

Lake Fairfax Park Master Plan Revision

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING

June 20, 2018, 7:00 P.M. at South Lakes High School

Meeting Summary:

A Public Comment Meeting was held on the evening of June 20, 2018 to present the Draft Master Plan Revision for Lake Fairfax Park. Public comments on the draft master plan were provided by some of the approximately 36 attendees signed in at the meeting.

Other Officials and Staff in Attendance:

Supervisor Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
William Bouie, Park Authority Board Chairman, Hunter Mill District
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer
Timothy Hackman, Dranesville Representative, Park Authority Board
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/Chief of Business and Development
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division
Dave Bowden, Director, Park Planning and Development Division
Wayne Brissey, Area 6 Manager, Park Operations
Samantha Hudson, Park Planning Supervisor
Kristen Sinclair, Ecologist, Natural Resources Management Branch
Juan Du, Park Planner, Park Planning Branch
Chrissy Mead, Public Information Office, Assistant
Isabella Jiminez, Park Planning and Development Intern

Presentation:

The meeting began with introductions by Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority. Opening remarks were provided by William Bouie, Board Chairman, Hunter Mill District. Adam Wynn, project manager for the Park Master Plan, provided a brief history of the site, site conditions, and surrounding context, master plan process, timeline, and described the draft plan.

Public Comments:

Following the presentation, Judy Pederson moderated an open public comment period and some of those in attendance provided input on the draft plan. The following is a summary of each speaker's comments expressed during this session, after which, the meeting adjourned.

Speaker Number & Group/Organization:

01

The speaker was previously a resource manager and has been living in Fairfax since 1998. The speaker explained that he has worked with the US Farmers service. Complements the strategic growth of the Park Authority. His maintenance concern is that it is hard to find the right person to talk to in regards to overflowing trash bins at park. Over a two year period, requested regular trash pickup six times. The Park Authority removed a garbage pail so that throughout an entire walking loop there was no receptacle for trash. Witnessed a garbage pail overhanging into the lake and spilling trash into lake. Suggests adding a phone number to each trash can stating "call this number when this garbage pail is filled or almost filled" in order to allocate resources better.

02

Lives in Lake Fairfax Estates. Hears announcements and other noise from the water park but recognizes that it is necessary and appreciates the county's efforts in respecting the neighborhoods. Wanted more information on Item C (Central Bandstand) of the Master Plan - Asked how the proposed structures will be expanded and built, if there would be loudspeakers, what time during the day would activity be allowed, and if concerts would be permitted. Concerned about proposed pavilion location-Too close to his housing development and concern for increased noise.

03

Lives off of Ring Road. Thinks Lake Fairfax is a wonderful place and has camped and fished there over the years. Major concern is noise. Has heard concerts on the site in his home. Is concerned about noise issue from bandstand and dog park.

04

Active bird watcher in park. Wants meadow/path to be kept open between two water bodies in order to separate two distinct bird habitats. Recommends using switchbacks. Concerned with the location of cabins - foreshadows birds will leave area due to increased convergence on space from both sides of their habitat (thus reducing bird species diversity). Recommends building bird refuges.

05

Has been stream monitoring and insect monitoring over the years at the park. Explained that pavilion pavement will cause more erosion and degraded water quality. Deeply concerned with water quality of the lake. In opposition to building cabins because it will increase runoff and traffic.

06 / Reston Zoning and Planning Committee

Supports the addition of a dog park. Staunch opponent to cabin addition - Does not want to pay for another facility in perpetuity, believes they will attract vandalism, and expects the overhead needed to run them will outweigh the revenue they produce. Supports the enlargement of playgrounds. Also wants swings for adults and elderly. Concerned about potential addition of septic waste management. Wanted to know if any more sport fields could be added.

07

Asked what is the county's plan for dredging the lake?

08

Wanted to know why mini-golf was being removed from park. Would like park to be more pedestrian friendly.

09 / Washington Cricket League

Commended the park authority for including a space for playing cricket. Wanted to know the timeline for the phases of development.

10

No cabins! Concerned about the traffic on Lake Fairfax Drive. Has called electric company to remove overhanging tree branches on Lake Fairfax Drive outside of Lake Fairfax Park but believes that more should be cut down because it is unsafe for pedestrians and drivers.

11/ Great Falls - Reston Soccer

Would like the park service to better utilize turf fields for athletic facilities. Asks that no more trees are removed in the park.

12

Enjoys the emphasis of nature at the park. Asks that loop trails are stone dust surface so that they can be used for horses, runners, strollers, dogs.(Gives example of W&OD trail). Commented that the proposed eating space/community center example picture appeared commercial in nature and compared it to a restaurant. Concerned about paving, runoff, and water quality.

13

States that there is too much silt in water. Supports swings for adults and accessibility at playground. Asks for no cabins in the park. Asks that there is no septic in the park. Agrees with previous speaker that the trees along Lake Fairfax Drive are dangerous. Asks about expected sky glow. Wanted more information of what the pavilion will be like. Wanted to know which side of the road the sidewalk will be constructed as you enter the park.

14 / Fairfax County Taxpayer Alliance

Commented that cabins would be useful during bad weather events. Wanted to know the financial plan for the park's development. Wanted to know if the strategic plan was to be adopted soon. Would like to bring back admission fees on weekends only (Ex: Burke Lake). Would like to see more benefits to Fairfax County taxpayers (as opposed to non-county members).