

Oak Marr Park Master Plan Amendment

The Park Authority received public comments on the Oak Marr Master Plan Amendment from the first public announcement of the project until the end of the public comment period on May 16, 2009, 30 days after the Public Comment Meeting that was held at the Oakton Library. A total of 32 public comments were received including:

- 32 emails
- 1 public meeting with 15 speakers
- 1 lighting demonstration with 2 attendees

Comments received were both against and in favor of the proposed amendment. Below is a summary of comments in opposition and in favor of the proposed master plan amendment to add lights to the rectangle fields and mini golf course. Many of those leaving comments also requested the field be converted to synthetic turf, as approved in the 2008 Park Bond.

Opposition

Opposition to the Oak Marr Park Master Plan Amendment was limited and primarily involved adjacent neighbors. Their reasons for opposing the Master Plan Amendment include the following:

- Concerns related directly to lights:
- Concern that lights will devalue property by creating a structural eyesore, causing light pollution, causing noise late into the evening, and reducing privacy;
- Vegetation screening is minimal between the ball field and some neighbors;
- Cost of lights and the opinion that the Park Authority should take care of the facilities it has before adding more;
- Concern about negative impacts of lights and noise on wildlife;
- Concerns about light pollution and dark skies;
- Belief that lights are unnecessary;

Other issues:

- Noise from the games including air horns and amplified speakers
- Belief that adding lights to the ball field would contribute to more traffic and parking issues on the surrounding roads;
- Concern that a loud speaker would be used in conjunction with the lights;
- Oak Marr was designed as a golf and swimming complex , not a field complex

Support

Support for the Oak Marr Park Master Plan Amendment was evident in most of the feedback received. Reasons for supporting the Master Plan Amendment include the following:

- There are not enough fields available in the area, so practice times are cut short to allow all teams some time on the existing fields;
- Oak Marr has good buffering and existing infrastructure to support longer use;
- Oak Marr is a much better location for lights than Nottoway;
- Youth leagues are in real need of synthetic turf rectangle fields and the expanded scheduling time they offer in the Providence District;
- The Providence District currently has no synthetic turf fields and their sports leagues are in need of these facilities;