



Founded 1999

Chevy Chase, DC Neighborhood Park Groups Merge

Sept. 18, 2017 -- The boards of the Friends of Lafayette Park, est. 1999 (FOLP), and the Friends of Lafayette Recreation Center and Park, est. 2016 (FoLRAP), voted today to merge the two non-profit community organizations. The newly merged group invites the engagement and support of all who are interested as it works to enhance, improve and maintain Lafayette Park and Recreation Center in Chevy Chase, DC.

“The missions of both our groups were the same – to work with the city to enhance Lafayette Park for the benefit of the whole community, the city, all ages, and anyone visiting the Park,” said Jeff Stoiber, president of the FOLP, and Elizabeth Engel, president of the FoLRAP, in a joint statement. “We believe this merger is a great opportunity to improve and foster strong relationships in our local community and unite to serve this important neighborhood asset.”

The joint organization will operate under the name Friends of Lafayette Park (FOLP). Stoiber and Engel will become co-presidents of the FOLP and combine the boards and supporters for an efficient and strong approach to improvements and maintenance of Lafayette Park and Recreation Center.

With the Park sitting at the center of the Chevy Chase, DC neighborhood and adjacent to Lafayette Elementary School, it is an integral hub for the community, and its beautiful gardens, fun play spaces, and open fields provide a unique setting for neighbors of all ages to enjoy.

Accordingly, the ongoing goals of the newly united FOLP group include:

- Working with the community and city officials to address any community concerns, suggestions or questions for the Park;
- Alerting city officials to maintenance and other issues in the Park and at the Recreation Center;
- Maintaining the perimeter gardens (on 33rd Street, Quesada Street and Broad Branch Road) and other gardens in the Park;
- Supplementing financial resources for the Park when the city funding is insufficient;
- Coordinating with Casey Trees to plant young trees as needed;
- Hosting community meetings to share and gather Park-related information;
- Continuing to organize friends and neighborhood volunteers for the bi-annual Park Clean-up Days as well as other fun community activities;
- Establishing the status as a Park partner of the city.

FOLP welcomes all neighbors and friends. The FOLP will continue to work together with the community and city officials to help maintain the gardens, landscaping as well as promote and participate in activities and programs in the Park. The FOLP is a 501(c)3 organization that relies solely on volunteer efforts and tax-deductible donations.

To become an FOLP supporter, or to continue your generous support, click here

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=4JjNnxQCksdzbhIR25cFM43dvCfr_e2AkJV6vgCW9ni5AKT8GVSsiUQ1YE4ZPtm8Lft_Km&country.x=US&locale.x=US

For further information about this newly merged FOLP group, please contact Jeff Stoiber, <http://thefolp.org/contact-us> and/or Elizabeth Engel, friendsoflrap@gmail.com. Or go to www.thefolp.org and <http://www.greenspaces4dc.org/the-friends-of-lafayette-recreation-and-park-folrap/>