

Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) Community Meeting

24 October 2018

Laurel Ridge Elementary

FORL Group Attending: Paul Gross, Sarah Lennon, Tony Vellucci, Mary Boyer, Greg Sykes, Suzanne Doherty, Andy Karp, Shelly Tucker, Frank Cumberland. Presidents of KPWCA (Jeanmarie) and Lakepointe HOA (Chris) attending also, as well as members of community.

Notes:

1. Paul provided history and background on FORL and our meetings with key officials, as well as our accomplishments to date.
2. Greg noted that portions of Shane's Creek will receive a spot restoration but the entire length of the stream will not be restored.
3. Approximately 35 people volunteered to help in our fall Royal Lake clean-up effort on 20 October. Thanks to everyone.
4. Poles with connecting ropes will be put in soon in our "steps" areas on the trail, to help those that need help climbing/descending the stairs.
5. Good discussion on planting of new trees in area between basketball court and baseball field (could be 6 trees or more), and replacement of trees that died in playground area.
6. Junipers might be removed as early as November.
7. Plants are a better option for keeping soccer balls out of the lake, than a fence. Strong community sentiment against a fence.
8. Shelly has completed a comprehensive 60-item spreadsheet of potential park/trail projects, and Paul summarized them in his 4-page handout, "Royal Lake Proposed Upgrades and Enhancements."
9. Paul noted natural walking trails are preferred in community; a community member strongly supported this point. People do not want paving or trees removed. Bikes are not to be prohibited from our parks, except in areas where it would be dangerous to ride them.
10. The lake circuit trail is the number one priority area for FORL improvements (working with FCPA of course.) The trail from Roberts to the lake is a high priority in order to make the trail walkable. There was a discussion of the trail from Lakepointe HOA to the lake circuit trail and that a switchback with split rail fencing and shrubbery may be needed and it may need to be paved. Tony recommended folks look at the switchback put in at Lake Accotink Park at the end of Danbury Forest to get an idea of what a possible switchback could look like at Royal Lake.
11. Paul welcomed input from volunteers who might suggest best placement for new benches. There was discussion of how we could apply for Mastenbrook Grant money as a mechanism to reduce the cost of capital improvements—potentially reducing the price of benches from \$2500 to \$1250.

12. In discussion, Paul pointed out that there are items on the handout that could be done in the short term with volunteer support, and others that require major County support which could take years.
13. There was strong support for the large pavers the County will put in the wet area “near Rabbit Branch Bridge.” This effort has the potential for a tremendous improvement in the walkability of the trail.
14. The Rabbit Branch Bridge is the number one priority for bridge replacement. The other bridges noted in the handout may actually be replaced with culverts.
15. In discussion, Tony noted that grilling areas can be reserved through the County. To reserve an area, a group of 20 people is required.
16. In discussion, Shelly suggest we could present our top 4 or 5 priorities for capital improvement or maintenance, then survey the community to get a sense for their preferred order for the projects.
17. Paul noted it could be a dogfight to get the FCPA to agree to trash traps, but he’s going to fight the battle.
 - a. Background from Tony: Trash traps, since they sit in the stream, are the domain of DPWES and not FCPA. DPWES is reluctant to install them for fear that they may eventually have to maintain them. The solution to that will be a Memorandum of Agreement between either FORL or KPWCA Parks & Lake (40+ year history of park support) that outlines roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders.
18. Paul and the FORL are seeking more trash cans, as too many were removed in recent years.
19. We discussed way-finder signs, closed-at-sunset signs, and signs to increase outreach to new volunteers.
20. There was discussion of a Boy Scout Liaison position to FORL. Offline, Frank told Paul that Mike Stonkey has taken over the Vice President/KPWCA position, and that Mike is a Scout leader, and might consider the FORL liaison role.
21. A number of creative ways to attract more volunteers were discussed, including more FORL articles in the KPWCA newsletter, a potential web presence—as well as Facebook, and the use of use of compelling photographs of the lake/park to encourage people to join the FORL team.
22. We discussed moving to quarterly FORL community meetings.
23. We recognized two award-winning FORL members: Sarah Lennon, selected for a Best of Braddock Award; and Mary Anne Boyer, selected for an Elly Doyle Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Frank Cumberland
FORL Note-taker