



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



CLEMYJONTRI PARK MASTER PLAN REVISION

December 17, 2020 -- PUBLIC KICK-OFF MEETING

MEETING SUMMARY

A virtual public meeting was held via www.publicinput.com on December 17, 2020, at 7:00 pm. The meeting offered an opportunity for members of the public to meet in a virtual setting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A recording of that meeting is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/FnU7H8LYhkY>

The meeting was facilitated by Judy Pedersen, Park Authority Public Information Officer. Also in attendance were:

- Supervisor John Foust, Dranesville District
- Jane Edmundson, Dranesville District Legislative Aide
- Tim Hackman, Park Authority Board, Dranesville District Representative
- Aimee Vosper, Park Authority Deputy Director
- Lori Carbonneau, McLean Project for the Arts (MPA), Executive Director (Guest Speaker)
- Stephanie Leedom, Park Planning and Development Division Director
- Anna Bentley, Park Authority Planning Branch Manager
- Doug Tipsword, Park Authority Project Manager (Presenter)
- Other Park Authority planning staff and members of the master plan team

OPENING REMARKS

Supervisor John Foust emphasized the value and importance of Clemyjontri Park to the community. He thanked Mrs. Leibowitz for her land contributions, past board member Kevin Fay for helping push the concept through, and Julie & Dan Clemente's support via the "Friends of Clemyjontri" organization. He emphasized the park is a success story and he really supports MPA's proposal and what MPA brings to the community. He sees this master plan revision and potential partnership as a real opportunity to improve the community. He reiterated the importance that whatever new elements are proposed cannot affect or impact the exiting elements such as the playground areas. Lastly, he thanked the Park Authority for their efforts, hard work, and support of making Clemyjontri a special place.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Doug Tipsword, project manager for the Clemyjontri Park master plan revision, provided a presentation that summarized the Park Authority's beliefs, provided an overview of the existing park, outlined the master planning process, introduced a potential partnership opportunity with MPA, and provided a glimpse at a design concept for the revised Phase III development

area surrounding the existing home and gardens. The presentation is available at:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sites/parks/files/assets/documents/plandev/clemyjontri-park/clemyjontri-master-plan-revision-presentation-121720.pdf>

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Following the staff presentation, the virtual floor was opened for questions and comments. The public was invited to participate in writing through the meeting chat box and by phone calls. The comments are summarized below.

WRITTEN COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

- COMMENT 1: I support the McLean Arts project for the house and have enjoyed the arts events over the years. It's amazing to hear the beautiful, proposed plans for the area! Just wanted to bring up a possibility of including a piano recital venue. As a McLean piano teacher, I've found it difficult to find facilities for piano recitals for my McLean students. Would there be a room in the house for recitals for the community? Maybe combining a gallery and music?
- COMMENT 2: What a fabulous opportunity to add to the cultural life and community of the area. Very exciting.
- COMMENT 3: How does one get a copy of slides? Thanks. *Judy Pedersen responded that FCPA will post the slide presentation on the website*
- COMMENT 4: As a neighbor that has been involved since the beginning - this is a drastic change from what was originally approved. The screening in the vegetative space will need to be done well so we do not see the new building that was not part of the original plan. The extra parking is also a total new addition that was to be open space. Last but, not least, the park was approved to be a park that closed at dark. I understand a few special events to be beyond dark but having the park open until 9 or 10 PM is not acceptable.
- COMMENT 5: What is the square footage of the new art building? *Lori Carbonneau. responded she can't address it now because we've only done conceptual work and have not dived deep into final design. Need to get through the Master plan work. Provided a ball park assumption of 3 gallery spaces at 1500SF each, classrooms at 600 SF, final number of classrooms not yet determined. 25,000 – 30,000 SF as a ball park total.*
- COMMENT 6: If all this gets approved and agreed to with the community, and you get the approval in Aug of 21. Is the funding there and ready to go ? When will you guess to break ground or to actually do this project? *Lori Carbonneau responded. We can't answer that at this time. Can start a funding campaign until we get a little further along in the public processes and have a more finalized design. Tim Hackman also responded with clarification on master planning process and 2232 process and special exception process. Those processes could take 6-18 months to complete and are required so there is still a fair amount of time to lay the groundwork for when construction should occur.*
- COMMENT 7: No entrance from 123 was an original agreed to provision.
- COMMENT 8: As a sister of a Down Syndrome adult, I believe that there is a need for exhibition space dedicated to the art of the intellectually challenged or developmentally

disabled. Has any thought been given to featuring art of the intellectually challenged or developmentally disabled? *Lori Carbonneau responded Yes there has been thought given to this.*

- COMMENT 9: Even in the current park configuration, there is a traffic issue for crossing Georgetown Pike without some type of crossing control. With this plan, that problem could grow. What is VDOT going to do to develop protected crossing on Georgetown Pike, sooner than later. *Ryan Stewart responded that though he cant speak for VDOT but that it is part of the standard Master Planning process to consult with VDOT and FCDOT to discuss potential transportation issues.*
- COMMENT 10: By the way - Heather Lynch has done a great Job !!!!!
- COMMENT 11: We are very excited for this MPA project to go forward!

PHONE COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

- COMMENT 1: In general, very supportive of the project. Concerned about some issues. A problem with drainage near the new parking lot. Water drains towards Evermay. In the southwestern side of the parking lot were we show vegetated buffer areas. Ices over in the winter. Also want to see the fencing get completed around the park so there are no gaps in that area of the park. Don't want to see any gaps. Also concerns about possibility of events going to 10 pm. Existing MP has no events go past 9pm. *Stephanie Leedom provided a response. We are working on drainage issues and will look into the fencing issues.*
- COMMENT 2: I live in the Evermay community that's adjacent to Clemyjontri, and I'm currently the vice president of the DRC HOA office, and Ron has been represented us all along and he's doing a great job, and we appreciate everything he's doing for us. He addressed our concerns already, but there was one additional that I noticed when you put up your overview on slide 13 of the current situation the three phases and my question is, you have those access roads for construction and along 123. There's two of them that I think you used when you redid the or you put in the new parking lots, and I'm wondering if there's ever going to be another off exit to the park or you're if you're just going to keep the current one you have. Thank you. *Lori responded she is aware of those construction roads. DDOT has made it clear those are not available. Also, from a security standpoint she prefers that not be an entrance. Prefers only on the one point of entry. Heather Lynch also responded. Confirmed there will not be entrances in the future.*
- COMMENT 3: There is the other stub Road at the top of our neighborhood in which trees were planted in the green area. There's a gate there and there's no trees in that area. And so some of us are concerned that at some point that could become an access road. If you all decided to make it one. Could you ease my concern in that area as well? *Heather Lynch responded. That area that looks open is actually a Fairfax water easement We cannot plant there at that gate to hide the entrance nor can we build a new roadway entrance.*
- COMMENT 4: I just want to thank everybody in the Fairfax Park Authority for all of their incredible work that they've done throughout the past year or so that we've been discussing this project the effort the commitment has just been exemplary, and they have been one of

the most amazing partners to work with during this exploration of a possible Art Center.
Thank you.

CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:10 pm. Doug Tipsword committed to making sure all materials would be added the project website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/clemyjontri-park-master-plan-revision> and reminded those who could not attend and were watching the presentation recording about the 30-day open comment period for providing additional input to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. Judy Pedersen thanked all those who participated and shared their input and concluded the meeting.