

Willard Avenue Dog Park Community Meeting

Below are the transcripts from the Q&A hosted via Zoom on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM.

Robert Pestronk 7:03 PM

Please enlarge introductory slide

5327 Willard ave 7:03 PM

I'm concerned you haven't thought about the residents on Willard ave. This house is directly across the street from us. The noise and parking problems among other things are a major concern for me

Robert Pestronk 7:03 PM

That is perfect. Thanks!

nicksilverman 7:05 PM

How do we make this happen faster? This is a great idea that the community would like ASAP.

Robert Pestronk 7:06 PM

I will have questions/comments I would like to make during Q & A. Thanks.

Manisha 7:09 PM

how is it that you got an endorsement from our association in march when the residents most affected only found out 3 weeks ago?

Anonymous Attendee 7:09 PM

Please stop rocking back and forth

5327 Willard ave 7:12 PM

The brookdale citizens association did not ask its residents whether they support this. We implore you to consider the immediate neighbors

Anonymous Attendee 7:13 PM

You collected letters/motions from neighborhood associations in March, so why didn't you engage with immediate neighbors until July 1 about a July 20 meeting in the middle of summer when people are out of town (and one day after county primary happened) It seems perhaps you wanted to avoid what happened at Norwood, when immediate neighbors rose up in opposition, something which hasn't been mentioned yet?

Ralph Wooden 7:13 PM

I live adjacent to the park and never heard about this until i received a third-party notice.

Blair Fishburn 7:15 PM

This space at the 5320 Willard Ave location is very small for a reasonably sized dog park. There is definitely insufficient parking in the vicinity. Willard Ave Park as it exists does not need a dog park to satisfy the local neighborhood demand.

Stephen Lane 7:17 PM

How do I sign up to offer comments?

Blair Fishburn 7:18 PM

And I should add I am a dog owner who lives at 4701 Willard, Willard Towers.

Joanna Foellmer 7:20 PM

I thought we were going to discuss how the residents of Willard Avenue felt about the dog park. We would like to voice our objections and why we have issues with the proposed dog park.

nicksilverman 7:20 PM

If we want to voice support, who should we contact? Who is the decision-maker or person interested in input from the community?

Blair Fishburn 7:22 PM

Why is demolishing the Reynolds House, which has historical significance, a "goal" of the project?

Anonymous Attendee 7:23 PM

the suitability study references "residential proximity" of "not directly adjacent to residences (ideal distance is 200' or more). How does that mesh with the adjacent home at 5326 Willard?

Robert Pestronk 7:25 PM

Shrink the screen please Can't see all of slide

Anonymous Attendee 7:25 PM

the end of the comment period is Sept. 30, which I believe is end of fiscal year? Does this need to be approved by then to use already appropriated funds?

Blair Fishburn 7:26 PM

Please tell us more about the water runoff pool area. Is that basically a cesspool for dog waste runoff? It will concentrate dog waste odors that currently do not exist.

Anonymous Attendee 7:26 PM

As a long time dog owner in multiple states, people prefer to sit inside the dog area in case of any emergencies or other matters.

Stephen Lane 7:26 PM

Must I sign up there to speak tonight?

leniberliner 7:27 PM

Will the surface be chosen for its impact on drainage?

Robert Pestronk 7:27 PM

Can't see entire slide

Blair Fishburn 7:30 PM

Please explain the decision process timeline and schedule for approval of the proposed dog park. Specifically, when will an in person town meeting/hearing be scheduled?

Anonymous Attendee 7:33 PM

I am not sure if the extra entrance to the park (from Willard Ave.) is necessary. Perhaps making the new corner lot be a discovery nature trail for younger children.

Would it make sense to allow dogs and owners have access to the dog part from within the park. This might ease the concern of the homeowners on Willard that all dogs will be accessing the dog park ONLY from Willard.

Thanks

Blair Fishburn 7:33 PM

A "public meeting" held on Zoom is not a substitute for an in person public meeting.

Robert Pestronk 7:35 PM

Will those with questions be oral?

