

From: pro.wordsmith <pro.wordsmith@verizon.net>

To: pro.wordsmith <pro.wordsmith@verizon.net>

Subject: Fwd: Upton Hill Park Parking Expansion - No Thanks -- FW: For Paul Gilbert Re: Plans to Expand Parking Lot and Other Changes to Upton Hill - Please send presentation

Date: Fri, Dec 15, 2017 11:22 am

Attachments: UptonHillMaintenanceAndErosionControlProjects,Jan2014,JoshHandler,BMCA.pptx (583K),
UptonHillParkOctober2016_sm.pptx (10038K)

-----Original Message-----

From: Josh Handler [mailto:jh_dos7@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2016 10:01 PM

To: 'Paul Gilbert' <pgilbert@nvrpa.org>

Cc: 'Phil Klingelhofer' <phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com>; 'Yahya Abdul-Qaadir' <yabdul-qaadir@nvrpa.org>; 'michaelnardolilli@montgomeryparksfoundation.org' <michaelnardolilli@montgomeryparksfoundation.org>; board@boulevardmanor.org

Subject: RE: For Paul Gilbert Re: Plans to Expand Parking Lot and Other Changes to Upton Hill - Please send presentation

Hello Paul,

Thanks again for your presentation last Monday. Very useful and informative. Could you now please send it so we have it to study further?

At my end, notwithstanding the different views on the rope course, I want to draw your attention to concerns we raised in January 2014 in regards to the structure and playground area on the North side of the park and the Wilson/Livingston Street entrance. Please see the attached. I also attach a PowerPoint from a walk along the north side of the park earlier this week. From my perspective, the north side of the park receives scant attention, is run-down and is being overrun by invasives.

In terms of reactions to the proposals, I think you heard a lot of reservations about expanding the parking lot. The shelter up there is used quite a bit. So much so you could probably use another rather than expand the parking lot over the existing one.

As for the pool, I find it at quite if not over capacity during the holiday weekends during the summer. There is a line waiting to get in on the holidays. And, from what I recall of your survey, it didn't seem to take into account the Spanish speaking residents of our area, many of whom can walk from the apartment building complexes just to the west of the pool.

I have seen some millennial types sunning themselves and hanging out in the pool, but you might be able to attract more of them on the non-peak days over the summer (assuming they are not at work during the day) by advertising the public transport and bike riding options from Ballston-Clarendon-Court House. Also, improving the shower rooms is always a way to attract a different crowd.

But in any event, I don't think expanding the parking lot is necessary given that the pool is only open 1/4 of the year. It would add a lot of impervious surface near or perhaps in a RPA for a marginal gain if any in pool/golf course/batting cage attendance. Upton Hill is a smallish park compared to your other destinations. It just can't handle the additional parking and cars without further degrading the park experience.

Though others are supportive of the rope course, I don't think it is the wisest use of our money. You spoke of wanting to attract millennials to the park. What about attracting families? A lot of those are in the

neighborhood too. To do that, NOVA parks should be investing in the playground and getting rid of the invasives. Not much fun of a nature stroll with the kids to see all the great trees being overgrown with English Ivy and other invasives.

As for the millennials, doubt you can build a course that is challenging enough or fun enough without getting into the existing trees. Per the conversation at the BMCA meeting, people are already dreaming of a zip line going through the trees; more fun and all that. So I think if you start planning for a rope course it will eventually impact the forest, damaging the very thing that makes the park an attractive destination in the first place.

On the view question, think everybody should go outside the church where we held our meeting and look at DC. Not sure you are going to get any better than that from the top of Upton Hill. But I can tell you that grassy area makes a wicked sledding hill when the snow falls and is quite crowded at that. We lost one sledding hill at Ashlawn and we are not eager to lose another (which we may depending on how Reeves goes). Again, better think how to attract families than millennials in terms of that hill and other parts of the park.

Look forward to getting the presentation and keep us posted on developments.

Thanks,

Josh

Josh Handler
549 N. Livingston St., Arlington, Va
Boulevard Manor Community Association Board
703-243-4945

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Gilbert [<mailto:pgilbert@nvrpa.org>]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 1:35 PM
To: Josh Handler <jh_dos7@yahoo.com>
Cc: Phil Klingelhofer <phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com>; Yahya Abdul-Qaadir <yabdul-qaadir@nvrpa.org>
Subject: Re: For Paul Gilbert Re: Plans to Expand Parking Lot and Other Changes to Upton Hill Park

Thanks Josh. I look forward to meeting you.

