dozens of family homes not just the eight on Princess Anne. You'd go on Valley Brook, Devon, Kensey Lane and Holland Lane to get to the park.

Cheryl Furst

- County should preserve as much of the existing horticultural resources and woodlands as possible.
- Vehicle access should be where there is least impact on shrubs, woodlands and ponds.
- Pedestrian entrances should be created to increase accessibility by foot and decrease automobile traffic.
- Since most of the patrons of the park will spend substantial amount of time walking through the park, the distance individuals need to walk to the main building does not seem to be a relevant issue to be considered.

Harold Freeland, Goldsboro Road

- Goldsboro Road entrance will have a wider and more visible negative impact on the natural resources of the park than any other option.
- Several tall trees will have to be removed from the entrance that shields homes from the Goldsboro Road residents.
- Parking area and access lane requires clearing trees and shrubs along 350' of the boundary between the meadow and the woodlands

- Design faults in access from Goldsboro for emergency access. Three hazardous and unsafe 90° turns are required: one in the parking area, one on leaving the parking area and one in the blind turn around the barn
- Access plan states topography from Goldsboro is relatively flat, in fact from the 300' contour to the 315' elevation contour the slope is 7.2%, 20% greater than the maximum 6% allowed by the county.

Mary Terhune, Holloman

- Holloman Road has same concern for safety of children over a far larger area and impacting many more children. There are more than 20 children on Holloman Road all who play outside after school and on weekends
- Princess Anne Lane, Rolfs Road and Nicholson Lane have many more.
- Small neighborhood streets already accommodate a large amount of cut through traffic every day.
- It is baffling that the residents of Goldsboro Road continually cite their children's safety as paramount concern.
- Take issue with the principal of Sleepy Hollow becoming involved in the process.
- Are the children on Goldsboro Road more important than others?
- We should look at the overall number of impacted families and children.

Jackie Bast, mother lives on Goldsboro Road

- Take a look at the big picture.
- Hard work and horticulture treasures are sacrificed in this county every day.
- Many examples of Fairfax County parks that have no sidewalks or pedestrian access to the entrance.
- People will leave trash, will empty trash from cars or pockets in the most convenient spot, which happens to be your front yard.
- County should maintain walking trails, no resident should be called upon to pick trash or provide security.
- Kerns Road is perfect example of what happens when streets lead to anything, first traffic signs, then traffic lights, then the speed bumps.

Nicole Bast, Goldsboro Road

- Greatest concern for security and safety for our children in our community.
- Hundreds of children, parents and teachers must enter Sleepy Hollow Elementary School each day.
- Sleepy Hollow Road is heavily traveled at Goldsboro Road intersection and is a divided highway with no guarded crosswalk or traffic light.

Beth Gilmore, Holloman Road

- Oppose making the entrance to park on either Princess Anne or Rolfs Road.
- Seems foolish to remove the very resources that the park seeks to protect to gain vehicle access when Goldsboro Road is a very reasonable alternative.
- If Goldsboro Road were used as an entrance very little or no trees would need to be removed and there is a nearly clear path from the street onto the White property.

Jim Venskus

- Kids are not replaceable in any community.
- Millions of dollars of property off the tax rolls; don't wish for taxes to disrupt a neighborhood.
- We are told there will be minimal impact, no intrusive uses; recent publications indicate a wish to have wedding receptions and things like that.
- Please consider the impacts on all the neighborhoods.

Thelma Jo Prince

- Live 1-1/4 mile from busy intersection of Annandale road and Rt 50; our yard is very peaceful from the natural sound barrier of the big trees on the surrounding properties.
- Trees are so important to our well being that it would be good to keep as many of them as possible.
- Trees alter our environment by moderating climate, improving air quality, harboring wildlife, conserving water, reducing storm runoff. Leaves filter and trap dust, smoke, and ash making our air cleaner to breath, etc.
- It would be sad if Mrs. White's generous gift became less splendid because trees, rhododendron, and azaleas were disturbed, if wildlife and birds were displaced, and if our neighbors lose a portion of their properties to build a bigger entrance.
- There is an alternate entrance site that would lose neither personal property nor trees. It is incredible that Princess Anne would even be a consideration.

