

June 25, 2018

Dear Director Anderson,

We are writing you on behalf of the Friends of Lafayette Park, an organization that has been working with the City since 1999 on behalf of the Lafayette Recreation Center and the surrounding park and recreation facilities in Northwest Washington D.C. DPR carries this facility on its rolls as "Lafayette Recreation Center." There has been much discussion over the past two years about the renovation of the Recreation Center building itself. Our Board and the larger organization have met with neighbors and community members to listen and discuss opinions and ideas about this welcome development. An initial community meeting hosted by your team and the project architects has occurred, and as this process seems to be moving forward, The Friends of Lafayette Park and our Board wish to inform you of our position on several matters pertaining to the renovation of the building and related issues bearing on the environment immediately surrounding the building.

The Friends of Lafayette Park are happy that the existing building is set to be renovated. As a result of our community and Board meetings, the following list of issues, ideas, and concerns were established as a serious priority to our group and community at large:

- 1) the significant erosion and runoff problem must be corrected and any building plan must consider further remediation measures to ensure the structural integrity of the new construction and mitigate further negative environmental impact;
- 2) an increase in square footage of existing rec building, if any, should be small and not increase the amount of impervious surface in the Park;
- 3) no recreation lighting that allows nighttime activity in the park;
- 4) lighting in the Park that follows the Lighting Taskforce guidelines and the Lafayette School renovation lighting design plan; and,
- 5) removal of the old (and no longer needed) service road that cuts across the park onto school grounds.

The city has invested heavily to reduce runoff; and, even after spending millions on Play DC renovations and School construction, gravel and debris are washed across the park and playing field onto our streets and into our gutters. Recent investment in landscaping and grass has been utterly destroyed. Much of the surface of the park is nothing but compacted mud. At the request of our ANC, in March of this year the DC Department of Energy and Environment completed a study to document the problem and identify potential solutions. That study is also attached. Before any funding is put to new buildings, the erosion and runoff problem must be corrected and any building plan must consider further remediation measures to ensure that tons of mud millions of gallons of water don't end up in our storm sewers.

The bathrooms in particular are in need of replacement. We are concerned, however, that the existing footprint not be greatly expanded. Many of us have seen plans calling for a building of over 4000 square feet. This is too large for this park area, particularly given the recent growth in the footprint of the adjacent Lafayette Elementary School. We can support a small increase in square footage, provided that it does not increase the amount of impervious surface in the Park.

Another issue that arises when any work at the park is contemplated is lighting for the tennis courts. At our most recent general meeting, we passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority opposing any lighting of the courts or the blacktop area around the Rec Center. Our neighborhood has a lighting task force that established guidelines for lighting for the Play DC project and which the Lafayette Elementary School renovation followed. We would like the Rec Center renovation adhere to those guidelines as well. A copy of those guidelines is included with this letter.

Before the School renovation, road access to the school through the park was necessary for delivery of food and other large items to the school. The School renovation has eliminated that requirement and the Friends of Lafayette Park would like the road removed. City vehicles and private cars alike remove or drive around the bollards to access the Recreation Center, the upper playground or thinking the road leads somewhere other than the back of the school. Cars and trucks driving at the same time children scooter and play is a huge hazard and the school renovation alleviates then need for the road at all.

Thank you for your time and attention to our Recreation Center and Park. The Friends of Lafayette Park look forward to working with you and your team to make a great place even better.

Sincerely,

Jeff Stoiber
Co-President
Friends of Lafayette Park

Elizabeth Engel
Co-President
Friends of Lafayette Park

Attachments:

- 1) ANC 3/4G Lighting Task Force Guidelines
- 2) March 22, 2018 DC Department of Energy and Environment "Stormwater Runoff Assessment for Lafayette Recreation Center"
- 3) Supplement to DOEE Assessment
- 4) Supplement to DOEE Assessment