

GREEN SPRING GARDENS

DECEMBER 2, 2015 PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING

COMMENTS

A public comment meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens on December 2, 2015 to review and discuss the draft master plan revision for Green Spring Gardens. The meeting started at 7:00 and was facilitated by Judy Pedersen. In attendance was Supervisor Penny Gross, Park Authority Board member Frank Vjada, Park Authority Deputy Director Aimee Vosper, as well as other Park Authority staff and members of the master plan team. The names of 32 attendees were captured on the sign-in sheets.

Following some background on the Park Authority shared by Ms. Pedersen, project manager Gayle Hooper presented the draft master plan. At the end of the presentation, those in attendance were asked to share their thoughts regarding the draft plan.

The following is a summary of the comments voiced.

Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) offered a series of preliminary comments on the draft plan which will be submitted formally before the close of the public comment period. In general, items noted include:

- Expand on the Management Objectives section to emphasize environmental resource protection and advocacy.
- Expand on the Natural Resource Management section recognizing the many roles that public gardens play in natural resource management. Specific language suggestions will be submitted.
- Provide further study on the implications of expanding parking including the impact on the bioretention facility and use of the north property for parking.
- Any trails shown to connect to Braddock Road should only be provided if they can be accomplished in a safe manner.
- The trail through the north property should have a loop back.
- Discussion of the north property should include more specific discussion of the effort necessary to restore the environmental health of this area; rename the space as "Natural and Horticultural Resource/Program Area"; include event space or outdoor classroom as potential use; address how this space should orient spatially and conceptually to the ponds, native plantings, and historic area.
- As the location of the outdoor classroom is undetermined, it should not be referenced on the CDP graphic.
- Expansion of the Garden Gate Plant Shop should be included with the discussion of the Horticulture Center expansion.



Additional request was made to improve bike facilities in the area and countywide, stating a desire to see no additional parking added at Green Spring Gardens. Local road conditions do not support safe bike travel to the park.

A question was directed to Supervisor Gross about the potential implications to Green Spring Gardens of the current Lincolnia District Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Supervisor Gross responded that, as the majority of the recommendations will be directed towards commercial development and the area of Beauregard Avenue, she does not anticipate any plan changes that would impact Green Spring Gardens.

A question was asked as to when site changes could be expected once the master plan revision is approved. Ms. Pedersen stated that master plan approval and project funding are two separate processes. Upon plan approval, the Park Authority would seek to identify appropriate funding sources for plan development such as park bonds or partnerships.

It was stated that the plan captures the unique nature of the park. The flexibility of the proposed master plan revision will help Green Spring Gardens move the gardens forward.

QUOTE OF THE EVENING: "Don't be afraid to go for greatness!"