

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD HELD
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 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 7:04 p.m.

PRESENT were Chair Mudrock and Board members Murray, Gregersen, Elliott, Hoffmeister, Ossi, Snyder, Kastner and Noll.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Two items were added to new business. On a motion by Mr. Noll and seconded by Ms. Kastner the agenda was approved with additions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Ms. Hoffmeister and seconded by Mr. Noll the minutes of the meeting of May 20, 2010 were approved with changes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER – DAMIEN OSSI: Mr. Ossi gave the Board a brief summary of his background, noting that he worked at the Patuxent Wildlife Center and currently works for the District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife Division.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) The walk-thru of the Forest Preserve with Lesley Riddle on June 19 at 9:30 a.m. was noted. Mayor Davis stated she would not be in attendance.
- b) REVIEW OF REGULATORY SIGNAGE - There was general discussion of the content and the tone of the sign, with a consensus that the tone should be affirmative in nature with Ms. Kastner suggesting that “leave no trace” would be a positive statement to include on the sign.

In discussion of the actual content for the sign, there were suggestions that the listed regulations should be limited to seven in number; that the statements be listed in order of priority; and that additional information could be included in a brochure. Ms. Craze stated that it was not necessary to include a statement that anything prohibited by

code is prohibited.

It was agreed that restrictions would be listed in the following order: 1. dumping or littering; 2. clear or maintain trails; 3. biking; 4. fires; 5. hunting; 6. remove or damage plants; 7. build bridges, dams or other structures. Ms. Elliott suggested that symbols be included on the sign. It was agreed that Ms. Hoffmeister would revise the previous regulatory sign concept, and would also look at symbols which could be included. She would revise the draft and review of the sign would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Ms. Craze suggested that the size of the sign would be determined when the content of the sign was decided.

- c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF IDENTIFICATION SIGN - Ms. Craze described her meeting with the Public Works Department and their suggestions for size of the identification sign. There was discussion about the size of the sign compared to other identification signs elsewhere in the city. Ms. Craze suggested that Board members look at some of the other standard city identification signs with respect to the content and size of the signs, and that this issue could be placed on the next FPAB agenda.
- d) NAMING OF INDIVIDUAL FOREST PRESERVE PARCELS – This item was deferred to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) ALTERNATIVE CARETAKING/TRAIL MAINTENANCE - Mr. Murray discussed the Native American way of managing forest systems, including elements of the forest ecosystem, stressors, competition in forests, removal of invasive plants, removing obstructions in deer runs, and ecosystems in blueberry hill. He stated that it is natural for ecosystems to go through succession, and that multiple ecosystems provide different food sources. He then discussed the caretaking approach, such as cleaning debris out of streams to return steam flow, and that this type of intervention is good for the ecosystem. It was noted that any discussion of these alternative concepts or approaches for trail maintenance would need to be considered in the context of the purpose of the forest preserve program.
- b) BLUEBERRY HILL DIE OUT – Deferred to next meeting

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 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.

There being no other business, on a motion by Ms. Hoffmeister and seconded by Ms. Elliott, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia W. Craze
Director

These minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0.