

QUARTERLY REPORT (REVISED)
of the Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee
McLean Citizens Association
April 19, 2006

The Environment, Parks and Recreation (E,P&R) Committee of McLean Citizens Association has been busy as usual during the first three months of 2006. Several new, very productive committee members have added to our effectiveness in enhancing the way McLean citizens enjoy the environment and their leisure time.

Early in January the committee developed three important resolutions regarding the proposed amendments to the Public Facilities Manual that were approved by the MCA Board. All three were forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors, The Planning Commission, the Engineering Standards Review Committee, and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. One resolution supported the proposal to revise the requirements for adequate outfall of stormwater from development sites. The second resolution supported Option 1, whereby the divide between major watersheds may be crossed so long as the drainage area of either watershed is not changed. The third supported the proposal calling for notification of adjacent and downstream property owners and any affected homeowners association (HOA) at an early stage of site planning in order to provide the opportunity for comments.

Several members have been concerned about the overall condition of McLean Central Park (MCP), particularly the network of walking trails, bridges and bikeways that provide an important link between the residential communities west of the park and the McLean central business district east of the park. This network, once extensively used by walkers, joggers, and bike riders, is in serious disrepair. As a result, use of the network has dropped dramatically. The committee drafted a resolution that was unanimously approved by the MCA Board and submitted it to the Fairfax County park Authority (FCPA). An important feature of the resolution was the offer of a commitment by committee members to work closely with the FCPA staff to develop a workable plan to refurbish all of the walking trails, bridges and bikeways in the park. Accordingly, the co-chairs submitted an e-mail highlighting the offer to Michael Kane, the FCPA Director, and to Kevin Fay, the Dranesville representative on the FCPA Board.

The committee developed two additional draft resolutions that were placed on "hold" status pending the outcome of various factors. One resolution addresses specific actions required by the FCPA to provide public access to a critical segment of the Pimmit Run Trail. The most important action is to coordinate plans with the HOA whose members' property adjoins the trail.

The remaining draft resolution on hold status involves a multi-year noise compatibility study, the Part 150 Noise Study completed for the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. It was coordinated by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments through a committee consisting of local government representatives, airline and business groups, and citizens. The study contains recommendations to implement changes in flight routes and operational procedures to reduce aircraft noise, the most important being the recommendation to implement advanced navigation procedures based on waypoints for use with GPS navigation technology for aircraft arrivals and departures. This will enable pilots to follow flight paths along the center of the Potomac River, regardless of

weather conditions. When the FAA lists the Study in the Federal Register inviting comments on the proposed recommendations during a 180-day period, the resolution will be finalized and submitted to the MCA Board.

Our March meeting was a highlight and was attended by many guests. We had invited Kevin Fay, the Dranesville member of the FCPA Board, to address the committee and discuss Park Authority initiatives, plans and any other matter that would be of interest to our members. For almost two hours we had a most informative, worthwhile, and cordial exchange with Mr. Fay on many different subjects. The committee acknowledged Mr. Fay's key role in the FCPA acquisition of the Salona property, and we expressed our appreciation on behalf of MCA and the entire McLean Community. We gained valuable insights into many of the concerns and issues of our members regarding FCPA plans, policies, and initiatives. Mr. Fay stated that the meeting was mutually rewarding and beneficial, and he agreed to meet with the committee frequently in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Crandall and Paul Wieland
Co-Chairs, Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee