

Arlington County Civic Federation Parks & Recreation Committee

Monday, August 24, at 7 PM, Washington-Lee High School - DRAFT Minutes

Present: Rick Epstein, Larry Mayer, Paul Mulligan, Carrie Rich, Jay Jacob Wind

1. New members: Jay appointed Rick Epstein, Larry Mayer, Paul Mulligan, and Carrie Rich as committee members.
2. The use of park bonds for uses other than parks  
Rick reported that the County Board funded capital improvement the former Newseum for a cultural center by allocating about \$4 million from park bonds to pay-as-you-go.  
We agreed to recommend to the Civic Federation this resolution:  
WHEREAS, the County Board recently diverted about \$4.5 million approved by the voters in 2006 for strategic parks acquisitions instead for purposes other than land acquisition, reducing the balance available for parks acquisitions from \$6 million down to \$1.5 million, and  
WHEREAS, Arlington County Parks and Recreation Commission and Friends of Arlington Parks sent letters to the County Board disagreeing with the County's diversion of parks bond funds to non-parkland acquisition, and  
WHEREAS, members of Arlington County Civic Federation have expressed concern that park bond funds may not be available for current opportunities to acquire parkland, therefore  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT
  1. Arlington County Civic Federation urges the County Board to use funds approved by the voters for parks, land, and acquisition for those purposes only; and further,
  2. Arlington County Civic Federation urges the County Board to replenish the \$4.5 million diverted from parks, land, and acquisition back to those purposes as soon as possibleApproved unanimously. Jay will send the draft resolution to Civic Federation Executive Committee.
3. Gulf Branch update  
Larry reported that the County Board found some money to keep Gulf Branch Nature Center open, and that the advocacy group for the Center has some fund-raising responsibility.
4. Wilson School update  
Paul reported that the School Board removed the smallest of three groups of portable buildings.  
The School Board has said they will return the land to greenspace. The School Board plans to use the building itself for its current uses as the Mongolian school and to permit a new use by the First Baptist Child Development Center during construction elsewhere.
5. Tree planting in the extension of Rosslyn Highlands Park  
Paul reported that County staff removed invasive trees, but no new trees have been replanted.  
We agreed to thank Dinesh Tiwari, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources and Jamie Bartalon for their active response to concerns raised by Civic Federation members on this matter.  
We agreed to invite County staff to a future committee meeting to talk about invasive species.
6. Dawson Terrace  
Paul reported that some citizens are concerned that Dawson Terrace should be revitalized. Larry suggested North Highland Civic Association might get involved.
7. Fillmore Park  
Larry reported that Mrs. Rockwell owns two lots bordered by 2<sup>nd</sup> Road North, west of North Cleveland Street, currently used by the public as a park and maintained by Arlington Parks & Recreation. We agreed to visit the property to look at it on Thursday, September 3, and perhaps to make a future recommendation to Northern Virginia Conservation Trust or Arlington County.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jay Jacob Wind, Chair