Maureen Norris, Beechtree Lane

- I have concern in my neighborhood as well as others for the safety of all of our kids and adults that walk the street
- Son went to Beechtree Elementary; cars were flying down the street, safety was an issue.
- Suggest you go to Sleepy Hollow School to see that the traffic; you can get in and out of Sleepy Hollow school faster than Annandale Road or Beechtree to get to the other school.
- Issue with principal writing a letter that the residents of Goldsboro asked him to write.
- Trying to be fair, it's our tax dollars and I hope you look at all the entrances and really look at how everyone's tax dollars are spent.

Alison Metzger, Holloman Road

- Do not want the park. Enough parks in Fairfax County, many that are in need of funds and attention. Not sure we need another.
- Mrs. White's generous donation has been turned into public rage.
- Traffic on Holloman as a pass through road for commuters, church goes on Sunday and school traffic every morning and every afternoon.
- Challenge VDOT to count the traffic on Holloman, Princess Anne, and surrounding roads, plus Goldsboro.

- Statement that Princess Anne should be the entrance because it has been the entrance for the last 66 years is the silliest argument I've heard.
- Goldsboro Road is a quiet neighborhood with wide roads and no traffic. What a perfect entrance for a park.

Cindy Mason, Valleybrook Dr

- Significant inconsistencies between the Draft Master Plan and the staff recommendations.
- Key points in draft master plan that are not included in staff recommendations:
1) Horticultural legacy is a key component in the site's history; draft MP states that its purpose is to preserve and enhance horticultural resources to ensure that sensitive resources are appropriately maintained and preserved
- Draft master plan reiterates park purpose with statement "minimize impact to natural resources, care must be taken in development and operation of the park to minimize adverse impacts to the existing resources, if any of the proposed uses conflicts with the purposes it will be considered an incompatible use." Staff recommendations do not reflect stated park purposes.
- Staff recommendation states that the Goldsboro entrance has only scattered and few trees and no formal gardens. Draft master plan states access from Goldsboro Court would result in less impact to the sites horticultural resources.
- Draft master plan states that protecting the canopy of large trees is critical to the shade of the shrubs.
- Staff recommendation focuses on the high quality visitor experience and is unrelated to the stated park purpose of preserving the natural resources.
- Any entrance other than Goldsboro would be counter to the draft master plan's stated purpose of preserving the horticulture as the key component of the site's history.

Olga Mitchell, Princess Anne Lane

- In favor of the park and opposed to Princess Anne as primary entrance to the park. Princess Anne Lane is not a street, it's a lane; a charming shaded county lane lined with a dozen trees.
- Do not desire to live on an improved street.
- VDOT and Bowman consultant provide conflicting information. VDOT states that few, if any, trees would be removed on Princess Anne Lane and only part of lane nearest park would need to be widened to 18 feet, the rest remaining as is. The Bowman Group says that 330 linear feet must be widened, 1/2 the length of Princess Anne Lane, having huge impacts on our residential experience.
- Request that the Park Authority Board choose entrance that does not destroy horticultural resources inside or outside the park where the view of the meadow and house creates an enjoyable visitor impression and already improved street and sidewalks.

Jim Mason

- Configuration of this park will directly impact my family.

- Concerned that the Park Authority would conduct a lengthy planning process with questionable regard to cost in developing this park.
- Four of the five proposed entrances would require extensive changes upgrades to the existing roads costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars.
- Vehicle access report shows lack of shoulders and sidewalks along Princess Anne, Rolfs or Horseman would make these unsuitable locations for pedestrian access to the park.
- If sidewalks are constructed VDOT would not maintain them on ditch section roads.
- Installation of sidewalks would require removal of trees and create greater impact on existing residential properties.
- Princess Anne's existing driveway is narrow, unstable and cannot safely serve the park in its current condition; re-grading and widening would be required.
- Access report states Goldsboro does not need additional work and access from Goldsboro would result in low impact to the site's horticultural resources, natural resources would also receive little to no detrimental impact.
- Safety of neighborhood children is not a unique concern for residents of any particular road, children in every neighborhood deserve our protection and concern for their safety. Residents living near all proposed entrances share the same concern for safety of neighborhood children.
- ADA access is painful at all entrances.
- Inefficient use of public funds is unacceptable to taxpayers of the county; an entrance at Rolfs Road is most unacceptable as it would require condemnation of private property.

