

Re: Testimony for February 9th Meeting Norwood Local Park Dog Park Funding Urban Park Elements (P871540)

February 9, 2022

My name is Stacey Band and I'm a mother of 2 young children with a background in Education. My family resides in a building that is home to 37 units and backs up directly to Norwood Park. In our building alone, 70% of the children are 6 and younger and the Toddler (Tot) Playground is designated to be the developmentally appropriate space for them to learn and play. In comparison, of the 12 dogs in the building only 1 would use the proposed Dog Park.

The area South of Bradley and just North of Norwood Local Park contains apartments, townhomes, and condo units; totaling 840*, all within 2 blocks walking distance of Norwood Park, half of which (401** units) are mainly "naturally occurring affordable housing" apartments for rent; purchased by the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) in May 2021. Thousands of residents with children who reside in rental properties and buildings without yards for their children to play in and safely explore depend on Norwood Park.

* 840 refers to units bound by Bradley Boulevard, Chevy Chase Drive, Wisconsin Avenue, and Hillandale Road.

** Only refers to former Aldon-owned units South of Bradley, does not include units on the North Side of Bradley. This is in addition to 126 additional units positioned just North of Bradley.

We support the CIP budget's recommended two-year delay in funding for a dog park in Norwood Local Park. The reasons for this support are as follows:

- Given the current demands on the county budget, it makes fiscal sense to research options before committing to development of a dog park when there are so many more important needs in the County at this time.
- The Parks Department did not follow their own internal parameters for developing plans for the dog park, ignoring its own guidelines on noise, distance from playgrounds, and distance from residences.
- The Parks Department never did any analysis of a dog park's impact upon the current users of Norwood Park. Nor did they do any acoustical or noise studies to determine the impact of the noise on the neighborhood.
- Any urban dog park should be centrally located to downtown Bethesda. Site studies and data from pop-up dog parks should be used to determine the best location; alternate locations have been suggested and are in consideration by developers.
- The current placement plan for the dog park is not supported by the community, as evidenced by the Park Department's own internal surveys, letters from the public, and the overwhelming negative testimony before the Planning Board in May 2021.

We thank you for your attention.

Meigs Ranney
Dean Collins
Barbara Tyran
Megan Meyer

Mary Cahill
Cynthia Yothers
Martha Chase
Fran Zamore
Huong Mills
Stephany Chaconas
Marijo Wright
Brian Allen
Adela Kalibova
Jan Kaliba
Barbara Butera
Garry Tyran
Melanie Schwabe
Larry Blaskopf
Tim Mills
Kathy Carey
Diana Tolstyga
Lynn Balzer-Martin

Stacey Band
Ryan Band
Aline Maluhy
João Vicente Campos
Miriam Simon
Aaron Simon
David Grubman
Jenna Grubman
Eliza Prince
Debrah Shaver
Rob Shaver
Becky Boyd
Kathryn Henderson
Retha Bellamy
Erin Reitkopp
Sally Maloney
Gloria Malkin
Paul Foley