

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Ms. Hoffmeister and seconded by Ms. Siegel, the minutes of the meeting of August 22, 2013 were approved. Action on the minutes of May 23, 2013 was postponed until the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved by a vote of 8-0.

DISCUSSION OF WORKSESSION WITH CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2013: A short discussion was held about possible discussion topics for the Board's upcoming worksession with the City Council. Chair Snyder stated that he would be in attendance at the worksession as well as the upcoming worksession with advisory board chairs.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT SUSTAINABLE LAND CARE POLICY (2011): Chair Snyder summarized a recent City Council worksession with Green ACES on their 2011 report. He described the document as being very philosophical in the first 6 pages, and then becoming very technical. Ms. Ossi stated that he did not believe much in the document applied to the forest preserve, focusing instead on topics such as planting, pruning, weeds, mulching and watering. He suggested that the report be amended to recognize the forest preserve and that the Management and Maintenance Guidelines be given precedence over any other document.

Other comments, questions and issues discussed included:

- Relationship pesticide use and how this document reflected or failed to incorporate standing city policy with respect to the use of pesticides.
- Need to define invasive plants, as well as the need to distinguish between native and non-native vegetation.
- How the document is proposed to be used in the formation of everyday city practice and policy.
- What is the opportunity for the FPAB to make comments and recommendations and have those considered before action is taken on the document.

Further discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

REVIEW OF DRAFT AMENDMENT TO MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDENS: There was a broad discussion about the issues and concerns associated with the long term productivity of the gardens

and the maintenance which may be necessary to assure such success, balanced with the protection of the forest preserve. As discussed, it was noted that these issues are fundamentally a question of edge management.

The following issues, questions and concerns were discussed:

- How large should the border around the gardens be to ensure that garden plots are accessible and productive?
- How much sunlight is needed for productive gardening, and how much clearing should be done to reduce shading of the gardens?
- What are considered the boundaries of the gardens?
- Should the gardens be exempt from forest preserve regulation?
- How much, if any, invasive control should there be in the area of the gardens.
- What should be done, if at all, to restore areas cleared during the November, 2012 unauthorized vegetation removal adjacent to the Hamilton Gardens.
- How should garden maintenance requests/needs be handled? Is it necessary to have all maintenance decisions be processed through the FPAB?

Continued discussion of this item was deferred to the October 24, 2013 FPAB meeting.

DISCUSSION OF LIMITATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR PERMIT ACTIVITIES IN THE FOREST PRESERVE: Ms. Craze raised this question due to a recent request for a large group of participants to conduct an organized walk through the forest preserve, and whether there should be a limitation on the number of participants in formal activities. After brief discussion, the Board asked that staff research how other preserve areas (Patuxent Wildlife Center, Jug Buy) control or manage the number of participants in permit activities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Mr. Ossi asked about the maintenance of the Greenhill Stream project. Ms. Craze responded that she would speak with Ms. Hruby, who is managing that project.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for October 24, 2013 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Ms. Almquest and seconded by Mr. Ossi, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia W. Craze

Director

These minutes were approved by a vote of .