Shelby Ammaddeo, Princess Anne Lane

- 25 children on Princess Anne Lane.
- Lived near a park and it was a bad experience; moved to Princess Anne Lane.
- Difficult to sympathize with Park Authority and friends of White Park who are very concerned about the view and ignore the more responsible concerns of residents including Mrs. White.
- Responsible concern is the senseless destruction of animal and plant life necessary to accomplish the quest for view.
- Responsible concern for the unnecessary overspending of our tax dollars when other options prove to be quite viable.
- Vehicle impact report does not discuss the impact on residents nor discuss in detail what would happen as a result of planned construction.

Ed Ammaddeo, Princess Anne Lane

- Question why staff has chosen most expensive and most destructive entrance.
- Insult to taxpayer. Sick of seeing tax money wasted
- Why did Penny Gross state "over my dead body"?
- Is this panel willing to confront the leading supervisors? Need to ask "what's behind it."
- Against using Princess Anne Lane because it is an insult to the entire community

Howard Landon

- Abandonment decision: Apparently the Board of Supervisors sat around and decided to abandon 100 square feet of land at Goldsboro Court.
- Everyone on both sides of the park suffer from tremendous traffic problems.

Chris Samuels

- Thanks to the Board that are here and listening to all the citizens of the community surrounding the White Park.
- Essential that you listen to all of them and judge accordingly.
- Princess Anne Lane is not suitable for an entrance, it would be a terrible thing for Princess Anne Lane and the White driveway to be destroyed.

Rawley Gilmore, Holloman Road

- Shame on the Park Authority, shame on district supervisor for even considering seizure of private property when the obvious location would be Goldsboro Road.
- Only property involved is owned by Fairfax County which makes it property that we all own.
- Oppose any entrance to the park on Rolfs, Princess Anne, Horseman.

Virgil Bodeen, Valleybrook Drive

- Very grateful for gift of White Horticultural Park to the community.
- Don't believe you can have too many parks or trees and shrubs.
- Worried about Princess Anne, as a rather small residential street would be severely damaged and degraded if the park is put there rather than Goldsboro Road which is the logical obvious choice.
- Seems illogical to hold the entrance to the park hostage to the traffic and safety situation. That should be addressed in a different forum.
- I don't believe the park would generate enough traffic to rule out Goldsboro Road as an entrance.
- For 18 years, the order of abandonment has served as a barrier to commercial development at the end of Goldsboro and it has served its purpose; now that beautiful public facility is about to be opened there, it is time that lift the order of abandonment as the county council intended when it was put in place.
- As a taxpayer, I'd be disappointed if any other access but Goldsboro Road was selected.

Robert Beck, Princess Anne Lane

- Rural feel with mature trees creating a canopy over narrow lane played major role in purchasing home on Princess Anne Lane.
- Already a park entrance option at Goldsboro Road that meets all requirements that would have to be constructed at any of the other entrance options.
- Construction of requirements would be disruptive, costly and change the character of the neighborhood.
- Please give serious consideration to removal of the spite strip at Goldsboro Road.

Richard Eldridge, Glenmont Street

- Support the transition of the White property to a park.
- Safety issue: If the entrance was put at Princess Anne, Rolfs or Horseman Lane, you still have the same issue with traffic at Sleepy Hollow School because a lot of the traffic coming into the neighborhood to get onto this street is not going to be magically dropped onto those streets affecting only the eight houses on Princess Anne.
- No matter what you decide there will be somebody that is not happy.
- Some of the things you need to weigh is the cost issue and based on the cost estimates out there are you going to go with the more expensive Princess Anne alternative or the less expensive Goldsboro alternative? Are you going with the plan that is more destructive to the horticulture that is supposed to be showcased? Or are you going with the one with higher impact as in Princess Anne or less impact at Goldsboro?
- Princess Anne entrance actually affects over 100 homes.

Brett Palmer

- Currently co-president of Holmes Run Homeowners Association.
- Vote on entrance with homeowners as to where the entrance should be; universally, not a single person voted said neither Princess Anne, Rolfs or Horseman should be the entrance.
- Park Authority has a grandiose vision of what is supposed to be in the park and we have a different vision. We live here, we want a beautiful park, a minimal park.

