

Boyd A. and Charlotte M. Hogge Park

Public Information Meeting May 20, 2010

Glen Forest Elementary School

5829 Glen Forest Drive, Falls Church, VA

Meeting Summary

A Public Information Meeting was held on the evening of May 20, 2010 for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the project and the park master planning process as well as to invite public comment and input toward the park's future design. Approximately 100 people attended the meeting.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Sandy Stallman, Park Planning Branch Manager for the Park Authority, provided some welcoming remarks and introduced Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross who made introductions of several persons in attendance that evening including:

Kaye Kory	Delegate, House of Delegates 38 th District
John Dargle	Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Marie Reinsdorf	At-Large Representative, Fairfax County Park Authority Board

Mason District Park Board member, Frank Vajda, was unable to attend the meeting.

Staff Presentation

OVERVIEW

Sandy Stallman provided an outline of the evening's agenda as well as an overview of FCPA and the Park Master Plan process. She introduced the Project Team that includes:

Gayle Hooper	Project Manager, Landscape Architect, Park Planning Branch
Richard Maple	Manager, Area 2 Operations
Heather Schinkel	Manager, Natural Resource Protection Branch
Isabel Villarreal	Engineer, Planning and Development Division
Aimee Wells	Historical Archaeologist, Cultural Resource Protection Branch

SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

Gayle Hooper, Project Manager for the Boyd A. and Charlotte M. Hogge Park, provided a brief history of the property, surrounding context and description of the site.

This presentation can be accessed by the link below:

[\(May 20, 2010 Meeting Presentation\)](#)

CORRECTION: At the Public Information Meeting, it was stated in error that the name for this park was an element that would be determined through the Master Plan Process. Per previous agreement, it was decided that this park would be call the Boyd A. and Charlotte M. Hogge Park. The Park Authority apologizes for this oversight and will refer to this park in the future by the agreed-upon name.

Public Comments

Following the Staff Presentation, a period of open discussion was provided to permit those in attendance to share their vision for the park and to ask questions. The following is a summary of the major issues and comments raised during this session.

PARK CHARACTER

- o Opinion was expressed to see that the park was not “over developed”, including only such elements as benches, trails and perhaps a playground
- o Opinion was expressed to maintain the aesthetic appeal of the property
- o Suggestion was made that an athletic field would be out of character with the surrounding neighborhood
- o Suggestion was made that the best enhancement of the park would simply include beautification efforts
- o Opinion was expressed that the park should reflect the community

SECURITY

- o A frequent point mentioned throughout the evening was with regard to security, noting past and current problems in the area
- o Question was raised regarding the ability of the police to enforce security on the property
- o Mention was made of gang activity across Route 7
- o Various neighbors voiced their experience with unwanted activity and police response to their concerns
- o Opinion was expressed that significant lighting of the site might reduce the problem
- o Concern was expressed for the privacy of the properties that back up to the park

TRAFFIC / TRANSPORTATION

- o Concern was expressed for the impact that the park would have on surrounding streets such as speeding vehicles and cut-through traffic
- o Concern was expressed regarding the possibility of cars being parked along Magnolia Avenue and Glen Carlyn Drive associated with park use
- o The design of Magnolia Avenue was pointed out as having a narrow, ditch-section construction without sidewalks
- o Concern was expressed regarding sight distance issues at the intersection of Magnolia and Glen Carlyn, complicated by the existing vegetation on site as well as the on-street parking on Glen Carlyn Drive
- o Question was raised regarding potential access to the southern portion of the site as it lacks public street frontage and desire that access not be directed through adjacent private properties

ENVIRONMENTAL

- o Concern was expressed regarding protection of the existing vegetation along Long Branch
- o Suggestion was made to return Long Branch to a more naturalized condition and look at Arlington Long Branch nature center as a model
- o Concern was expressed that re-naturalizing the stream would exacerbate long-standing issues with flooding through the area
- o Concern was expressed regarding the presence of invasive plant species on the property and suggestion made for their removal

PARK USES

- o Several of those in attendance mentioned that they currently use the site to walk their dogs, play ball or simply enjoy the green space
- o Several of those in attendance voiced an opinion that an athletic field on this site would not be in keeping with the surrounding community
- o Opinion was expressed that there are sufficient recreational opportunities provided at other local school sites and parks, including those in Arlington County
- o Several attendees expressed a desire to see an athletic field in this location to provide community access for football, soccer and open play
- o Several attendees voiced a preference for including neighborhood garden plots as a use, perhaps including an organic demonstration garden
- o Concern was also expressed that neighborhood garden plots can have a very unkempt appearance and also require access for gardeners to bring their supplies and tools to the site
- o Suggestion was made to include a basketball court on the site
- o Suggestion was made to include accessible play features similar to Clemyjontri Park
- o Suggestion was made to develop a small horticultural center similar to Green Spring Gardens
- o Several attendees suggested including a playground

FORMER HOME SITE

- o Frustration was expressed regarding the demolition of the previous home site
- o Several in attendance expressed an opinion that the home could have been repurposed for some community use
- o Several expressed concern at being left out of the decision to demolish the house

ECKERD / RITE AID SITE

- o Specific question was raised regarding the history of the development of the Eckerd / Rite Aid store with regard to local soccer fields
- o Supervisor Gross took the opportunity to respond to the question. Prior to the Eckerd development application, the southwest corner of Route 7 and Glen Carlyn Road had been the site of a vehicle service station. The rear portion of this property had contained a vacant lot which had "adopted" as an impromptu soccer field within the community. Although this use continued for some time, in fact, it technically constituted trespassing on private property. When Eckerd purchased the site and made application to develop a retail facility, it was recognized that construction of the store would displace this ad hoc community use. As part of the development process, Eckerd proffered a \$100,000 contribution for field improvements in the local community. These proffered funds were paid to Fairfax County and used for improvements to the Baileys Elementary School field.