

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD THURSDAY, April 23, 2015 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

Minutes prepared by Jessica Bellah, Community Planner

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

PRESENT were members Donna Almquist, Valerie Elliott, Donna Hoffmeister, Damien Ossi, Robert Snyder, Yoni Siegel, Joseph Murray and Willis Witter.

ALSO PRESENT was Jessica Bellah, Community Planner, Department of Planning and Community Development, J Davis, member of Council, and Rodney Roberts, member of Council, and two members of the public were also present.

OPENING ROUND: Chair Valerie Elliott invited all present to check in and update the group with any items of interest.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the addition of review of the January 2015 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Board members had reviewed the October, 2014 minutes via email and indicated their acceptance of that draft. The minutes were approved by consent with no dissenting voice.

January, 2015 minutes – An amendment was made to the approved January minutes to correct an omission. Ms. Bellah informed the Board that per the City Clerk, amendments to prior approved minutes require a majority vote. The amendment passed with a vote of 4-0-3.

February, 2015 Minutes – The minutes were approved by consent with corrections and additions.

March, 2016 Minutes - The minutes were approved by consent with corrections and additions.

FPAB WOODS CLEAN UPS: Ms. Hoffmeister reported that June 6th is National Trails Day and may serve as a good day for this event. This weekend is also Greenbelt Day weekend and may provide greater publicity to the event. The Board discussed where the event could be held and suggested: focus on area D and E, near the creek by NASA Goddard, Northway extended, the ballfields, or splitting up into smaller groups to cover more areas. Public works is unable to provide bags for this year's clean up but will pick up the trash at a prearranged time and location. Mr. Willis offered to donate 20 clear bags. The Board will confirm if the following weekend could work as a rain date.

REVIEW THE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES: The Board reads the executive summary aloud and discusses the question: *What is the definition of a Forest Preserve?* The Board discussed the history behind developing the language of the executive summary and the intent or meaning behind its word choices. The word

“undisturbed” is provided as an example of language that is interpreted differently by members of the Board. Ms. Elliott suggested that the guidelines should be evaluated in their entirety and provides the context of “human use where the benefit outweighs the impact”. Mr. Murray stated that this also involves the need to evaluate the impact of non-activity as well. The Board then discusses what activities, events, and uses have traditionally been allowed in the Forest Preserve prior to its designation and now. Several Board members requested the opportunity to research and respond to issues discussed as part of this topic. The Board agreed to hold the Statement of Policy section for the next meeting.

REVIEW OF PUMPKIN WALK REPORT: The Board reads and discusses a draft of the report and suggests edits. The report is approved as amended with the consent of all members.

CLOSING REMARKS: Chair Valerie Elliott invited members to state closing remarks.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jessica Bellah

These minutes were approved by consent.