

Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) Notes
Community Meeting
Laurel Ridge Elementary School
22 May 2019

1. Paul welcomed everyone and discussed FORL's relationship with FCPA. He distinguished between the various type of Friend organizations—ours being a Park Volunteer Team/PVT.
2. We have shared our lists of desired projects with FCPA officials and also attended Federations of Friends group meetings with the County.
3. Paul described a number of the projects we hope to have completed, including the planting of new trees in Lakeside Park and the removal of the Junipers, as well as the replacement of some rickety wooden bridges.
4. Our IMA program continues be a model for the County. Porcelain Berry growth is especially bad this year—Bittersweet is also bad.
5. Sarah noted 65 people came out for our April clean-up! Also our trail maintenance projects 18 and 19 May were well supported and we really got some work done.
6. We'd like to secure Bond funding to upgrade the park entrance nearest Richardson, and the trail from LakePointe to Royal Lake as well. We'd like a shade structure in Lakeside Park, we want to have the large bridge replaced that the County has said is unsafe for their vehicles. We'd like to improve the trail from Commonwealth to Royal Lake, and to improve the natural walking trail from Roberts Rd to Royal Lake.
7. We will work to improve the area around the first base dugout on the Little League field—between the dugout and the lake. There was discussion a ways back of replacing the Junipers with a fence, but the community expressed a lot of negative feedback against a fence.
8. Paul attended a 4-hour meeting with DPWES on their effort to upgrade Shanes Creek to a pristine condition. Next meeting will be in mid-July.
9. Andy has developed a comprehensive list of spots on the circuit trail that need work/improvement.
10. Everyone thanked Suzanne for her outstanding work on the FORL newsletter.
11. Prospective new FORL logos were passed around and people indicated their vote for the best ones.
12. FORL photo contest is coming—there are so many great picture out there of our lake!
13. FORL email is friendsofroyallake.com
14. Sarah noted that our Parks & Lake Clean-up day will be in October—date TBA. Also Road Raiders meet the 2nd Sunday of each month at 730 a.m. and work for 30 minutes. Coffee is available at 7:15.
15. Shelly Tucker, via phone, suggested we identify “Project Champions” for the actions/projects we'd like FORL to complete on our project list.

16. Sarah noted that we'd like to do trail repair workdays in August, November, February, and May of each years. Exact dates TBD.
17. Next FORL Community Meeting will be in September—date TBD.
18. Suzanne said she welcomes comments on the newsletter...she is looking for folks to write articles reflecting the general theme "People in the Park." Also looking for a story on Braddock Nights—Frank will write this one.
19. Lake Accotink options/future were discussed.
20. We discussed the continuing problem of people not cleaning up after their dogs. We discussed possible gift cards for people who do clean up after their dogs, and Tony mentioned strategies used by various groups to share the cost of providing dog-doo bags.
21. FORL said a fond farewell to Tony as he is moving to Florida. We thanked him for his many contributions and his leadership. Tony encouraged everyone to remember that "One person can make a difference," and also encouraged us to make sure that Royal Lake obtains our fair share of funding in the 2020 Bond process.

Frank Cumberland
FORL Note-taker

