

Date: Thu, 11 Aug 2005 08:07:56 -0400

From: funkps@aol.com

Subject: RHCC 8/17 Agenda Item: Green Space Advisory Board

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Hello Melinda and Council Members:

Thanks for taking the time to discuss with me the need for Council to consider adopting a resolution of support/intent etc. to establish a "Green Space Advisory Board". Ideally, the commitment to create this Board is needed before the September 13th election date to show the community the likely follow-on steps should the millage pass.

Background:

As we spoke a few months ago, there is strong sentiment in the community to have RHCC put into place an ongoing "oversight" Committee to oversee the process of assessment, selection and recommendation to RHCC for action to acquire green space sites or create easement agreements on others, plan for maintenance, etc.

As briefly presented to Council during my remarks in June as Open Space Preservation Committee Chairman, the following is offered as a starting point for Council to consider:

1. Adopt a resolution to establish a "Green Space Advisory Board" ahead of the election.

2. A suggested makeup of the committee could be 9 members as follows:

1 Council rep

1-2 Mayor appointed citizens

4-5 Council appointed citizens

1 Clinton River Watershed Council Rep

1 Perhaps a Rep from the Oakland Land Conservancy

1 Perhaps Mike Hartner or his designated Rep

Other City Administration Reps could be named as well but might serve as a contributing member for support but not on the Committee voting roster.

3. The Green Space Advisory Board would have responsibility to provide strategy and recommendation authority to City Council for properties, easements, etc. to be purchased under the Green Space proposal/millage should it pass. This Committee would make the final recommendations to Council on what parcels to buy, etc. and would serve as the communication link to the residents and community on this important process.

4. As is law, the Planning Commission and City Council should also continue to include all current and future city owned green spaces into the City's Master Land Use plan to have them be held secure by the Home-Rule City Act (per discussion with John Staran during the Green Space ballot language review).

Recommended Action:

At the August 17th meeting, the City Council could pass a resolution of intent to put the Green Space Advisory Board into place prior to the election to allow the message of a Citizen-led Committee to be part of the promoted solution to those fearing another City Administration/City Council decision process without citizen involvement. There is an under tone of concern in the community that we face consistently that is in general favor of the Green Space Ballot Proposal but wants to know the implementation gameplan/process ahead of their vote.

I can be available to speak to this topic at the August 17 RHCC meeting.

Please call with any questions.

Paul

Paul S. Funk