

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2014 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT were members Donna Almquist, Susan Gregersen, Donna Hoffmeister, Damien Ossi, Robert Snyder, Yoni Siegel, Joseph Murray and Willis Witter. Ms. Elliott was excused due to illness.

ALSO PRESENT was Rodney Roberts, Greenbelt City Council and Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved without change.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: By a vote of 8-0, the minutes of the meeting of March 27, 2014 were approved with changes.

DISCUSSION OF GREENBRIAR PARK (FOREST AND STREAM): Chair Snyder summarized his observations from inspecting the park and stream channel. Mr. Witter summarized his observations.

Ms. Craze presented to the FPAB plans for the approved stream channel restoration as had been approved by the City Council. There was a general review and discussion of the plans, and changes to be made to the plans. Ms. Craze reported that Assistant Planning Director Terry Hruby, and Kevin Kelly, the President of ESI, the engineer for the project, would be present at the next meeting to discuss the plans.

Ms. Craze was asked to forward a copy of Mr. Kelly's report to the FPAB.

Further discussion on this item was deferred to the May 22, 2014 meeting.

EVALUATION OF FOREST PRESERVE: Chair Snyder summarized for the FPAB that several Board members had suggested that the FPAB obtain a second evaluation of the Forest Preserve, other than the draft Maryland Department of Natural Resources report. It was proposed that Dr. Joan Maloof, of the Old Growth Forest Network be retained to prepare this second report. Ms. Almquist briefly discussed the Old Growth Forest Network.

Chair Snyder asked Ms. Craze about the status of the DNR report. Ms. Craze stated the report had not yet been reviewed by city staff, and referrals were being held until staff could review the report.

Ms. Almquist advised that Dr. Maloof would complete the evaluation for a fee of approximately \$300, based on three hours of time at \$100 per hours, plus expenses. There was discussion whether three hours would be an adequate amount of time for such a report to be prepared. There were also questions about the scope of the alternative assessment, including whether Dr. Maloof would review the DNR report.

Ms. Craze advised that City Council approval should be sought for the funds to pay for such a study. She also suggested that the FPAB request approval of an amount not to exceed \$1000, to allow for a broader and better defined scope of services.

In lieu of preparing a report to City Council requesting such funding, Mr. Roberts was asked if he could present this request at a City Council meeting.

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF AREA D OF THE FOREST PRESERVE: Ms. Hoffmeister moved that the FPAB prepare a report to Council recommending that a trail be reestablished within Area D of the forest preserve, as set forth in the Management and Maintenance Guidelines, and that the FPAB would refine possible alignments for this reestablished trail. Mr. Witter seconded.

Ms. Almquist clarified that the FPAB was recommending that a former trail be reestablished. There was general discussion about the condition of Area D and the condition of previously established trails.

The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Murray indicated that he believed he could secure the donation of 50 American chestnut trees. He will work with Brian Townsend of Public Works on preparing a Memorandum of Understanding to allow this tree donation to be approved.

NEXT MEETING: The next FPAB meeting was set for Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 7 p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia W. Craze  
Director

These minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.

