

FRIENDS OF PATTERSON PARK MEETING SUMMARY
May 10, 2004, 7:00-8:30 PM

Attending: Isabelle Headrick, Earl Burg, Mark Smolen, Girard Kinney

I. Announcements

- (a) PARD has begun the process of completing the concrete sidewalk between the playscape/pavilion area and the parking lot by the tennis center. This will make it ADA-accessible.
- (b) Earl has been in contact with PARD regarding fencing in an area near the pool where there are electrical disconnects that in the past have posed a threat to children. They will install fencing around the disconnects (are those the same as breaker boxes?).

II. Ongoing Business

A. Progress on Recreational Trail Grant:

Excerpt of e-mail from Priscilla 4/28/04. "Yesterday Kevin and I met with Marty and Butch re the trail grant for Patterson. In summary, the grant will be moving along under Butch's leadership and should be completed in time for the June 1 deadline."

"We made the decision not to include the church section at at this time for several reasons: the prices for the Access Walk (Phase I) are coming in higher than earlier estimates thus taking up more of the grant's upper limit of \$100K (in fact we may not be able to fund all of the initially proposed trail), and there are significant street improvements centering around drainage issues that must occur prior to putting a trail in. These street improvement issues will have to be coordinated by the city's Street and Bridge department. Getting into their queue has been initiated and will be tracked by Marty but could take a year or more to get worked through."

{Mark Smolen communicated this to Mr. Cockrum of Genesis on 4/28, providing assurances that it is everyone's intent to get the trail traversing the periphery of the church campus eventually and that it is FOPP's intent to help them achieve the curb on their entire property line.}

Discussion on trail. Minimal erosion control proposed. For now, the trail will stop at the property line.

Discussion of whether we could alter the design so that instead of the sidewalk ending in a dead-end before fence (or turn-around) at church property, sidewalk would "sidle up" to curb. This would make it easier to jump over the curb for people pushing strollers and still allow for trail to continue when funds to permit work on church property would come available.

Discussion of inexpensive erosion control possibilities, such as railroad ties or Quikrete bags (once they get wet and dry they look like a stone wall, paper disintegrates).

APF funds need to be spent by September. Mark will contact Jean Crow and Butch Smith to put them in touch with each other.

Isabelle will get in touch with Laura Patlove and arrange to get the letters of neighborhood support.

- B. Girard's report on conversation with Stuart Strong regarding soccer at Patterson: The existing sign is not intended to discourage occasional, small soccer play that is NOT organized. It IS intended to prohibit organized, regular play. This is to preserve the turf on the field. Over the years, soccer has been so popular that many parks have been over-run with it.

Some neighborhoods have agreements with the city, which allow for the use of fields for some league play in exchange for the neighborhoods agreeing to take on the stewardship of the fields. These agreements require the neighborhoods to:

1. Put in a system for irrigating the field. In other parks, the city has been willing to pay the water bill. Get the field in good shape. This could take a year or more.
2. On an ongoing basis, manage:
 - (a) the regular watering of the fields (i.e. provide volunteers to hand-water or manage and maintain an automatic irrigation system).
 - (b) usage of the field. Teams would need to reserve fields ahead of time. (Again, this would be a responsibility of the neighborhood) The biggest problem is not so much games as practices.

We could call Stuart to ask which neighborhoods have such an agreement and to see a copy. A consensus was expressed by the group that allowing the field to deteriorate is not acceptable. Although FoPP will not spearhead its own effort to put such an agreement into action, it will encourage community members to explore doing so, and help to put them in touch with the appropriate parties, providing that the health of the turf is protected.

Earl Burg expressed frustration with the fact that there are several golfers who use the park as a driving range, usually between 10 and 12 in the morning.

- C. Discussion of increasing usage of the park: Girard stated that Patterson appears to be under-used in comparison to other parks; and that that raises the possibility that the city would decide to use parts of the park for other purposes, or even close down the park, especially in light of the large parks proposed across Airport at Mueller. Brainstorming produced the following ideas for added/expanded activities:
- a horseshoe pit
 - extra volleyball court (players need to provide their own nets)
 - croquet on ball field (already happening, according to Earl)
 - more chess tables or a giant chessboard like in Woolridge Park. Perhaps pieces could be kept in storage area in shelter
 - expansion/improvement of swimming pool into a standard-sized neighborhood pool
- D. Discussion of a FoPP neighborhood party: pool party, movie in the park, ice cream social/ladies' hat contest, workday with vine-planting on chain link fences near pool.

III. Wrap-up

- (a) Earl is requesting earlier start-times for meetings. It was decided to keep the start time at 7:30 but to aim to end the meetings by 8:30.
- (b) Confirm meeting dates of June 14 and July 12 at 7:30. (Genesis Presbyterian)