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# Ruckstuhl Park Master Plan

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

July 30, 2017, 7:00 P.M. At Lemon Road Elementary School

## Meeting Summary:

A Public Information Meeting was held on the evening of July 30, 2014 to kick off the public master plan process for Ruckstuhl Park Master Plan. Public commentary was accepted on the parks existing conditions and thoughts for future improvements to incorporate into the master plan. Approximately 39 attendees signed in at the meeting.

The meeting began with introductions by Sandy Stallman, Manager Park Planning, Fairfax County Park Authority

Opening remarks were provided by Ken Quincey, Park Authority Board Member, Providence District Representative

## Other Officials and Staff in Attendance:

Sara Baldwin, Chief Operations Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority

Cindy Messinger, Chief Financial Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority

Sandy Stallman, Manager Park Planning Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority

Andy Galusha, Landscape Architect/Planner and Project Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority

Erin Stocksclaeder, Natural Resource Specialist, Fairfax County Park Authority

Summey Islam, Park Planning Intern, Fairfax County Park Authority

Ed Busenlehner, Area 1 Park Operations Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority

Chris Sperling, Archaeologist, Fairfax County Park Authority

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## Staff Presentation

Sandy Stallman provided a brief background of the Park Authority including Park Authority mission, quick park facts, board of directors. There was also a presentation on the master plan process and the project timeline.

Andy Galusha, project manager for the Park Master Plan, provided a brief history of the site, site conditions, and surrounding context.

## Discussion Session:

Following the presentation, Sandy Stallman moderated an open public comment period so those in attendance could share their impressions of the park and input on its future. The following is a summary of each speaker's comments expressed during this session, after which, the meeting adjourned.

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Speaker Number

\* include: Dog park, Picnic tables, Open play areas, walking pat, sidewalks, traffic light

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Speaker Number

\* Minimal lighting, minimal development - keep it rustic, no playground equipment, no exercise equipment, some trails but no bike trails, more trees - let forest, nature rule. Minimal parking (you mentioned VDOT prefers entrance to be across from Idyl Lane but a small parking (4-6 spaces) lot at corner of Idylwood and Dunford would be less intrusive to the overall land and no other orad entrance. No community garden. Few if any picnic tables

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Speaker Number

\* If ther is no parking at the park they will use our lot. That is unacceptable. Parking is needed

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Speaker Number

\* Glad to have park. Yet we need a safe sidewalk for Idylwood Road. Our road to this park is not safe to walk to the park. Safety is first.

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Speaker Number

\* The intersection is already very busy. The park entrance will add to the traffic issue. A traffic light is necessary.

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Speaker Number

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\* I would like to see a walking trail (natural) and flower gardens. Sidwalk along Idylwood Rd. for safety. Safe means to cross Idylwood Rd. to the park intersection traffic control at Idyl Lane and Idylwood Rd. Recognition to Dr. Ruckstuhl for her contribution. Benches. Protection for the Lindsey family cemetery/private property. Keep as natural as possible which Dr. Ruckstuhl would like.

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Speaker Number 01

\* Question: would like to know about plans for parking and traffic lights

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Speaker Number 02

\* live in Idle Towers and want to make sure folks don't park in our parking lot

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Speaker Number 03

\* Would be nice to have a sidewalk. Would like park to be pet friendly.

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Speaker Number 04

\* Concerned about having access to driveway at end of Dunford Dr.

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Speaker Number 05

\* is this going to be a 24 hour park? Will there be lighting?

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Speaker Number 06

\* Will there be crosswalks from Idylwood Towers?

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Speaker Number 07

\* Would Dunn Loring be considered a model for this park?

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Speaker Number 08

\* Security Guards have found people doing illegal things, concerned that those folks will go to the park. How is that handled?

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Speaker Number 09

\* What will be the relationship with the Linsey Family Cemetery, will it be maintained or seperated by a fence?

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Speaker Number 10

\* People walking in the park don't know there is a demarkation from the park and the cemetery. People walking dogs unknowingly walking on graves. Interested in seeing the park and cemetery seperated by fence or something.

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Speaker Number 11

\* Echo the comment prior about having the park be pet friendly. Would like a place to walk dog off-leash. Also would like to see sidewalks

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Speaker Number 12

\* Dr. Ruckstuhl wanted land for wild animal use. Knowing that, you don't want parking, don't want commercial, be pet friendly, a natural trail would be nice.

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Speaker Number 13

\* Have you done surveys to determine the valuable native plants on the property

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Speaker Number 14

\* she had all kinds of animals. She didn't want the wildlife to be pushed out. Abundant deer and a family of foxes

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Speaker Number 15

\* Does the county have a tentative plan? Was told in 2012 that the easement restricted parking.

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Speaker Number 16

\* echo the statement about having sidewalks. Will Idylwood Drive be widened before the opening of the park.

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Speaker Number 17

\* Homeless colony might have an eye on the park. The security will need to keep an eye on it.

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Speaker Number 18

\* Work at Fairfax Jail and also concerned about homeless having an eye on this property

Speaker Number 19

\* Idylwood Road is not pedestrian friendly. Would like sidewalk for pedestrian safety. Was told that the county would need to request a sidewalk.

Speaker Number 20

\* community asked for walking trails, walking, jogging, biking. Also community garden. Some flat grassy area for children to play. Dog park is strongly encouraged.

Speaker Number 21

\* Is it permissible in easement for a putting green

Speaker Number 22

\* is it a possibility to connect to the W&OD Trail?

Speaker Number 23

\* As a biker, Idylwood Road is pretty dangerous. It would be great to have connection to W&OD

Speaker Number 24

\* I'm assuming there will be a play area for children.

Speaker Number 25

\* 480 neighbors. Our concerns are parking, safety and crosswalks. We have elderly and children. We would like to make sure there are walking trails.

Speaker Number 26

\* Would like to see a dog park, there is not a good place to walk a dog since there are no sidewalks.

Speaker Number 27

\* Would it help for the neighborhood to petition VDOT?

Speaker Number 28

\* Homeowners would like to see a dog park. Safety is also a problem, the road is unsafe and not easily crossed.

Speaker Number 29

\* Am in favor of a community garden but not sure this is the place for one.

Speaker Number 30

\* Natural trails or a board walk would be very nice. Some interpretive signs would be a good idea. A sign about Dr. Ruckstuhl's dream would also be nice.

Speaker Number 31

\* If this is going to be a neighborhood park, it is necessary to have sidewalks. An open play area for children would be nice but a separate play area for older children would be nice to keep the older children from colliding with the younger children.

Speaker Number 32

\* Is there an opportunity to acquire cemetery to make sure it is maintained & protected?

Speaker Number 33

\* would like to see this park bring some beauty to the community.

Speaker Number 34

\* Some of the neighbors did not receive the mailed information.

Speaker Number 35

\* Heard about the meeting from Linda Smyth's email.

Speaker Number 36

\* I would love to this area preserved as a quite natural area without a lot of paving and structures that would take away from the fact that there is such a natural beauty here.

Speaker Number 37

\* would like to put a committee together of HOA's to assist in meetings like this.

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Speaker Number 38

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\* comment on wildlife: invasive plants, eco-system has been impacted. Rats living in area, the barn owl is a natural predator for rats. Children enjoy learning about wildlife. In the spring there are 68 migratory warblers that come through the area. If invasives are left continue to grow they will take over. Birds will encourage native plant growth. Do what we can to provide a dog park if that is what people want but do it in a balanced way.

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