Donald Hyatt, American Rhododendron Society

- Looking from a different view, lives in McLean.
- Good friend of Mrs. White.
- Concern regarding access from Princess Anne: Driveway has beautiful plants and valuable specimens on either side, rhododendrons, azaleas and wild flowers on the bank; concern that this would be damaged as it would require re-grading.
- Goldsboro Road entrance: Approach through a field of buttercups; not one of the entrances has easy access because they all have problems.
- Concerns raised about safety, if park is treated properly with a minimalist attitude it will not be a major traffic concern.
- Sees park as school partner, resource.
- People should drop some of the hostilities because this is a wonderful resource, plants that haven't been around and don't exist elsewhere and a landscape we don't see in Fairfax County.
- Does not believe Mrs. White regrets selling the property to PA.
- Conflict needs to be resolved.

Richard Jackson, Holloman Lane

- On the traffic issue, there is a lot more traffic on Annandale Road than on Sleepy Hollow.

- Most of the roads don't have sidewalks or wide roads leading to property; the best access would probably have to take somebody's house away.
- Goldsboro Road already wide, has sidewalks, has access right to edge of property.
- Amazing that we would even consider any access other than Goldsboro for that park.
- If you use any other access, you would have to destroy other things that are along the way.
- Sleepy Hollow, at Goldsboro Road, is a dual lane road with a turn lane.
- Encourage you to consider Goldsboro Road as primary access.

Sean Ford, Nicholson Road

- Live close enough to witness serious division created in community because of this issue.
- Divisions and comments underscore a simple point: The decisions you make regarding the White Park are going to dramatically affect our community for many years to come.
- Ask that you do what is right to balance park and county interest in the park with the interest of the nearby residents whose lives are going to be most directly affected by it.
- Three points 1) Foremost concern for most of the residents is the primary access for vehicles. Four of 5 potential entrances have dead end roads. 2) Parking lot should be near center of park. Enough of a blow for whatever street gets the vehicular entrance, they should not be forced to have parking lot fifty feet from their property line. 3) Give high standing to those whose lives be most affected by the park. It is offensive to most of us to hear that plants and trees should be sacrificed in respect to determining vehicle access and parking.

Jeffrey Maturra

- In favor of Princess Anne as the entrance to the park.
- Oppose Goldsboro as entrance.
- Three points 1) Abandonment: Remind you that the abandonment was a formal legal process. 2) Safety: Of all the options available, this is the most appropriate decision, Goldsboro is closest to an educational institution. 3) ADA compliance is required and will significantly affect cost in the option chosen.
- Intent of Mrs. White: Need to consider entirety of her intentions for the property, the use of the property in broader context not just what entrance to chose.

Harry Emler, Clearwood

- Applaud generous gift of Mrs. White.
- Agree that we should achieve a balance between the park considerations and the impacts to the surrounding community.
- Bought in the Goldsboro community wanting the safety and privacy of a no-through traffic street.

- Understand the potential of the White property being sold to developers and Goldsboro Road being converted to a through road bringing much traffic through the development.
- Were assured that the abandonment is final and not subject to change.
- Many of us have a primary interest in the values of our properties.
- Planning committee is developing a master plan ignoring the relative impact in environmental and financial to the residents directly affected by the park access action.
- Cost estimates are of questionable validity.

Bill Wright, Nicholson

- One thing that struck me is that we need to consider that no roads should be widened to create access to this park.
- Suggest that “no parking” signs be put on both Princess Anne side and the Goldsboro side because you don’t want a lot of vehicles pulling up and people getting out.
- Brings lots of bad behavior in parks.
- Would like to hear plan for mitigating those kinds of threats to the neighborhood.
- Security and lighting would be a possibility.
- Barn, greenhouse and main house look very dilapidated. County could further it’s investment and make property what it could be.
- Regarding signage, don’t want to see on Sleepy Hollow or Annandale Road is a big sign that says “White Horticultural Park that way.” If there are no signs nobody will know about it except by maps. Garden folks will talk to other garden folks.

