

## **Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes of the May 12, 2004 meeting, Mickie Gordon Conference Room Parks, Recreation and Community Services Building 215 Depot Court, S.E., Leesburg, Virginia**

Members Present: Chairman Helen Casey, Benjamin Lawrence, Bill Hudspeth

Members Absent: Joan G. Rokus, Vice Chairman; Steven Combs-Lafleur, Fred McIntosh (gave Ben Lawrence his proxy), Kurt Erikson

County Staff Present: Marie Genovese, Planner, Planning Department  
Mark Novak, Park Planner, PRCS  
Janet Klein, Recording Secretary, PRCS

#### Chairman's Business

Chairman Helen Casey called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ben Lawrence announced that he had Fred McIntosh's proxy. Helen introduced herself and Janet Klein and then other attendees introduced themselves in turn.

Christine Gleckner reported that Goose Creek Village South is now under review by the Planning Commission and the North Village application will be reviewed in July. Helen said she had heard from her planning commissioner that there were some problems— maybe having to do with the easement Virginia Outdoors Foundation has and the possibility of canoe launches, people going in there who aren't residents, etc. Helen thought Christine could touch on some of those points. Helen stated that she did tell her commissioner that now that it belongs to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation we can't tell them what to do with the property. Helen stated that she would like to know what the plans are for the canoe launch.

#### Goose Creek Village South

Helen turned the meeting over to Sally Gillette from Walsh Colucci for a short presentation on Goose Creek Village South. Sally distributed some plats showing the two parcels that compose Goose Creek Village South and then in detail the residential land base in the South Village.

They had proposed 114 townhouses, with more perimeter open space but less green space at the interior of the property. Sally stated the following change regarding the open space easement since they last spoke to this Committee: They have taken out of the plan the horizontal trail they had proposed across the open space easement from Sycolin Road to the Creek. Neighbors feared that kind of access to the Creek wasn't beneficial to the community – that it would attract a lot of members of the public who would use the open space as a park. After negotiations with the County, they've agreed to dedicate that 3.6 acre open space to the county, and in order to discourage use of that open space as an active park, they've agreed to put a standard VDOT farm fence along Sycolin Road and along the property line that they share with their neighbors to the south.

Changes regarding the residential land:

- They have redesigned some central focal points on green space
- Proposed 14 fewer units
- Increased landscaping.

She stated that they are giving a lot of thought to stormwater management and showed on the map the location of a stormwater retention pond and the grass swales that follow along the perimeters of each of their property boundaries. The stormwater will flow through a drain under the road that will

access another dry pond located on the open space. Sally announced that those were the changes they have made.

The open space will be dedicated to the County. Helen asked if the County plans to put in a lineal park. Sally said that right now the plan is to keep a natural surface trail running parallel to the Creek causing minimal disturbance to wildlife and throughout the entire area. Sally indicated where the fence would run along Sycolin Road and along the property line. They have met with Parks, Recreation and Community Services and they are interested in the trail as a passive park site. There would be no activities allowed; no clearing you could walk along; no access off the road and no access through the neighbor's property. Ben asked about drainage. Sally stated that there is an existing pond there from when the Greenway was constructed and Sycolin Road was relocated.

#### Committee Business

Helen announced that the next meeting will be July 14, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lovettsville Room on the 1st floor of the Loudoun County Government Center, at which time the Committee will elect new officers. Helen asked everyone to be thinking of people to nominate. Ben Lawrence was appointed as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. He will submit names to Helen before the next meeting. Helen asked if there were any changes to the minutes of March 14, 2004. There being no changes, Ben Lawrence moved to accept the minutes as written. Bill Hudspeth seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Helen announced that our Committee will be hosting the Virginia State Scenic River Advisory Board in September. Our group and the James River group are the only ones left of the original scenic river groups. Many of them never bothered to meet so they just fell away. The meeting will be a Thursday in September but we don't have the exact date yet. Hobie Mitchell has reserved space for us at Lansdowne. Helen does plan to ask Hobie to speak. The tentative plans are to start the meeting about 10:00 a.m. She asked Mark Novak to put together a PowerPoint presentation (10 minutes or so). Helen stated that while we won't have time for a walking tour, she has planned a riding tour and plans to show them Cotton Bridge. Northern Virginia Regional Transit will provide buses and drivers. Helen has arranged for Luck Stone to make a short presentation at their plant.

Ben Lawrence suggested inviting all the mayors and the press and offered to take care of that. Julia Claypool suggested inviting the Board of Supervisors. Mark Novak suggested involving Fairfax City because the Beaverdam Reservoir is their facility.

After Helen informed the Committee that the state Board would be in charge of the meeting and come with their own agenda, Julia suggested that we respectfully suggest that they allow our Committee to serve as Facilitator. We would then control the agenda and the meeting, giving them some time to conduct their business. Helen will try to get some direction from Dick when she meets with him and Lynn Crump. Ben Lawrence asked Helen to find out about costs for lunch and how many people we expect. It was suggested that we could make arrangements for them to stay overnight the night before. Bill and Ben will try to arrange a meeting with Helen, Dick, and Lynn Crump.

There being no further business of the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Guests Present: Bryan Condie, Christopher Consultants  
Steve Plescow, Centex Homes  
Christine Gleckner, Walsh Colucci  
Sally Gillette, Walsh Colucci  
Allan McKelvie, property owner, Goose Creek Village South  
Julia Claypool, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

Respectfully submitted,

Janet G. Klein