

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD HELD
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2010 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Ginny Mudrock at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT were Chair Mudrock and Board members Noll, Murray, Elliott, Hoffmeister, Snyder and Gregersen. Ms. Kastner had advised that she would be absent due to illness.

ALSO PRESENT was Mayor Judith Davis and Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: On a motion by Mr. Noll and seconded by Ms. Gregersen the agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Mr. Noll and seconded by Ms. Hoffmeister the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2010 were approved without change

MEMBERSHIP: Board member Murray gave a brief introduction about himself, his background and his interest in serving on the Forest Preserve Advisory Board. He discussed several educational programs he sponsors which involve taking small groups of individuals into the forest preserve. Since his programs are not considered commercial, according to the code there is no violation of the code of the Management and Maintenance guidelines associated with his programs.

On a motion by Ms. Snyder and seconded by Ms. Mudrock, and approved by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to send a letter to Former board member Kathleen Bucco, expressing the Board's regret that Ms. Bucco has resigned from the Board but wishing her health and success. Ms. Craze is to draft the letter.

As Ms. Bucco was the Board's liaison with the Woodlands Committee, Mr. Murray volunteered to take over these duties. There was no disagreement, and Mr. Murray's offer was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS;

- a) REVISIONS TO CITY CODE CHAPTER 17 – SOLID WASTE/DUMPING/LITTERING – Ms. Craze submitted to the Board a draft of chapter 17, which provided for an increase in fines, clarification in definitions, creation of a new category of dumping (based on volume

of materials deposited) with a higher fine. The Board was generally supportive of the changes being recommended by staff. There were questions about the definition of composting, and how to ensure that composting would not be included in the definitions of dumping, littering, or any other violation of the code. Ms. Craze said she would review the proposed legislation with Recycling Coordinator Luisa Robles. On a motion by Ms. Gregersen and seconded by Mr. Noll, and approved by a vote of 7-0, the Board voted to support the proposed changes to chapter 17.

- b) REVIEW OF FPAB REPORT TO COUNCIL RE. NAMING OF THE PRESERVE - The Board briefly reviewed the draft report. The Board members were to review the report and forward any comments to Ms. Craze by May 4, after which the report would be sent to the City Council for their review and action.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) REVIEW OF FOREST PRESERVE WALK WITH LESLEY RIDDLE – Ms. Mudrock described the short walk with Lesley Riddle through the North Preserve. It was the observation of Ms. Riddle that the North Preserve is in acceptable condition. There is new growth which is not invasive species. She is concerned with the Barberry bush growth and is monitoring it. Mr. Murray observed that foxes like Barberry, but there is some concern with ticks and Lyme disease associated with Barberry.

Ms. Mudrock continued that the trail which had been used for the Pumpkin Walk shows lots of wear with areas of exposed tree roots and erosion at the creek. Ms. Riddle wishes to use mulch on degraded trails, but Ms. Mudrock noted this would contradict with the Management and Maintenance Guidelines which do not permit use of mulch on trail surfaces, Ms. Gregersen suggested that a trail stabilization program could be viewed like the Greenbelt Lake shoreline stabilization project. There was discussion of other options to stabilize the degraded trails and eroding stream channels. Ms. Riddle is to return to the FPAB for further discussion on this issue.

Ms. Mudrock also observed that some of the streams are beginning to scour the stream channels, resulting in significant areas of tree root exposure. Mayor Davis asked if there was a known source for the stream runoff. She also expressed concern that the Pumpkin Walk has had a long term detrimental impact on the trail. Mr. Murray stated that in his opinion the trails are in better shape since mountain biking was prohibited in the preserves.

Ms. Gregersen, Ms. Mudrock and Mayor Davis suggested that the watershed groups, such as the Beaver Dam Watershed group could get involved in helping identify the source of any increased water flow which could be causing the stream erosion.

Mayor Davis noted that the Management and Maintenance Guidelines state that conditions should be left alone. Ms. Snyder stated she did not object if wood products, such as mulch, are used to stabilize trails.

Ms. Elliott asked what would happen to the trails and the streams if there was no intervention. Ms. Mudrock responded that with a muddy path, people would probably start walking around it, causing the trail to widen. If stream erosion is unchecked, then the impacts could be channel widening, loss of trees along the stream bank, and downstream and in channel siltation.

Mr. Murray stated his belief that the stream channel is fairly stable, and would like to discuss with the Board his thoughts on alternative forest management, which may differ with the policies reflected in the Management and Maintenance Guidelines. It was agreed to schedule this discussion at the next meeting.

Ms. Mudrock asked that everyone review the Management and Maintenance Guidelines by the next meeting. Staff was also asked to obtain from Ms. Riddle her recommendation for treatment of the degraded trails.

With respect to contact of the watershed groups, it was agreed that the Board would attempt to schedule a meeting with the appropriate watershed group in the future. Staff is to identify the appropriate individuals/groups are report to the Board.

This item was continued to a future meeting.

- b) SCHEDULING OF ADDITIONAL WALK WITH MS. RIDDLE – The Board scheduled the next walk through the forest preserve with Ms. Riddle for Saturday, June 19, 2010. Board members will meet at the observatory on Northway at 9:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Conference Room of the Offices of the Department of Planning and Community Development.

NEXT AGENDA: Items for the next agenda include proposed language for Forest Preserve regulatory sign; Review of main Forest Preserve sign and costs; and Naming of individual parcels.

There being no other business, on a motion by Ms. Hoffmeister and seconded by Mr. Murray, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia W. Craze
Director

These minutes were approved by a vote 5-0.

APPROVED