Tom Olliger, about a mile from park entrance

- None of the local residents want the street that they live on to be the vehicular access point but the fact of the matter is that at one point it must be chosen.
- In reading literature provided by FCPA, Goldsboro is my overwhelming personal choice.
- Nobody wants to put the Goldsboro children in jeopardy and harms way, echo sentiment for the children living and playing on Horseman, Rolfs and Princess Anne and Kerns.
- Park affecting the safety of children at Sleepy Hollow School is outlandish, NIMBY tug at your emotions. The stretch of road on Sleepy Hollow Road where the school sits sees an average of 12,000 vehicles per day, the park is expected to generate an additional 30 vehicles. This traffic increase is ¼ of 1 percent on Sleepy Hollow Road.
- Vehicle access report shows traffic increase on Goldsboro would be projected at 7.5 percent. Princess Anne, Rolfs or Horseman would have average vehicle jump of 38%. This increase would deeply concern me if I lived on these roads.
- Agree with Park Authority’s management objectives to minimize impact to neighbors.
- Don’t believe that the BOS in 1988 intended for the community’s children be chess pieces with kings, queens and bishops living on protected Goldsboro and

the pawns living on every other street in the community. Safety is for everyone equally.

Alice Straker, Rolfs Road

- Going through the draft master plan and vehicle access report several things are not supported in the content in the management objectives.
- Really don't know what this is going to be. Ask the board to look at how staff has supported the management objectives.
- Deed comes behind the legislative requirements and business preferences.
- Not going to be another Green Springs but will have plant beds and meeting spaces; I can go to any public school for a nominal fee if I need a meeting space, it is important not to duplicate Green Springs.
- Master plan needs to be revisited.
- Sort of an after thought. Self guided tours without staff encouraging large groups.

Steven Kidwell, Rolfs Road

- Oppose any entrance on either Rolfs Road or Princess Anne.
- Please spend our tax dollars wisely, please do the right thing, please chose Goldsboro Road.

Roger Morse, Kennedy

- Thought we were being heard at the workshop, apparently we were not.
- Lot of what happened there was hijacked by the park commission.
- Live on Kennedy Lane as far as where the entrance will go we are going to be a cut-through street regardless.
- As a taxpayer, we've invested millions of dollars putting in roads on Goldsboro, putting in wide roads, curbed sidewalks to make it accessible, a lot is invested there.
- We are taking lots out of the tax rolls to put in the park.
- Overwhelming desire to have a minimalist park.
- Nobody wanted that house to be used for anything but the caretaker.
- Why waste more money picking a site and an entrance that will cost a whole more taxpayer money when we haven't shown a demand for another Green Springs.

Jim Dubbs, Princess Anne Lane

- Don't take a part of my property for the widening of road along with cedar oaks trees on property for 25 years.
- Widening will be more than easement allows.
- Give me a guarantee in writing and I will take this off my agenda.
- Don't take my land to preserve someone else's street.
- Save neighbors land and trees along Princess Anne Lane and Rolfs Road.
- Holloman Road and Holmes Run residents get impacted.
- Ridiculous to say 8 homes get affected.

- Princess Anne Lane will pull other people off road and not all will go right on Annandale Road.
- Consider children. We have a school that children walk to.
- Annandale Road intersects Holloman on a significant curve before you get to Princess Anne Lane.
- Numerous children walk across Annandale/Holloman intersection on their way to Beech Tree School.
- Numerous accidents on the Annandale/Holloman curve.
- Annandale Road is not a cut through from Columbia Pike to Seven Corners.
- Annandale Road is a major artery.

Belva Conlon

- When this started on March 22nd, our street was not able to attend workshop which we did not realize was the impending doom that since transpired.
- Workshop selected our street for the entrance to park property.
- We were not there to support ourselves meant we were lame duck there.
- We were told that entrance to Goldsboro Road was not a choice to be considered.
- Landon home hosted a meeting where Penny Gross and Mr. Vadja attended with neighbors on Princess Anne, Holloman, and Rolfs Roads attended.
- At meeting, Ms. Gross was adamant that there was no discussion to be had on Goldsboro Road.
- How to come up with compromises all entrances and all live freely here.
- Property owned by county paid for by tax dollars, which would eliminate any need for changes outside of the park boundaries.

Ilene Liberti, Holloman Road

- Hope that decision will be made that neighborhood can live with.
- This has broken our neighborhood apart.
- Urge all arguments be considered that were heard tonight and written testimony.
- Put aside hostility.
- Emphasize goals of park, the horticulture.
- Put aside concerns coming from panic and fear.
- All are concerned about safety and trust in your judgment.