Behnaz 6677 7:35 PM

a dog park on Norwood park was suggested which was recently stopped by the neighborhood opposition for the reasons of lack of parking, close proximity to residential area, ... The similar situation or even worst exist for Willard Ave. why are you thinking dog park as opposed to other amenities works in Willard Ave?

clara lovett 7:35 PM

Few parking spaces available. Are you assuming that all or most users will walk to the park? What about dog owners in the Norwood Park vicinity? Will they drive to Willard Avenue?

nicksilverman 7:35 PM

If houses are across the street, then they can deal with the minor inconvenience of a dog park. It means more for the rest of us than that tiny inconvenience.

Tom Olson 7:36 PM

I love your plan. Do a handful of objections mean you can't build a park?

Wendy Smith 7:36 PM

Thank you so much!! This is a great project! We and our dog are so happy that you are doing this!!

Robert Pestronk 7:36 PM

The funds were designed for Norwood.

Fredric Knauer 7:36 PM

Who will maintain the park? There is a problem with litter in the park now. The Little Falls Creek Alliance does sponsor occasional volunteer cleanups, but there is more needed.

Robert Pestronk 7:36 PM

How many people contacted you about wanting a park?

Michael Lav 7:36 PM

This is a thoughtfully prepared project which will greatly enhance the neighborhood. I fully support the proposed project.

Anonymous Attendee 7:36 PM

A clarification - The Brookdale Citizens' Association did not get input from the residents before submitting a letter of support.

Robert Pestronk 7:37 PM

Current park is quiet. Won't removing houses make it noisier?

Melanie White, Village of Friendship Heights 7:37 PM

Are the water fountains and hose hook-up a year-around feature? Is it possible to expand the hose area to make a dog-washing station?

Anonymous Attendee 7:37 PM

Are you aware that the letter from the Board of the Brookdale neighborhood association only reflects the feeling of the Board and that no one else, including the Willard street residents, were contacted or aware of your consultations?

Robert Pestronk 7:38 PM

Doesn't present home have historical value?

Stephen Lane 7:38 PM

I would like to comment on the sale of the Reynolds house.

Anonymous Attendee 7:38 PM

How is the dog park "policed" with regards to dogs misbehaving or barking persistently?

Manuel Ochoa 7:38 PM

I know there are some very active comments so you should give them a few minutes. We had an hour and a half community meeting on Monday night with 40 attendees.

nicksilverman 7:38 PM

A dog park keeps dogs off of the street and neighborhood yards. A dog park socializes dogs so they are not aggressive. It is in everyone's best interests to have a dog park in the neighborhood.

Anonymous Attendee 7:39 PM

Dog park is a good idea; but we need to recognize that it will change the nature of this little park. It is now contemplative, even with the basketball court, and offers great views of nature and homes nestled in the trees. Not unique, just unusual.

Manisha 7:39 PM

I was told we would be able to speak on video.

Robert Pestronk 7:39 PM

Isn't the other area outside the flood plain across from the parking lot. Why not place dog park there?

Juan Jose Miranda 7:39 PM

In the beginning, in one of the first slides, other amenities show statistical similarities to a dog park (differences are tiny). Why not consider other needed amenities rather than a dog park? Is it possible to consider other options - which are clearly needed as well? Also, Willard neighborhood park is one of the smallest, which means that the sports area (basketball) and kids playground are closer to the potential dog park, than other parks...

leniberliner 7:39 PM

Willard Towers residents were NOT informed. We have enough dogs! Why can't you leave some green for the people??

nicksilverman 7:39 PM

The local neighborhood has a tremendous demand for a dog park. We are currently forced to mis-use local school parks because it is our only option.

Anonymous Attendee 7:39 PM

Speaking casually about "removal" of the Reynolds House to make way for the dog park dismisses the loss of a historically significant without full disclosure.

Michael Lav 7:40 PM

Adding to my previous comment, I know of a strong demand for a dog park from me and my neighbors at 4701 Willard.

Robert Pestronk 7:40 PM

Why not conduct a study of the entire green corridor from Wisconsin to River Road to determine best use of existing space?

