

Franconia Park Master Plan Revision

PUBLIC COMMUNITY MEETING, MARCH 17, 2015

KEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD, VA

A Public Community Meeting was held on the evening of March 17, 2015 to allow the community to discuss their concerns about Franconia Park with the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Below is a summary of the meeting and concerns discussed by the 32 people in attendance.

OFFICIALS AND STAFF PRESENT

Jeff McKay	District Supervisor
Taylor Holland	Chief of Staff, District Supervisor's Office
Dave Bowden	Director Park Planning & Development Division
Sandy Stallman	Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD
Andy Galusha	Project Manager, Park Planning Branch
Phil Hager	Park Operations, Area 2
Mary Olien	Manager, Greenspings Garden
MPO Allie Eggers	Crime Analyst, Franconia Station, FCPD
2Lt Erica Webb	Crime Prevention, Franconia Station, FCPD
Lauren Mollerup	VDOT
Mitch Ball	VDOT
Steve Knudsen	FCDOT, Traffic Calming
Charisse Padilla	FCDOT, Parking

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

Jeff McKay	District Supervisor
Sandy Stallman	Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD

STAFF PRESENTATION

Overview

Sandy Stallman provided an outline of the evening's agenda.

2Lt Erica Webb, provided an overview of Police Operations

Lauren Mollerup & Mitch Ball, provided an overview of VDOT operations and requirements

Charisse Padilla & Steve Knudsen, provided an overview of FCDOT operations, Parking Options, and Traffic Calming Options

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

- **Uses**

The 1974 approved Franconia Park master plan showed 8 athletic fields, many of which were planned for lighting. Four fields were built, one with lights and synthetic turf. The current proposal shows four fields with lights. Field use is permitted by the Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services in accordance with a County approved field allocation policy that gives priority to youth sports but has a number of other provisions. See the field use application and policy webpage: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/athletics/>

- When leagues apply for permit they should be given rules
- I don't see where NCS monitors are helping
- People are coming from other areas to use park
- Concern about tournaments drawing a large number of people to the park
- A cover charge should be applied to get into large events in the park
- All facilities should be ADA accessible
- We have lots of dogs and can't wait for there to be a dog park in Franconia
- There is a problem now that needs to be addressed before anything else is done, before adding other facilities.

- **Traffic Congestion & Parking**

- Franconia Park is classified as a district park but it is located in a residential neighborhood
- Traffic issue is very serious right now
- This proposal puts too many cars on unsuitable streets putting community in peril
- Parking along the streets is a main cause of congestion, blocking access to the park
- Emergency access compromised
- Renovations will make park more attractive for tournaments on weekends which will clog the neighborhood further
- More parking is needed in the lot on Bowie Dr, but further away from the homes on Thomas
- Can we paint a no parking in middle of Northanna near park because users park in middle of road blocking access to driveways?
- When games are done, cars charge out of park
- People using the park run stop signs regularly

- Speed bumps are needed on Cloud Drive prior to the park entrance (at Kroy & Cloud) Twin Court & Cloud Dr.
 - FCDOT-Meriweather Lane already has traffic calming
 - FCDOT-Thomas Drive only road around park eligible for traffic calming
 - FCDOT-Community must petition Supervisor McKay's office for traffic calming (with minimum of 10 signatures)
 - VDOT-The streets around the park are built to the standards of their time (1969-1974). Traffic has changed, and the park built in 1974, is in residential are, but it is everyone's park not just the neighbors.
 - VDOT-The adequacy of the existing roads is fine, consistent with other locations and parks.
 - VDOT-Extra high traffic for short periods of time do not trigger redesigns
 - VDOT-Not a lot that can be done with existing roads without redesigning them to be wider
 - VDOT-Would you think about public road rebuild for the future
 - We do not want speed humps
- **Lights**
 - Lights are on very late on weekends
 - Currently lit field stays on till 11pm, limit lights to 9pm
 - Other parks should be upgraded with lights before Franconia Park gets more lights
- **Safety**
 - Security is a big concern. Adding more space and increasing the time the lights are on will exacerbate the situation
 - Large events should be coordinated with the Police Department, when you have a large event, have officers there
 - Drunk people are sometimes in the park at night after lights go off
 - Evidence and witnessed drinking, particularly on the east side at the end of cloud drive – drinking
 - I have 230+ bottle caps since 1st heard of Master Plan Amendment Process
 - Why can't police issue citations for drinking
 - Called and Police showed up 30 minutes later, saw illegally parked cars and just left.
 - Why can't police issue citations for illegal parking
 - There should be regular patrols through the park
 - When I called the police for an incident, there was a large time lag between call and police arriving.
 - FCPD- Records do not indicate much volume of park related calls.

- FCPD–The public is the eyes for the police. There are only 10 officers on duty per shift for the entire precinct. Call in incidents and suspicious activity to help make police more aware of what is going on.
- FCPD provided various contact information and urged residents to contact with concerns.
- **Maintenance & Trash**
 - There is a lot of trash throughout the park that is not put in the trash cans, and the trash cans are overflowing on the weekends.
 - We need real bathrooms, not the grossly unkempt porta potties. Just 3 Porta potties at Bowie drive are not enough especially when the park is in full use for games and people have to walk across it