

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD HELD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 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 7:03 p.m.

PRESENT were Chair Mudrock and Board members Kastner, Noll, Bucco and Gregersen. Ms. Snyder and Ms. Hoffmeister had advised that they would be absent.

ALSO PRESENT was Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze, and Assistant Director Terri Hruby.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: On a motion by Ms. Bucco and seconded by Mr. Noll the agenda was approved without change.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Ms. Bucco and seconded by Ms. Hoffmeister the minutes of the meeting of February 26, 2009 were approved with corrections and the minutes of the meeting of March 19, 2009 were approved without change. The minutes of the meeting of October 29, 2009 were approved with changes.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) BRIEFING BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TERRI HRUBY ON STATE OF MARYLAND REVISIONS TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

Ms. Hruby gave the FPAB information about the background of the existing storm water management regulations. State regulations requiring revisions to existing storm water management regulations was passed, and the Maryland Department of the Environment published model regulations based on the new law. Maryland is considered a leader in storm water management control. Some of the changes in the new guidelines/regulations include greater focus on use of low impact development versus structural treatment, use of smaller devices; reduction in the impervious cover of sites; and requiring that developers now treat the first 1" of run off. She noted that the big change is for redeveloped properties, where the requirement for stormwater management increases.

There was discussion about the potential impact the increase of storm water management requirements for redevelopment projects could have on smart

growth, and could encourage sprawl, by increasing the development costs for redeveloped properties.

Ms. Hruby told the Board that local jurisdictions with storm water management ordinances must adopt revisions to those ordinances by May 4, 2010. She said that the Prince George's County ordinance was submitted without public or legislative comment. Any development project which does not have final storm water management approval for an approved sediment and erosion control plan approval would have to comply with the new, stricter regulations.

One of the problems with the regulations is that more stormwater management would be required on site, meaning the structures and systems could be privately owned. This means that property owners could be responsible for maintaining these devices, and this would be a cost to the property owner.

Ms. Kastner asked if there are enforcement problems with storm water management. Ms. Hruby replied that there is no penalty for violation of total maximum daily limits (TMDL) in storm water runoff.

Ms. Hruby said that she has been reviewing the proposed guidelines with the city's environmental consultant and anticipates scheduling Council review in the next several months.

Ms. Gregersen asked how this would impact the forest preserve to which Ms. Hruby replied there would not be a direct impact. Ms. Bucco said that she is interested in investigating the reduction of runoff from off site into the forest preserve.

Ms. Hruby then gave an update on the Greenhill/Hillside Road culvert repair and stream bank stabilization. The purpose of the project is to restore portions of the degraded stream and remove failed culverts. She explained that the city received a grant for this project, and that this project is partnered with GHI, since the most degraded portion of the stream is on GHI property. In addition to the stream work, there will be several education programs, as well as an interpretive panel at the site of the project.

On the Greenbelt Lake project, Ms. Hruby said that she is trying to find ways the city can treat or improve water quality, using existing staff resources. She said that the forebays need to be dredged, and that dredging should be done every ten years. Unfortunately, there are no grants available for maintenance.

b) MEETING WITH THE GHI WOODLANDS COMMITTEE: Ms. Bucco reported on the GHI Woodland Committee (WC) meeting of January 10, 2010. The WC is considering adopting a statement expressing support for the FPAB's efforts to stop dumping in the forest preserve. The WC would also like feedback from FPAB on the issue of the control of invasive species. Chair Mudrock stated

that she wanted to see developed a list of mutual interests which could serve as a guide in the FPAB's work with the WC.

The Board decided that they would like to schedule a follow-up meeting with the WC to further develop the mutual interest list, and establish priorities within that list. It was agreed that the list of the issues of mutual interest was as follows:

1. Management of the uses of wooded areas - defining desirable uses within each area.
2. Control of dumping, specifically at Northway.
3. Clarification of the fire policy.
4. Public education on the value of woodlands.

Ms. Kastner stated that the Management and Maintenance Guidelines already address response to fire. It was decided that there needed to be clarification on the guidelines that the intent of the existing policy is not a "let it burn" approach. Additional language should be added which indicates that there would be intervention in the event of a fire. The policy is intended to address the after event response. This item is to be added to a future agenda.

The first priority for the WC shared work program would be dumping, followed by clarification of the fire policy, public education, clarification of the management and maintenance guidelines on the management of the woods, and clarification to and implementation of the invasive species policy. The Board asked to receive copies of Ms. Riddle's management plan.

The Board asked staff to schedule a follow-up meeting with the Woodlands Committee, setting a tentative date for the meeting of February 18, 2010.

There being no other business, on a motion by Mr. Noll and seconded by Ms. Bucco, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia W. Craze
Director

These minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0.

APPROVED