

**MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT was Councilmember Rodney Roberts, Celia Craze, Director, and Terri Hruby, Assistant Director, Department of Planning and Community Development.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved without change.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: By a vote of 7-0, the minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2014 were approved with changes.

PRESENTATION ON JARA SITE MITIGATION REGENERATIVE STORMWATER CONVEYANCE PROJECT AT GREENBRIAR PARK: Present was Kevin Kelly, President, Environmental Systems Analysis, Inc., designer of the proposed Greenbriar Park.

Mr. Kelly described the proposed project as providing storm water mitigation for a project in Beltsville. In determining suitable candidate sites for the mitigation project, Mr. Kelly consulted the Anacostia River Watershed Restoration Plan, which included the Greenbriar stream stabilization as a recommended project. The present project concept would be undertaken at no cost to the city, and had been reviewed and approved by the City Council.

The objectives of the project would be to stabilize the stream and provide for water quality improvement. The project scope had been reduced to 185' of stream bank stabilization, which must be approved by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Kelly described the existing condition of the stream and impacts of the proposed project. In response to questions from the FPAB, Mr. Kelly made the following points:

- The stream channel shows active erosion;
- It is unknown if another mitigation will be required to fulfill the mitigation requirements of the Beltsville site development;
- There will be no chemicals used in the project;
- This type of project being proposed would not have been monitored, and that collection of such data is expensive and not necessarily warranted;
- The different colored ribbons around the trees indicate that trees have been surveyed;
- The Greenbriar site is not the least expensive mitigation project that the Jara development principals could have selected.

There was not further discussion on this proposal.

REVIEW OF FPAB REPORT FOR AREA D OF THE FOREST PRESERVE: Mr. Snyder stated that there was concern on the part of some FPAB members with the wording of the draft report, such as use of the word "park", and he believed action on the report should be held for a few months.

Mr. Ossi and Ms. Hoffmeister asked for an explanation of the concerns, and why the report was being held when the FPAB had voted unanimously to forward the Area D trails recommendation to the City Council. Ms. Almquist stated that she believed the Board should write its own reports.

Ms. Craze suggested that the report be reworded so as to be less formal and specific. It was agreed that Ms. Craze would revise the report as a memo.

UPDATE OF FPAB BY-LAWS: The Board is to review the by-laws for the purpose of discussing revisions at the next FPAB meeting.

UPDATE ON THE ALTERNATIVE FOREST PRESERVE EVALUATION BY THE OLD GROWTH NETWORK (JOAN MALOOF): Ms. Craze advised the FPAB that there are funds included in the FY 2015 budget to prepare a comprehensive tree report, and suggested that the FPAB could assist in developing the scope for that project.

There was some discussion of the DNR tree study, and when it would be forwarded to the FPAB for review. Ms. Craze said she would consult with the City Manager. The Board also discussed how they could participate in preparation of a scope of services, goals and objectives for the city wide tree study, specifying what information would be necessary for an assessment of the forest preserve.

UPDATE ON AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE DONATION: There was no update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: There was a question about the impact of zoning on the use of the state owned forested area in Greenbelt West adjacent to the Greenbelt Station development. Ms. Craze provided a brief summary of the zoning.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia W. Craze

Director

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These minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.

APPROVED