

Minutes of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board meeting held on Thursday, October 23rd, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

Present were Chairman Robert Snyder and Board members Donna Almquist, Damien Ossi, Willis Witter, Susan Gregersen, Yoni Siegel, Donna Hoffmeister, Joe Murray, and Valerie Elliott.

Also present were Councilmember Rodney Roberts and visitor Melissa Ehrenreich and Jason Martin

The agenda was approved with changes. Susan Gregersen moved and Donna Almquist seconded. The changed item on the agenda was the addition of an item and that item was "Approval for FPAB calendar/schedule for 2015". This additional item was placed under "Approval of agenda". Also, the word "closing" (#7 on the agenda) was crossed off.

The FPAB calendar/schedule for 2015 was approved. The FPAB will continue to meet in 114 on the 4th Thursday of each month with the exception of November and December when they will meet the 3rd Thursday. Valerie Elliott moved and Damien Ossi seconded.

Melissa Ehrenreich gave an update on the Pumpkin Festival events. She discussed promotion of the various events and mentioned celebrating as a community the forest preserve. She stated that the pumpkin carving party was 5pm – 9pm on October 24th and on Saturday the 25th from 10am – 11:30am a nature hike would be co-lead by FPAB member Damien Ossi and a representative of the Anacostia Watershed Society. On Monday October 27th Melissa mentioned that a sun-rise walk in the woods would occur at 7:30am. She mentioned that Forest Preserve brochures may be available during the festivities. Ms. Elliott asked about the possibility of testing LED lights. Safety concerns were discussed regarding the parking on Northway during the pumpkin walk. Cars being parked on both sides of the street during nighttime hours was discussed as a possible safety issue. Melissa mentioned that a pumpkin safety patrol would help out with such concerns and she also mentioned having a bucket of flashlights on hand to give out.

Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the August meeting were approved with changes by a vote of 9-0. Grammatical errors were noticed. Mr. Willis made a motion to approve the August minutes with changes and Ms. Gregersen seconded.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved with changes by a vote of 8-0-1. Ms. Gregerson asked that acronyms (such as OGFN) and names (such as Dr. Maloof) be spelled out (i.e. Old-Growth Forest Network and Dr. Joan Maloof). It was noted that Mr. Ossi's motion should be attached to the September minutes. Mr. Murray said to add the following to the September minutes: Under INVASIVES in the FOREST PRESERVE: "It was agreed to ask Ms. Craze to provide background on past Forest Preserve Advisory Board actions on invasive plants". Under INVASIVES in the FOREST PRESERVE it was suggested that the wording "Areas A & B of the preserve" be changed to "Areas A & B & C (i.e. Northwood's tract and South tract)". Mr. Witter made a motion to approve the September minutes with changes and Mr. Murray seconds.

After 20-25 minutes of discussion on invasives and a Forest Preserve assessment needed, at approximately 8:15pm Ms. Elliot made the following motion: "I move for Dr. Joan Maloof of the Maryland-based organization, Old-Growth Forest Network, to conduct an assessment of the condition and health of the Greenbelt's Forest Preserve". Ms. Gregerson seconded the motion. The vote was 6-3 with Ms. Almquist, Ms. Elliot, Ms. Gregersen, Ms. Siegel, Mr. Murray and Mr. Snyder in favor and Mr. Ossie, Ms. Hoffmeister and Mr. Willis opposed.

The Chair mentioned that a report would need to be drafted for Ms. Elliot's motion (6-3 vote) that passed.

Shortly before 9 pm. Mr.Snyder initiated the discussion on invasives, the next agenda item. After some discussion, board members Ms. Elliott and Ms. Siegel left the meeting. At about 9:10 pm. Mr. Witter moved: "I move to put Damien's motion back on the table." The motion was seconded by Mr. Murray. After this Ms. Gregersen and Ms. Almquist left the meeting. Ms. Almquist ended the recording of the minutes.

The minutes from this point on are based on the recollections of Mr. Snyder and Mr. Witter.

The chair (Mr. Snyder) stated the meeting is breaking up.

The remaining members voted 4-0-1 to approve Mr. Ossi's motion, Mr. Snyder abstaining. Mr. Snyder stated the motion is out of order. The meeting ended at approximately 9:15 pm.

These minutes were approved by consent.