Manuel Ochoa 7:40 PM

Also Brookdale Citizen Association president, Dick Podolske, wrote a letter and got blowback from the community. We are split on the issue and are likely to send a follow-up letter to summarize concerns.

Anonymous Attendee 7:40 PM

Many dog owners in the area; very few owners bother to walk the short distance from Somerset or FH Village with their dogs ... easier to walk them close to their apartment buildings?

Melanie White, Village of Friendship Heights 7:40 PM

Thank you for including benches and seating areas. We have seen a HUGE increase in the number of dogs in the Village. Lots of our seniors may not want to own a dog, but would very much enjoy sitting and watching them play. As Mayor of the Village and immediate past-chair of the CCCFH, I thank you for moving forward with plans for a dog park. I think it will be a very popular amenity with the residents of Friendship Heights and surrounding communities.

Anonymous Attendee 7:40 PM

The Newark Street Dog park is about two miles away in Washington, DC. Did you consider the location of that park in your proposal?

Anonymous Attendee 7:41 PM

"Opening up access" to the park by removal of trees and the Reynolds house is harmful to the serenity of the park.

nicksilverman 7:41 PM

There is also SUBSTANTIAL demand from dog owners on the other side of River Road who would use the dog park but would not require parking.

Whitney Fishburn 7:41 PM

How would you manage the popularity with DC residents who will absolutely come to this park because it is so close to the border line. it's a good idea in theory and I would use it as a dog owner, but the stress on the creek and the greenway is already great...are you planning an enviro assessment study?

Anonymous Attendee 7:41 PM

How often will the park be maintained (meaning, how often will that garbage can of dog excrement be emptied) and who is going to enforce the rules of the park, like excessive barking?

Robert Pestronk 7:41 PM

Don't over 100 residential apartments at 4701 Willard overlook the park and will have to listen to barking dogs?

Manuel Ochoa 7:41 PM

Dick has a brief statement. PS - I live at 5329 Willard and I am on the board of Brookdale. The late notification of Willard Avenue residents created a lot of blowback.

sandra youla 7:41 PM

How did you contact adjacent highrise tenants -- 4701 Willard Ave (Willard Towers), which has 525 apartments, with about 105 apts in western western half of bldg that facing front and west toward park. Tenants in those apartment could be greatly affected.

Willard Ave 7:41 PM

Did you consider any other park redevelopment options that would benefit the broader community and not just dog owners?

dawn calabia 7:42 PM

Can you move facility to create buffer of noise to residences

Joanna Foellmer 7:42 PM

Where is the parking spaces she mentioned. Parking IS AN ISSUE

Behnaz 6677 7:42 PM

how much space is allowed between the dog park and the street and the neighbor house?

Anonymous Attendee 7:42 PM

Creating the dog park will attract other users from beyond the walkable neighborhood, exacerbating the problems of insufficient parking.

Anonymous Attendee 7:42 PM

How can we stop this from happening?

Lorena Cano 7:42 PM

I live at Willard Avenue. Nobody asked us before about the dog park. I have kids and I and my neighbors worry about noise level, increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic, beside dogs barking loud

Al Muller, MD 7:42 PM

There are between 400-500 dogs in the surrounding high rises. Many of our elderly do not have cars. The park is an essential amenity which is needed now more than ever. I have lived in FH for 50 years.

Anonymous Attendee 7:42 PM

what is the approval process from here? why so truncated relative to what proposed for lengthy public feedback and deliberation on Norwood?

5327 Willard ave 7:42 PM

Can you look at other locations instead that aren't immediately next to a house

S Lee 7:42 PM

Is this a done deal? It sounds like it is even though there has but little community input.

Heather Paul 7:43 PM

Please address noise question

5327 Willard ave 7:43 PM

NOBODY was engaged

Stephen Lane 7:43 PM

Can you see what I write here?

nicksilverman 7:43 PM

How many community signatures do you need to assure yourself that the community is in support?
Whoever the whiners are in this chat, they do not represent the rest of us. - Yorktown Rd.

