

Note: This resolution was passed without dissent at the November 16, 2006 membership meeting of the College Gardens Civic Association.

Resolution of Support to Sign the College Gardens Task Force Letter

The following resolution is presented at this November 16, 2006 College Gardens Civic Association meeting, by Mark Pierzchala, president of the CGCA.

“Be it resolved that the College Gardens Civic Association membership gives its approval to Mark Pierzchala, in his capacity as President of the Association, to sign the letter from the College Gardens Task Force to the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville. The text of this letter was published in the CGCA newsletter of November 11, 2006.”

The other associations and City staff have already approved the text of the following letter, and so revision of the text is not possible. The City has made a commitment to come back to the community if, for any reason, it is necessary to deviate in any large way from the plans presented on September 21. The City has made a commitment to keep the community involved as choices in park design are made. The City has demonstrated that they are aware of, and take seriously, all community opinions about the safety, appearance, and features of the redesigned park.

The signature list reflects the diversity of stakeholders that came up with the proposal. Several signatures were added since the November 11 newsletter at my suggestion. A few technical corrections were also made to the letter concerning names and a date.

Text of Letter to Mayor and Council, and Signature List

Dear Mayor and Council

We are writing to you to express our enthusiastic support of the proposed design of the College Gardens Park stormwater pond and park redesign.

On December 12 of 2005, you asked that the College Gardens neighbors and staff work together to find a “workable park and stormwater management pond concept.” In response to that directive, the College Gardens Task Force was formed. The Task Force is made up of residents from the College Gardens Civic Association, Plymouth Woods Condominium, Inc., the Recreation and Park Advisory Board, the Commission on the Environment and City staff.

Together we have exhaustively investigated stormwater management options. As a group we have come to the conclusion that stormwater management should be constructed within College Gardens Park. An essential component of what we consider to be a workable stormwater management solution is the updating and redesigning of College Gardens Park. The proposed stormwater management pond is shaped much differently than the existing pond, making it necessary to adjust the layout and design of the park to

accommodate both the pond and recreation space. Additionally, College Gardens Park is ready for an update.

Highlights of our work as a Task Force were: a site visit to look at possible pond locations, a survey of neighbors to determine their priorities for updated park amenities, and a September 21 public meeting to show neighbors the recommended design. The Task Force itself met on seven occasions over the past twelve months. We were very pleased by the reaction of our neighbors at the September 21 public meeting. More than eighty people came to see the design and the majority of them liked what they saw.

It is with the full knowledge of the groups we represent that we offer our support for the design recommendations presented to you on December 18, 2006. We also believe our job is not done. We will be involved in the process to determine final design, including design elements and safety features, and will continue to keep our respective groups informed.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Mark Pierzchala
President, College Gardens Civic Association

Gerry Cashin
President, Board of Directors,
Plymouth Woods Condominiums,
Inc.

Kate Savage
Chair, Rockville Parks Board

Gerry Leighton
Member, Rockville Commission on
the Environment

Paul O'Brien
Watts Branch Task Force

Marylou Berg
Assistant to the City Manager

Burt Hall
Director, Recreation and Parks

Craig Simoneau
Director, Department of Public
Works