

Boyd A. and Charlotte M. Hogge Park

Public Comment Meeting November 15, 2010

Glen Forest Elementary School

5829 Glen Forest Drive, Falls Church, VA

Meeting Summary

A Public Comment Meeting was held on the evening of November 15, 2010 for the purpose of presenting the draft Master Plan for the Boyd A. and Charlotte M. Hogge Park to the community and inviting public comment toward the park's future design. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting.

Public comment on the draft Master Plan for the Boyd A. and Charlotte M. Hogge Park will continue to be received by the Park Authority through December 15, 2010.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Judy Pederson, Public Information Officer for the Park Authority, provided some welcoming remarks and introduced several people in attendance that evening including:

Frank Vajda	Park Authority Board, Mason District Representative
Penny Gross	Supervisor, Mason District
Marie Reinsdorf	Park Authority Board, At-Large Representative
Ken Quincy	Park Authority Board, Providence District Representative
John Dargle	Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Sandy Stallman	Manager, Park Planning Branch
Gayle Hooper	Project Manager, Park Planning Branch
Richard Maple	Area 2 Manager, Park Operations
Matthew Kaiser	Deputy Public Information Officer
Heather Schinkel	Manager, Natural Resource Management & Protection Section

Staff Presentation

SITE CONDITIONS, BACKGROUND and DRAFT MASTER PLAN

Gayle Hooper, Project Manager for the Boyd A. and Charlotte M. Hogge Park, provided a brief history of the property, surrounding context and an overview of the major elements of the draft Master Plan.

This presentation can be accessed by the link below
[\(insert hyperlink to the PowerPoint presentation\)](#)

Public Comments

Following the Staff Presentation, an open comment period was provided to permit those in attendance to officially share their impressions of the draft Master Plan. The following is a summary of each speaker's comments expressed during this session.

CAROLYN DAVIS

- o Expressed concern that there are no restrooms noted on the plan
- o Expressed concern that many trees might be cut down
- o Expressed concern that the proposed community gardens would be messy and exacerbate the existence of rats in the neighborhood

MAGNOLIA AVENUE RESIDENT

LYNDA BRINSON

SIXTH STREET RESIDENT

- o Ms. Brinson's initial comments were offered on behalf of Virginia Smith who lives immediately adjacent to the park
- o Ms. Smith does not support the community garden element
- o Ms. Smith requests that a fence be provided as a buffer to her property
- o Questions who would be responsible for damage to her property from park users (i.e., football through a window)
- o On her own behalf, Ms. Brinson stated that no parking should be permitted along Magnolia Avenue
- o Ms. Brinson does not support the community garden element

MARY ANN MERCER

MERRITT PLACE RESIDENT

- o Questioned what action should be taken if the community observes people playing games (soccer, football) in the park; requested point of contact
- o Expressed concern regarding the efficacy of shared parking with St. Katherine's Church during times of events
- o Questioned the number of picnic tables to be provided in the pavilion
- o Expressed concern regarding the proximity of the pavilion to the road and potential trash issues

LEIB KAMINSKY

HARDWICK PLACE RESIDENT

- o Thanked the Park Authority for purchasing the property, which might otherwise have been developed with residences, to provide open space for the community
- o Expressed support for the community gardens
- o Indicated several community gardens that are well run and well maintained
- o Made recognition of the importance of Hogge Park in the larger context of the County
- o Interested in seeing elements to address safety integrated throughout the site
- o Expressed concern that the details of a shared parking agreement address times of overlapping demand between the church and the park

PATRICIA WETH

SIXTH STREET RESIDENT

- o Expressed appreciation that the Park Authority had really tried to listen and implement the suggestions of the community
- o Would like additional clarification regarding management of traffic on Magnolia Avenue and Sixth Street
- o Questioned whether the Master Plan, once adopted, could be changed without the community's involvement

(Judy Pederson, Public Information Officer with the Park Authority, explained that once adopted the plan could not be changed without public process. Not only is public process required, it is the spirit and intent of the Park Authority's planning process to include the public in such decisions)

MARK SCHALL

LEBANON DRIVE RESIDENT

- o Mr. Schall has enjoyed using the park in its present state
- o Expressed agreement that the southern portion of the park be retained "as is" for wildlife benefits
- o Recommended exploring the possibility of providing a trail linkage through the southern parcel