Paul Gilbert
Executives Director
NOVA Parks
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 23, 2016, at 9:10 PM, Josh Handler <jh_dos7@yahoo.com<mailto:jh_dos7@yahoo.com>> wrote:

Hello Paul, Thanks for this and look forward to talking more about it tomorrow at our BMCA meeting. All the best, Josh

From: Paul Gilbert [<mailto:pgilbert@nvrpa.org>]

Sent: Monday, October 17, 2016 1:06 PM
To: Josh Handler <jh_dos7@yahoo.com<mailto:jh_dos7@yahoo.com>>; 'Phil Klingelhofer'
<phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com<<mailto:phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com>>>
Cc: Yahya Abdul-Qaadir
<yabdul-qaadir@nvrpa.org<<mailto:yabdul-qaadir@nvrpa.org>>>
Subject: RE: For Paul Gilbert Re: Plans to Expand Parking Lot and Other Changes to Upton Hill Park

Josh,

Thanks for your message. I just spoke with Yahya about the plowing of the access road. I did not realize it, but that has less grade than the main entrance road. They plow that to get access to the park, when the main entrance is too steep to go up in the snow. We are happy to think about this and see if there are solutions?

I agree about the playground and the invasive plants. Our plans on these things are not defined yet. That is why we are starting a community dialog now, to think through a range of issues related to how the make Upton Hill the best it can be. I look forward to meeting you and working with your committee in the months to come.

Paul Gilbert
Executive Director - NOVA Parks
ICMA - Credentialed Manager
pgilbert@nvrpa.org<<mailto:pgilbert@nvrpa.org>>
703-359-4600
NOVA Parks Website: www.novaparks.com<<http://www.novaparks.com>>

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NOVA Parks - the best of Northern Virginia through nature, history, and great family experiences

From: Josh Handler [mailto:jh_dos7@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 16, 2016 9:03 AM
To: Paul Gilbert; 'Phil Klingelhofer'
Cc: Yahya Abdul-Qaadir
Subject: RE: For Paul Gilbert Re: Plans to Expand Parking Lot and Other Changes to Upton Hill Park

Paul,

Many thanks for this. Yes there are a lot of community concerns about at the moment due to the situation with the baseball field. You may probably anticipate similar concerns about any plans to expand the parking lot in the park.

Putting that aside for the moment, do your ideas also include rehabilitating the playground area in the park near Wilson? We live next to the park and that is certainly something we had noted needed some work (aside from the erosion control with which we have been corresponding with Yahya).

Also are there any plans for a comprehensive approach to invasives removal in the park? It seems there are some sporadic efforts, but we are working with Arlington County to get the invasives out of Powhatan Springs park. It would be great to know if there is thinking to do something similar with Upton Hill before they get entirely out of control.

Finally, are you a good person to ask about the snow clearing policy? The reason I ask is that when there is a good snow, the hill and the long

asphalt covered trail/access road from the hill to Wilson Blvd are a great sledding combo for the kids. But for some reason the asphalt access road gets cleared which as you can imagine makes it hard for the sledders. I can understand it is an access road, but it does not seem to be necessary for accessing anything if you have plowed the main road. Seeing as we are looking forwards to another good sledding season, I thought I would throw that out for what it is worth.

Thanks again and look forward to the presentation.

Best,

Josh

From: Paul Gilbert [<mailto:pgilbert@nvrpa.org>]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 11:01 AM
To: jh_dos7@yahoo.com<mailto:jh_dos7@yahoo.com>; Phil Klingelhofer (phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com<<mailto:phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com>>)
<phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com<<mailto:phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com>>>
Cc: Yahya Abdul-Qaadir <yabdul-qaadir@nvrpa.org<<mailto:yabdul-qaadir@nvrpa.org>>>
Subject: FW: For Paul Gilbert Re: Plans to Expand Parking Lot and Other Changes to Upton Hill Park

Mr. Handler,

Thanks for your message. Sorry for my delay in responding, I was away at a conference last week.

