

Outdoor Fitness: Gum Springs Community Meeting February 18, 2016, 7:00 PM, Gum Springs Community Center

Staff in Attendance: Judy Pedersen, Anne Cissel, Sandy Stallman, Andrea (Andi) Dorlester, Ryan Stewart, Phil Hager, and Mark Holsteen (FCPA); Lloyd Tucker, Evan Braff, and Pallas Washington (NCS)

Mount Vernon District Park Board Representative Linwood Gorham was present.

Nine members of the public signed in on the attendance sheet. Attendees indicated their membership in the following community groups: the New Gum Springs Civic Association, the Saunders B. Moon Senior Program, the Gum Springs Community Center Advisory Board, and the Gum Springs Youth Athletic Association.

The meeting opened with introductions and remarks from Judy Pedersen, Linwood Gorham, and Lloyd Tucker. Andi Dorlester presented an overview of outdoor fitness equipment and the three sites being considered for installation. Two of the sites are located near the Gum Springs Community Center and the third site is at nearby Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The slide presentation can be viewed [here](#). A public comment session followed.

Public Comments:

- **Speaker 1 - Queenie Cox** spoke on behalf of the New Gum Springs Civic Association. Stated that the Civic Association wanted to ensure that a final decision had not yet been made for the placement of the outdoor fitness equipment. While supportive of a new outdoor gym, there is concern over conflicts with other activities at the community center. Stated that Site A is not doable because of the sewer line easement. Concerns about Site B and conflicts with the Head Start school bus drop off area and the picnic pavilion which is rented out for activities. Site C is the Civic Association's preferred location.
- **Speaker 2 – Question from the audience:** Is the fitness equipment weather-friendly, how does it hold up?
 - Answer: Yes, the equipment is durable and designed for the outdoors and has low-maintenance moving parts.
- **Speaker 3 – Question from the audience:** Will security cameras be installed at Site C?
 - Answer: There are no plans to provide security cameras within the park.
- **Speaker 4 – Comment from the Audience:**
Security, mosquitos and ticks are a concern at Site C.
- **Speaker 5 – Question from the Audience:** What will be the impact to the other activities onsite (pool, picnics)?

- Answer: Parking is already very tight when the pool is open, games are being played on the ball field, and picnics are going on.
- **Speaker 6 – Question from the Audience:** Can seating and benches be incorporated into the design?
 - Answer: the project team will discuss and consider this idea, depending upon available funding.

NEXT STEPS:

- The project team will consider the public comments and continue informal discussions with key stakeholders. A decision on where to locate the outdoor gym will be made within a couple of weeks and will be communicated to the community.
- Installation is planned to begin in March, with a ribbon cutting tentatively scheduled for late May.

The meeting concluded with closing remarks from Judy Pedersen and Linwood Gorham.

After the meeting, several letters of support for Site B were received by the county.

1. Letter from Gum Springs Advisory Board
2. Letter from Gum Springs Historical Society
3. Letter from Bethlehem Baptist Church

Gum Springs Historical Society, Inc.

8100 Fordson, Gum Springs, Virginia 22306, gumspingsmuseum.blogspot.com, (703)375-9825

March 4, 2016

Mr. Lloyd Tucker
Division Director
Regional Services and Center Operations
Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood
and Community Services

Dear Mr. Tucker,

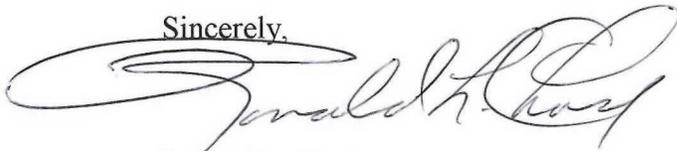
The Gum Springs Historical Society recognizes a need for an accessible public exercise equipment area. We understand the Gum Springs Community Center has been selected to receive equipment, the suggested location, has foot traffic, adequate parking as well as wheel chair accessibility.

We understand that this is collaboration with the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services each striving to better serve the health needs of the Gum Springs citizens, and others of Fairfax County. We understand the public will have access to the equipment any time of the day.

We believe the east location of the building provides the best location for placement, keeping in mind that this area has historical elements of importance that will require future development in disseminating a complete historical value of the area.

As President of the Gum Springs Historical, Inc. we support this collaborative effort with the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community services. We look forward to working further with you on a comprehensive plan for the Park.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Chase,
President, Gum Springs Historical Society

cc. Dan Storck, Mt. Vernon District Supervisor

March 4, 2016

Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services
12011 Government Center Parkway, 10th floor
Fairfax, VA 22035

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Bethlehem Baptist Church, I am pleased to submit this letter expressing our support of the partnership between the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (FCD-NCS) and the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) to install an outdoor fitness gym on the east side of the Gum Springs Community Center near the cul-de-sac. The outdoor fitness gym provides an outdoor opportunity for all age ranges from teens to senior adults to support their health better. Furthermore, this outdoor gym will provide more chances to our community members and visitors to prevent health risk factors which affect minority communities like Gum Springs at a disproportionate rate.

Bethlehem Baptist Church has worked with NCS on multifaceted prevention-based programs such as the Partners in Prevention Fund programs, as well as partnered with NCS to fund the senior adult program located at the Gum Springs Community Center. We recognize how the outdoor fitness gym supports the Live Healthy Fairfax Initiative which aligns with our goals at Bethlehem Baptist Church to build a community where all can have spiritually and physically healthier lives.

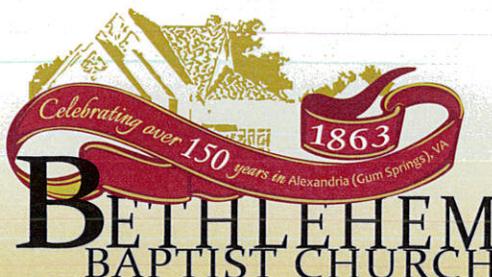
We will continue to do what we can to support the well-being of our community in Gum Springs. We bid FCD-NCS and FCPA continued success with efforts such as this, that encourage opportunities for physical activity to enhance healthy lifestyles.

Sincerely,



Reverend Darrell K. White, D. Min
Senior Pastor

Reverend Dr. Darrell K. White, Pastor
Curtis Foxx, Chair Deacon Ministry
Joseph E. Bunton, Chair Trustee Ministry



7836 Fordson Road Alexandria, VA 22306
703-360-4170 office 703-360-4269 fax
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March 3, 2016

Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)
Pennino Building
12011 Government Center Parkway, 10th Floor
Fairfax, VA 22035

Dear NCS,

The Gum Springs Community Center Advisory Board is in support of the proposal for outdoor fitness equipment at Gum Springs Community Center. We are in support of the location near the community center and not the location in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The Gum Springs Community Center Advisory Board feels that the location near the community center will provide greater accessibility for community members and promote more usage of the equipment.

We are excited about this opportunity to make outdoor exercise a fun and social event for adults, teens, seniors, and youth in the Gum Springs community. We envision the outdoor fitness equipment encouraging community members to exercise which may ultimately lead to improved physical fitness and better health.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to voice our support for this initiative. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 703-798-5707 or via email at ddanlucas@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,



Dawn Lucas
Acting President
Gum Springs Community Center Advisory Board