Manisha 7:43 PM

As I was going door to door talking to my neighbors, it is not lost on me that this block of Chevy Chase has more minorities than any other in this area.

Anonymous Attendee 7:43 PM

Can you speak more about the idea for the corner of Willard and River road (right turn) where there is always

heavy car traffic?

Anonymous Attendee 7:43 PM

The expressions of support do NOT represent the collective view of the residents affected.

Manisha 7:43 PM

of the 15 homeowners, 8 are minorities.

dawn calabia 7:43 PM

Is dog park 200'ft from residences if not why not given your Study

Robert Pestronk 7:43 PM

The current park is poorly maintained. I have a picture which illustrates current maintenance of equipment and garbage and dog feces. What budget will there be to demonstrate MoCo can maintain present property?

Tino Calabia 7:43 PM

Council member, is there a dog park across the street from you or very near you? Thanks again and I

Do you live next to a dog park

Anonymous Attendee 7:44 PM

The Board did not even bother contacting the person who lives next door to the proposed park

sandra youla 7:44 PM

Has this house been formally evaluated for its historic and archl significance? Please tell the audience that the dwelling dates to 1898, is oldest on Willard Ave, is one of oldest in area.

Whitney Fishburn 7:44 PM

which community? that is a very controversial statemnt

5327 Willard ave 7:44 PM

Can you go back to the list of suggestions other than dog park

Robert Pestronk 7:44 PM

Wasn't the request to convert the property to a quiet space rather than a dog park?

Manisha 7:44 PM

and we got only 3 weeks notice vs. 8+ months Norwood had.

Anonymous Attendee 7:44 PM

There are at least a dozen residents in strong opposition and by not reading our comments, you're not going to stop us. Please stop presenting this as a one sided situation with full community support.

Lorena Cano 7:44 PM

Is it possible to look for another place for the dog park? Not at Willard?

Ralph Wooden 7:45 PM

You are talking like this is a done deal. You waited until you had all your plans made to inform us, not to solicit input. You presented letters you got in support, but no mention of community associans who do not support it.

5327 Willard ave 7:45 PM

Dog park wasn't the top- can we get some other form of green space instead that the Willard residents are also happy with

This plan will greatly reduce our standard of living for those on the street.

Norman Knopf 7:45 PM

Suggest additional seating area outside of fenced dog area to accommodate numerous seniors that would greatly benefit from benches with BACKS for support / comfort. Shaded seating area provides great socializing possibility while watching dogs.

Bill Oliveri Adjacent Neighbor 7:45 PM

You did not answer the. previous questions about noise. What provisions are you making to not disturb neighbors?

Manisha 7:45 PM

Why are we on a truncated timeline? Just wondering

Anonymous Attendee 7:46 PM

The owner of the home immediately adjacent to where the dog park would be vehemently objects to the plan and is being ignored.

Manuel Ochoa 7:46 PM

Please say more about the noise issue. Some residents believe that dogs will be barking night and day. What has MoCo Parks found in other parks?

Anonymous Attendee 7:46 PM

What about need for community gardens which elderly and families could enjoy in an area with access and visibility not possible in rest of this small park

Joanna Foellmer 7:46 PM

But we are NOT being heard...

5327 Willard ave 7:46 PM

How are you legally allowed to make a dog park this close to a private residence???

Seth Stern 7:46 PM

No reference so far to neighbor's house. I believe the dog park suitability study mentions "residential proximity" as not being "directly adjacent to residences (ideal distance is 200' or more). HOw about the house at 5326 Willard?

Anonymous Attendee 7:46 PM

Can you say something to reassure the neighbors who oppose the dog park?

Manisha 7:47 PM

let us speak.

Lorena Cano 7:47 PM

Willard park is not in good condition, how you will ensure the dog park will stay clean

Anonymous Attendee 7:47 PM

Why do your own 2019 guidelines state that one of your criteria is not to build next to a residence, and yet you are doing so?