Henry Terhune, Holloman Road

- Strongly oppose Princess Anne Lane and Rolf Roads as entrance.
- This entrance will impact wider geographic area and more children.
- Address some arguments that have been put forth by neighbors that oppose Goldsboro as entrance.
- Order of Abandonment as insurmountable hurdle: Congress changes laws all the time, sometimes laws they enacted weeks before.
- Park Authority has a duty to recommend a lifting of the Order to the Board of Supervisors if they believe Goldsboro is best.
- Residents in impacted area wherever they may be will look at these kinds of legal arguments and put them forward.

- Real estate devaluation and county taxes.
- Strong objection to letter from principal of Sleepy Hollow Elementary.
- Echo comments made by others this evening regarding casual but unusual statement by staff that they understood from informal/off records discussions that waivers could be obtained to minimize possible impacts of Princess Anne Lane. Statement potentially out of order.

David Stewart, Kennedy Lane

- Hopes Park Authority will listen to desire for low impact use, features, and facilities to be added to this Park.
- Believes Park Authority respects all credible, negative impacts will be lessen for both entrance considered to be favorites.
- Hope Mrs. White wishes regarding her gift to neighborhood for generations to come will be respected.

Maria Turro

- Residents of Goldsboro Road and those opposed to the use as an entrance to the Park realize that this hearing is not popular or numbers game but rather a process of planning and upholding the law: Goldsboro Legal Abandonment of 1988.
- Last year and half has been wasted on a non-issue.
- Where is logic in discussing an entrance to White property that is accessible now and has been for fifty years through the existing entrance on Princess Anne Lane?

Louise Dayton, 3538 Devon Drive

- Former president of Holmes Run Valley Association.
- Impact on Valley Brook for people coming from Columbia Pike because first entrance into neighborhood to get to Princess Anne Lane.
- Live down Sleepy Hollow you would have to go down to Kennedy which would be impacting our neighborhood.
- From Route 50, you would have to come in through Holloman.
- Coming off Annandale Road or any other roads they would all come through neighborhood and be impacting over 600 homes.
- Most have no sidewalks, no parking spaces.
- We like our rural looking area.
- To take land by eminent domain/private property; we own strip that was put in there to prevent development; not a public party that is owned by County.
- County can be sued by us. Will sue, will fight this.
- No business to take private land when we have land to make this entrance.

END OF SPEAKERS

Ms. Pedersen thanked the speakers for their comments, stated that the

public comment period would close on Thursday, June 8, and noted that the addresses for written comments is on the printed agenda.

**List of Speakers, Final
White Public Hearing, May 8, 2006**

Dick Carpenter
Keith Sarson
Chris Delta
Dierdre Prahm
Bob Walker
Lawrence Pierce
Arlene Pierce
Patricia Gordon
Dan Cornette
Dennis Conlon
George Delta
Margie Morris
Paula Sherman
Dennis Stephens
Susan Carpenter
Michael Sherman
Carrie Stephens
Susan Richardson
Jean Komendera
Joe Stevenson
Kathleen Holmes
Neal Straker
John Turro
Michael C. Trahos
Helen Trahos
Goerge Gordon
Dr. Stephen Kauffman
David Kauffman
Diana Venskus
Peter Deede
Cheryl Furst
Harold Freeland
Mary Terhune
Jackie Bast
Nicole Bast
Beth Gilmore
Jim Venskus
Thelma Jo Prince

Maureen Norris
Alison Metzger
Cindy Mason
Olga Mitchell
Jim Mason
Shelby Ammaddeo
Ed Ammaddeo
Howard Landon
Rawley Gilmore
Virgil Bodeen
Robert Beck
Richard Eldridge
Brett Palmer
Donald Hyatt
Richard Jackson
Sean Ford
Jeffrey Maturra
Harry Emlep
Bill Wright
Tom Olliger
Roberta Kauffman
Alice Straker
Steven Kidwell
Roger Morse
Jim Dubbs
Phylis Ritman
Casey Allen
Belva Conlon
Ilene Liberti
Henry Terhune
David Stewart
Maria Turro
Louise Dayton