



Friends of Accotink Creek / Friends of Lake Accotink Park Town Meeting

April 21, 2014

Next Meeting: May 19, 2014

Audrey Moore Rec Center, Clubroom 3
(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger
Philip Latasa
Suzy Foster
Sue Shuman
Sandy Collins
Ted Welch
Flint Webb
Special guest – Heinz Unger, Kris' dad

Upcoming events:

- Potomac Watershed Cleanup, April 5 – May 3, 2014
- Next FACC meeting, May 19, 2014
- FCRP Film Festival, April 20 – 24, 2014
- Vienna Green Expo, April 24, 2014
- Beautification Day Wakefield Park, May 3, 2014
- Wakefield Run Walk, May 4, 2014
- City of Fairfax Parks Action Plan workshop, May 14, 2014
- Wakefield Run Dedication, May 17, 2014
- Next FLAP meeting, May 22, 2014

Action Items:

- *Everyone is to bring grant ideas to the next meeting*
- *Brian & Kris will contact M.O.R.E. on Wakefield Run trail issues*
- *FACC board members will submit blurbs for our "About" page*
- *Liz will contact Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center on budget*
- *Ted will contact Metropolitan Community Church*
- *Ted will contact the Park Authority about our Adopt-a-Stream signs*
- *Suzy & Flint will inquire about Fairfax City FACC members*
- *Philip will contact FLAP on a joint meeting*
- *Kris will send letter to Park Authority Director*
- *Ted will prepare a kiosk repair estimate for Philip to share with NVATU*
- *Suzy & Kris will file 501c3 report*

FACC Subjects Discussed –

• Potomac Watershed Cleanup:

Philip reported the three April 19th stream cleanups had a total of 45 volunteers, mostly high school students, as usual. Virginia Delegate Dave Bulova attended our Chain bridge road site. Interesting items

found included a 15 lb. barbell weight, a rubber tyrannosaurus puppet, and a bowling ball (playing “duck” pins?).

The Metropolitan Community Church which had expressed interest in adopting the Chain Bridge Road cleanup site was a no-show. There was discussion of the need of this group for “forgiveness”. Ted will get in touch.

Sue will be hosting the cleanups next Saturday, when we are expecting groups from LMI, NVCC, Brownie Scouts, and the Muslim-American Society, and Virginia Delegate Marcus Simon.

Philip mentioned some difficulty getting VDOT to provide their usual cooperation in picking up collected trash, although they did eventually do so. Sue may have a contact a VDOT should this recur.

At long last, Philip put up two of our Adopt-A-Signs in Fairfax City parks during the cleanups, but several more remain to be placed, requiring permission from either the Park Authority or VDOT. Ted will contact the Park Authority.

Ted explained he was unable to deploy his trash skimming contraption during the April 5 Lake Accotink cleanup, but it is ready for next time. Ted also noted he had found his niche during our cleanups, by staffing the tent and kvetching.

• Wakefield Run:

Kris noted M.O.R.E. has scheduled a workday May 4 that seems intended to address some of the trail issues following the stream restoration. Suzy suggested they might join our walk that day. Kris will contact them.

Suzy explained that Charles Smith, formerly of the Park Authority, now Stormwater Planning, is planning volunteer work on the access road due to an oversight in the contract that did not require full restoration by the contractor, EQR. Charles is able to oblige EQR to make corrections to the streamside plantings, which he found to be about 1/3 short of the required numbers and to have an improper species mix. Philip questioned how EQR can evade legal responsibility for the disturbance of the access road.

• Grant Proposal:

1. Lecture series:

Flint advised the Providence District Council Sept. 16 meeting with a stream restoration theme is a possible venue. There was discussion of participation by Stormwater Planning or the Soil & Water Conservation District. Sue said we can be on the agenda next year for the Mantua civic association.

2. Community Initiative:

Kris has rescheduled the Wakefield Run walk for May 4th at 10:00 am. He will reach out to the Green Atoms on participating in the walk and perhaps the Wakefield Run replanting. Ted mentioned he will also be in touch with the Green Atoms on availability for other activities, perhaps invasive control.

Kris is planning a “Follow the Water: experience for Lands and Waters with the Daniels Run school and civic association. Flint suggested another good school for this would be the Stemwood School at 66 & Gallows, which has lost much ground to erosion.