- o Recommended testing a few of the proposed ideas now, such as putting in a park bench, a portable toilet and some trash cans
- o Recommended inclusion of a pedestrian crosswalk at Glen Carlyn and South Manchester
- o Expressed pleasure at having the opportunity for a medium sized park in the community

ALAN DAVIS

MAGNOLIA AVENUE RESIDENT

- o Restated on-going concern regarding the intersection design of Glen Carlyn Drive and Magnolia Avenue
- o Recommended that a traffic light should be installed at Glen Carlyn and South Manchester
- o Recommended that an enclosed restroom be installed with the picnic pavilion

RUTH RUSKIN

SIXTH STREET RESIDENT

- o Appreciates the inclusion of the open play area
- o Would like to see the large evergreen tree preserved
- o Expressed concern about over developing the site
- o Expressed concern that the picnic pavilion is too close to the road
- o Recommended that bathrooms be provided with the pavilion
- o Recommend that the court sport not be included stating that there appear to be a sufficient number of courts at local schools and the proposed location is attractive as it is
- o Supports the community gardens if they are sponsored and well-maintained
- o If community gardens are not moved forward, expressed preference for a landscaped area maintained with support from the Green Spring Garden Park staff
- o Expressed commitment to personally fund one or two benches in the park

HUGHES PIERCE

MAGNOLIA AVENUE RESIDENT

- o Attended the meeting in May and feels that a lot of the feedback expressed then has been incorporated into the plan
- o Expressed support of the shared access concept as a positive way to mitigate traffic impacts to Magnolia Avenue
- o Recommended provision of trash cans in the park now
- o Expressed uncertainty of the value and possible impacts of reverting the stream to a natural condition
- o Noted the presence of many deer in the park

CAROL JOANNIDES

MERRITT PLACE RESIDENT

- o Expressed appreciation that a soccer field was not included in the plan
- o Expressed appreciation for the inclusion of the court sport, with preference for basketball
- o Suggested that the picnic pavilion might be better located closer to the wooded area
- o Recommended the parking area be expanded so that no parking would be encouraged on Magnolia
- o Expressed preference for landscaping rather than a community garden
- o Expressed appreciation for the inclusion of the playground / fitness area

TRICIA BYRNE

FALLSWOOD GLEN COURT RESIDENT

- o Expressed concern regarding traffic impacts, particularly on Sunday mornings, noting existing problems
- o Expressed a preference that a park should be green with trees and natural open areas
- o Does not support the community garden element
- o Appreciates that the southern portion of the park is left natural

LINDA HOWARD

MAGNOLIA AVENUE RESIDENT

- o Expressed appreciation for the park as her home overlooks the expanse of open space
- o Expressed support for the shared parking concept as it will imply less impact than if the park were accessed from Magnolia Avenue
- o Supports adding trash cans in the park now
- o Expressed pleasure at seeing people playing sports and enjoying the park
- o Noted the presence of many deer in the park

Staff Response / Question Period

Following the opportunity for the public to voice their comments regarding the draft Master Plan, a brief period was provided for staff to address some of the issues mentioned and answer questions.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

- o Concern was expressed by several in attendance regarding what the community gardens might look like, particularly in light of some gardens which are quite messy
- o Gayle Hooper clarified that the proposed community garden element at Hogge Park would require community sponsorship before establishment, similar to the model for County dog parks
- o Although community gardens are a use that is consistent with Park Authority goals, current operational demands do not permit the Park Authority to adequately supervise all community garden operations
- o Community sponsorship, established in concert with the Park Authority, would oversee the operations of the community garden including assigning and renting garden plots as well as establishing and maintaining garden rules

VEGETATION ALONG MAGNOLIA AVENUE

- o The question was raised regarding plans for removing the vegetation along Magnolia Avenue and Glen Carlyn Road as the residents perceive it to impair sight distance at the intersection
- o Richard Maple responded that, although not fully in agreement with the concern, efforts to remove the vegetation have been included in the work plan.

Final Comments

Judy Pederson concluded the meeting by providing contact information for those who wish to share their comments regarding the draft Master Plan, reiterating that all comments must be received prior to December 15, 2010 to be included in the public record.