I met with Phil Klingelhofer a few weeks ago to discuss this idea. I will be coming to the Civic Association meeting on Monday 10/24 to continue this dialog.

We have some preliminary ideas for some improvements to Upton Hill Regional Park. We want to have a dialog with Boulevard Manor, and Dominion Hills Civic Associations before we develop this idea much further. Because this is very preliminary, I would rather wait for the meeting to present the idea and provide some context. This is different from a fully developed plan that we are getting public comments on. We do not have the details worked out, and we do not have any timeline set for this. It is just a topic for discussion at this stage.

I look forward to meeting you on the 24th and working with you and the Conservation and Beautification Committee in the months ahead on visioning the future of Upton Hill.

I would be happy to talk with you on the phone, but I would like to avoid sending around images that some might see as a sign that this is coming, and has been fully designed. I know the County approved some bleachers for a baseball diamond recently, and there was concern that it had not been adequately discussed in the community. We are taking the approach of early community engagement in discussing an idea.

Thanks for your help and understanding.

Paul Gilbert
Executive Director - NOVA Parks
ICMA - Credentialed Manager
pgilbert@nvrpa.org<<mailto:pgilbert@nvrpa.org>>
703-359-4600
NOVA Parks Website: www.novaparks.com<<http://www.novaparks.com>>

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NOVA Parks - the best of Northern Virginia through nature, history, and great family experiences

From: Josh Handler [mailto:jh_dos7@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2016 6:44 PM
To: Executive Office
Cc: Yahya Abdul-Qadir;
phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com<<mailto:phil.klingelhofer@gmail.com>>
Subject: For Paul Gilbert Re: Plans to Expand Parking Lot and Other Changes to Upton Hill Park

Dear Mr. Gilbert,

I am on the Boulevard Manor Civic Association Board. At a recent Board meeting, it was mentioned that NVRPA is exploring expanding the parking lot and building some climbing or rope structures on the currently open grassy hill. Do you have any more details you can share? I understand you may be speaking one our next meetings, but it would be good to have a chance to study what is available beforehand.

Thank you,

Josh Handler
549 N. Livingston St., Arlington, Va
Chair, Conservation and Beautification Committee Boulevard Manor Community Association Board <http://www.boulevardmanor.org/>
703-243-4945

P.S. Yahya, Thanks for all the work on the Livingston and Wilson entrance. Greatly improved, but trust there are plans to slowly continue the restoration of that area. Unfortunately, the erosion runoff continues. And, the grass that was put down in the little triangle area was pretty dead when it went in and the hot summer I think killed it off.

Attached Message

From Josh Handler <josh.handler7@gmail.com>
To uptonhill@nvrpa.org
Cc cent_maint@nvrpa.org; Josh Handler <Josh.Handler7@gmail.com>
Subject Questions - Maintenance and Erosion Control at Upton Hill Park - Eastern Side - Is There a Plan?
Date Wed, 22 Jan 2014 16:14:41 -0400

Dear Mr. Abdul-Qadir:

I am on the Boulevard Manor Civic Association Board and Chair of the Conservation and Beautification Committee (<http://www.boulevardmanor.org/>). Boulevard Manor borders the park on the South and East sides. We have several concerns about the condition of the park. I hope you can inform me if these are to be addressed:

1. On the NE corner of the park where there is the pedestrian/bike pathway onto Livingston Street, there is considerable erosion on the small hillside on the south side of the pathway. Most of the hillside is bare dirt. Are there any plans to stabilize this area and put in more plants?
2. On the eastern side of the park, between Wilson Blvd and 6th Street and a little beyond, are there any plans to trim dead branches or trees leaning over into the street? In the same area, do you organize any English Ivy clearing days that volunteers could join to clear ivy off trees and off the embankment?

- }. On the eastern side of the park, the blue sign saying the park's trails close at dark is bent and needs to be replaced. When can this be done?
- }. At the playground on the north side of the park, a building has part of its roof missing. It is an eyesore, can attract unsavory elements, or serve as a place for wild animals to live. Are there any plans to fix it up (particularly if it has bathrooms) or raze it?
Please see the attached Power Point slide that shows the areas discussed above.

Many thanks for your help and I look forward to being I touch,

Josh Handler
549 N. Livingston St., Arlington, Va
Boulevard Manor Community Association Board
703-243-4945