• NOVA Green Festival:

Kris will take over Liz’s presentation, since she cannot attend. Sue & Philip will staff the FACC table and pass the display on to Ted for the Vienna Green Expo.

- Lake Accotink Park Master Plan:

Sandy will double check the usefulness of adding a reference to the Natural Resources Plan to our master plan suggestions. Ted will prepare wording to add on installing a trash filter on the lake. Philip mentioned that interest groups indifferent to natural area stewardship will be pushing for development ideas to be put into the master plan and we must be prepared to answer them.

- Vienna Stream Restoration:

Ted still has no response from Vienna, but will persevere.

- FCRP Film Festival:

Suzy noted the FACC table is set up at the theater. She mentioned the Dewberry display table, especially their Dyson sphere. The Dewberry representative has done many displays for kids, including a Lego water table and minnow races. Dewberry's offices are in our watershed at Rt. 50 and Gallows. Kris & Ted will preach to him about collaboration during the film festival.

Short films by local students are being shown between features, including one the topic of trail erosion at Wakefield Park.

- Represent FACC:

- Vienna Green Expo April 24th

- Sue will deliver the display materials to Ted.

- Hidden Oaks/Master Naturalists

- Ted also mentioned he is working on a Master Naturalist student project at Hidden Oaks Nature Center next week, involving 300 students over four days, and will work in FACC and try to make FACC a resource for these types of endeavors.

- Fairfax City Parks Action Plan May 14th

- After taking citizen comments for months, Fairfax City will have a meeting on finalizing their parks action plan. Suzy will ask Judy about representing FACC. Flint will ask Delegate Bulova and other Fairfax City cleanup participants about becoming active with FACC.

- Joint Meeting with FLAP

- Philip inquired if there was still enthusiasm for a mid-year joint meeting with FLAP, as discussed at our December joint meeting. The consensus was yes, and we should aim for May. Philip expressed the hope we can improve on the sparse FACC turnout at our last joint meeting. Philip will contact FLAP. **(Note: FLAP has since suggested we do this in July.)**

- FY 2015 County Budget:

Flint mentioned a message from Faith Action for Climate Solutions critical of environmental cuts to the county budget. Information from other sources indicates these are not actual cuts, but rather increases not made.

Philip reminded us the web form for contacting county supervisors about park budget cuts can still be used.

- Northern Virginia Soil & Water Grant:

Kris informed us there was no news, but there may be some by next month. If this grant is not awarded, there is another opportunity during a second round.

Suzy mentioned FACC had provided written support, as well as her own donated professional expertise, to Luther Jackson Middle School's grant application for a stormwater pond upgrade.

- Park Authority Director:

Philip advised the new Park Authority Director, Kirk Kincannon, is a former Lake Accotink Park manager, initiated the annual cardboard boat regatta, participated in the Four Mile Run restoration as Alexandria parks director, and has recent firsthand experience with flooding issues gained while living in Colorado

during the recent severe floods there. The director also provided a good quote during his recent talk to FLAP, "Think beyond ourselves. Think multiple generations." (among some less hopeful quotes).

Philip presented a draft letter to the Director encouraging positive stewardship thinking. Ted will contribute and Kris will send.

- Perth Court:

Philip reported a citizen had contacted him regarding a sanitary sewer manhole stack in Kings Park exposed by erosion. DPWES personnel have inspected the site and are preparing to reinforce the manhole. Given the difficulty of access, we hope the repair will not cause more damage.

- Nazi Vandalism:

The sign kiosk in Americana Park and adjacent areas of the CCT were recently painted with swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti. The Park Authority removed or painted over the graffiti, but the kiosk plexiglass is damaged. The front of the kiosk is Trout Unlimited information. Ted will prepare an estimate to repair, which Philip will pass on to Trout Unlimited with the proposal that if they purchase materials, we will install.

There was discussion of offering a reward, but there was no consensus in favor.

- 501c3:

Suzy has received an annual report form that must be submitted. She and Kris will address.

- Webpage Update:

Philip again urged the holdouts on the board to submit their blurbs for the improved "About" page. He also displayed several cosmetic improvements to the FACC homepage. There was consensus for moving the "Events" box to a higher position.

Philip Latasa

Friends of Accotink Creek
