

Planning Commission Meeting
March 21, 2012
Verbatim Excerpt

2232-L11-19 – FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY (OLANDER & MARGARET BANKS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK)

Decision Only During Commission Matters
(Public Hearing held on December 15, 2011)

Commissioner Migliaccio: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can have - - I have the decision only tonight with the Banks Park. If I can have a representative from the applicant come down. Ms. Rosend? Okay, just one question for the applicant. It's in the staff report - and I mentioned to Carolyn Banks-Summers - I would make certain that I get this on the record, and I'm going to do it tonight. There's a large monument sign on Old Telegraph Road on the Banks property. Who is responsible for that sign if it needs to be moved? Is it the Park Authority? Or does it fall on Friends of OB Park? Or somebody else?

Patricia Rosend, Senior Park Planner, Fairfax County Park Authority: Okay, let me –

Chairman Murphy: Wait. Before we do that, would you identify yourself for the record, please, with your name and position, so we'll all know who you are.

Ms. Rosend: Certainly. My name is Pat Rosend. I'm a Senior Park Planner with the Planning and Development Division of the Fairfax County Park Authority. In response to the question about the responsibility for moving the park sign, the simple answer is that the Park Authority will be responsible for moving the sign if road improvements or other park improvements necessitate it, as part of park development that may impact the sign location. If road improvements are done, by VDOT for instance, and require relocation of the sign but are unrelated to park development, this would be something that would be negotiated with - and be the responsibility of VDOT or any parties improving the roads.

Chairman Murphy: What? Can you –

Commissioner Migliaccio: I was hoping for a simple yes, we are responsible for it.

Ms. Rosend: Well, it - - again, it depends on the conditions that are causing the road - the sign to be –

Commissioner Migliaccio: How about – let me try to rephrase it: When push comes to shove and I want to find out who's moving this sign, who do I talk to?

Ms. Rosend: The Park Authority.

Commissioner Migliaccio: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you may recall, last December 15th, we held a public hearing for application 2232-L11-19, Banks Park. At that time it became clear that the applicant needed to do additional outreach to better inform the community of what actually is in the Banks Park Master Plan. I am happy to report that the applicant made good

use of the deferral time to meet with the neighboring communities. The Park Authority was able to provide the community with a fuller understanding that the Banks Park Master Plan sets a 10- to 20-year long-range vision for the park to accommodate potential uses to serve the neighboring communities. Some of the key points of the Plan are that the park will only open from dawn until dusk, that roughly 80 percent of the land will remain green and be left for passive recreation activities, that roughly 20 percent of the land will be designated as an activity zone. Within this 20 percent, there may be a dog park or a multipurpose court, or the existing house. There is not room enough for all three of these options. Parking will be provided in this zone based on which amenity is selected. It should be noted that not all of the features shown throughout the park will be built, and certainly not all at one time. Before I move into my main motion, I would like to once again thank the Banks Family, and specifically Mr. Olander Banks, for having the willingness in 2001 to work with the Park Authority in order to provide a much needed ten acres of parkland among a heavily populated area. Because of this we are talking about how green the ten acres should be and not how many townhomes can we put there. After reviewing the staff report and public testimony, I concur with staff's assessment that the proposal by the Fairfax County Park Authority to develop the Olander and Margaret Banks Neighborhood Park, located at 7400 Old Telegraph Road, Alexandria, satisfies the criteria of location, character, and extent, as specified in *Virginia Code* Section 15.2-2232, as amended. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION FIND THE SUBJECT APPLICATION 2232-L11-19 SUBSTANTIALLY IN ACCORD WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Commissioner Sargeant: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Sargeant. Is there a discussion of the motion? All those in favor of the motion to approve 2232-L11-19, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries. Ms. Hurley abstains. She was not present, nor a member, of the - - present at the public hearing or a member of the Planning Commission at the time of the public hearing.

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(The motion carried by a vote of 10-0-1 with Commissioner Hurley abstaining; Commissioner Hall absent from the meeting.)

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