

SALONA PARK TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2012

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm

Members present: Margaret Malone, Mark Turner, Sybil Caldwell, Dan DuVal, Joel Stillman, Carole Herrick, Ed Pickens, and Beth Chung. Fairfax County staff present: Cheryl Patten, representing Supervisor Foust, and Andy Galusha, representing the Fairfax County Park Authority. Guest/Presenter present: Bill Gray, McLean Youth Soccer.

The meeting commenced with an overview of the planned October 4, 2012 meeting. There were two presentations.

Active Recreation. - Joel Stillman and Bill Gray made the presentation regarding potential active recreation activities at Salona. Their presentation suggested that the athletic fields be positioned so that the hedgerows would remain, and that the impact on the meadows would be reduced, in recognition of the environmental issues associated with both these natural surroundings. The suggestion was that the location of the fields be changed, perhaps to an area nearer to Kurtz Rd. They noted, however, that there might remain the issue of participants crossing the sensitive meadows in order to access the playing fields. It was suggested that in the presentation it be noted that these changes/modifications to the field locations were proposed by MYA.

The MYA also proposed that no stands or benches be installed, and that the fields have removable goals. The fields would be smaller than those proposed in the draft Park Authority plan. The fields would only be used for younger players. A housing unit for the field sprinkler system was also proposed. It was suggested that the presentation include specifics about the proposed size of the fields and the age groups using the fields. It was observed that field size dictated the eligible age groups who could use the fields for soccer games.

Q&A

Q: What about other sports? Do field dimensions regulate the age groups for these sports?

A: The fields would be sized and lined to allow other sports, such as football and lacrosse, to use the fields. The proposal would not be specific as to field size and age groups since MYA would like to have engineers review the field options and restrictions prior to any determination.

Q: What do you mean by the term “natural”?

A: MYA would keep the fields looking as natural as possible.

It was suggested that the presentation should include accurate data regarding field usage and fields lost, etc., in order to present the whole picture regarding fields gained and potential fields. The presenters stated that MYA was working on the data so that everything would be accurately reflected. It was observed by the presenters that the task force’s job is to present only what has been presented to the task force. The purpose of these draft presentations is to allow the members of the task force to recognize the problems with each proposal and work through them. Requirements attached to field development must also be included in the presentation - for example, the parking requirements require 50 parking spaces per field.

Members suggested that the presentations at the public meeting include questions and concerns that have been discussed with each proposal. Since the public will have questions, the task force needs to address the fact that there are issues to which the task force does not have concrete answers. For example, it should be pointed out that there are issues/concerns regarding traffic, stormwater management, destruction of the meadow, and parking.

It was observed that certain stations would not be conducive to a power point presentation, but, for example, a picture of a proposed field design would be useful as would pictures of kids at play. Some stations could utilize a power point presentation. However, visual presentations at each station would vary as applicable for the subject matter and the choice of the task force member.

Q: Why is there a separate station for Green Building?

A: It was noted that A2 Design made a presentation at the initial public meeting and there was a lot of community interest in the construction/use of a green building on the Salona site. The building could potentially be used across different user groups and purposes. There will be legitimate issues/concerns with the construction of any building on the site.

A suggestion was made that there be a different name for the station.

Passive Recreation. Ed Pickens made a presentation regarding proposals for passive recreation on the Salona site. He observed that the site was too small to accommodate equestrian activities, and that a very large parking lot would be required to accommodate horse trailers.

Regarding the construction of trails, he suggested that Salona trails would be constructed with a natural trail surface of wood chips, mulch or mowed grass and would

generally be two feet wide. The trails would not be stone dust. There would be an attempt to limit the possibility of a “trail to nowhere” on the eastern (wooded) side of the property by working with neighbors so that trails would lead to a destination. It was observed that a limited trail that led to a destination like an education center would not be a concern. It was also observed that a trail that was only accessible if led by a docent at particular times would not be a concern. There was discussion about the potential of connectivity with the Pimmit Run trail system and developing a trail to Franklin Sherman Elementary School. Easements from private residents would need to be obtained to make this connectivity possible. The task force was reminded that exercise stations along some of the trails were requested by the seniors in their presentation to the task force earlier in the year.

It was noted that the installation of a dog park was mentioned at one of the public meetings and that there is a question as to whether this use would be permitted under the conditions of the easement.

There was brief discussion as to whether costs should be included in the presentations. Where applicable it may be mentioned but clearly identified that the represented costs are in today’s dollars.

NEW BUSINESS:

- GMU’s Office Sustainability has indicated that it is willing to help with note taking at the stations during the October meeting.
- Joel Stillman will be sending an MYA representative to the next meeting.
- Please note that the next meeting has a time change. It is scheduled for **July 10, 2012 at 7:30 pm, Dolley Madison Library.**

AMENDMENTS TO MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2012

An amendment to the minutes was requested for the third paragraph under the *Presentation* section. The following was agreed to as a substitute for the original first sentence.

In response to Ms. Powell’s comments concerning the environmental and stream protections regarding the Salona Park property, it was observed that County policy provides for RPA and other water studies to be conducted subsequent to the completion of the Master Plan process and the accompanying engineering plan.

The minutes were approved: 8 Yea, 1 Nay

The meeting was adjourned.