



Founded 1999

**Minutes
Of the Friends of Lafayette Park
January 29, 2018**

This was a community meeting held at the Chevy Chase Community Center, Connecticut Ave.

Purpose was to discuss a number of issues affecting Lafayette Park.

FOLP Board Members Attending: Co-President Elizabeth Engel, Patty Myler, Keith Jones, Dennis Smyth, Tad Stewart, Laura Phinizy, Judy Goodman and Paul Rosenbaum.

Other attendees from the community included: Nancy Slade, Andrea Rosen, Lanny Moldauer, Catherine Dunlop, Cliff Notarius, (another tennis pro, and friend of Paul Rosenbaum), Cynthia Hamilton and ANC commissioner Rebecca Maydak.

Attendees were asked for their comments and feedback regarding several serious issues concerning the park. The following issues were raised and discussed:

1. Daytime car break-ins. A recent spate of break-ins of cars and contractor vans parked along the park.
2. Continued erosion problem, exacerbated by the compaction of the upper field after intense daily use by students during school recess.
3. Teenagers playing with and moving around the traffic cones at 33rd and Patterson streets creating a driving hazard, and hanging out in park after dark when the park is closed. Discussed the need to bring these issues to the attention of the DC Metropolitan Police for assistance.
4. Eliminating cars and trucks driving into park. Bollards are not effective in stopping vehicles, and in particular the city DPR/DGS vehicles are violating the restrictions on no vehicles allowed in the park. This is a serious safety concern with children and others playing in or using the park.
5. Concern about the negative impact of a city-planned larger Rec Center to replace the existing rec center – particularly the impact on the park and the community at large, particularly with increased traffic and parking, and extended hours of the

park being open. There were calls for the city to implement a more efficient permitting system, similar to Montgomery County's ICB permitting, to facilitate use of school and park property.

6. Trees - need for the replacement of canopy trees, and not by merely planting small trees.
7. Park lighting – using Lighting Task Force guidelines. There was an extensive debate and numerous comments as to whether the park should be lit at night at all, given that the park closes at dusk. Most at the meeting were in favor of minimal low-level lighting in the park for safety reasons.
8. Tennis courts and basketball court lighting. It was noted that the lights as proposed by one citizen would be 60-90 times brighter than streetlights; they would be in close proximity to homes near the park; that there's a lack of demand for winter use of the tennis courts; the likely disruption to traffic and parking; and the extending of park hours. The attendees overwhelmingly voted against tennis court lighting.

Resolution: The FOLP passed resolution, given the strong opposition voiced at the meeting, that the FOLP opposes installing lighting on the tennis courts and basketball court, other than ambient park lighting in accordance with Lighting Task Force guidelines.