Whitney Fishburn 7:47 PM

what about people who will come from DC to use it?

Anonymous Attendee 7:47 PM

The assumption that most user will walk to the dog park are wrong.

Robert Pestronk 7:47 PM

Aren't you railroading this dog park? Haven't you already decided to construct it?

Tino Calabia 7:47 PM

How can we speak now

Manisha 7:48 PM

and the few minorities who object don't matter. that's what you're telling us.

Robert Pestronk 7:48 PM

Why are you only reading positive comments supporting the park?

5327 Willard ave 7:48 PM

The only people happy with this plan are those NOT directly affected (living away from Willard ave).

Joanna Foellmer 7:48 PM

Let us tell you the negatives do not just talk about those who have positive comments.

nicksilverman 7:48 PM

The whiners are vastly outweighed by the rest of us in the community who want a dog park. How do we, as a community, make our support heard?

Ralph Wooden 7:48 PM

When the Reynolds house was aquired by M-NCPPC, there was talk about using it as a center of activities, perhaps an art center. Now you're just calling it a rental house that you will tear down. This house is archetectorally significant. and should not be torn down. You've also seen requests from the community to treasure the house and keep it!

Ralph Wooden 7:52 PM

When the park was first developed we were PROMISED that the basketball court would be a half court for pick-up games. If it's converted to full court, it will be used primarily by teams, and regular people will not be able to play.

Anonymous Attendee 7:49 PM

We have an impacted resident who has a presentation with pictures, please allow him to speak and present. He sent it to you before

Anonymous Attendee 7:49 PM

People prefer to sit inside the dog areas in case of any emergencies (i.e. one dog attacking another) or other issues.

Robert Pestronk 7:49 PM

Village Council sought no public comment on the dog park. Why are you suggesting they did?

Stephen Lane 7:49 PM

Can we offer comments tonight?

dawn calabia 7:50 PM

Will project and other improvements be fully ADA compliant

Juan Jose Miranda 7:50 PM

can my question be answered? thank you!

5327 Willard ave 7:50 PM

I work from home. I love sitting on my porch for meals and to get fresh air for a meeting. I will absolutely not be able to do that. My home is supposed to be my refuge

Anonymous Attendee 7:50 PM

Why is the county insisting on doing this when both veterinarians and dog trainers agree that dog parks are bad for dogs?

Anonymous Attendee 7:51 PM

Creation of the dog park will encourage the high rise buildings in the neighborhood to accept more dogs (not the least reason being the building owners can and do charge more in rent for dog owners), overwhelming the too-small dog park, and exacerbating the noise problem.

Anonymous Attendee 7:51 PM

I know our block has people from many countries: India, Russia, Mexico, Peru, a Muslim country, Philippines, Iran, and more. We have more minorities than white people. Is that why we are getting the park that Norwood rejected? Why don't we have a say?

Anonymous Attendee 7:51 PM

You are not reporting the negative comments, misleading the listening audience.

Tino Calabia 7:52 PM

Does the Councilmember and/or staff dog parks across the street from them

Bill Oliveri Adjacent Neighbor 7:52 PM

Councilman Friedson, this is a shame. The moderator is choosing questions about water fountains and lack of parking... there are lots of neighbors vehemently opposed and he's just answering Palumbo supportive ones

Anonymous Attendee 7:52 PM

Dog trainers say that a dog park is a BAD idea - it untrains dogs, teaches them to disobey their owner because it's more fun to run and play with other dogs, and they are consistently more aggressive when they leave the dog park and when they continually go to the dog park.

Anonymous Attendee 7:52 PM

You are deliberately ignoring many other questions / comments.

Anonymous Attendee 7:52 PM

I think we need to let the public know what you are doing. This is wrong.

Stephen Lane 7:52 PM

I live next door to the park, at 4925 River Road. My family owned that property before the Park bought it. Can I comment on my family connection, and why the Reynolds house should not be torn down?

Joanna Foellmer 7:53 PM

WHEN are you going to address our complaints about the proposed dog park!

Blair Fishburn 7:53 PM

As a dog owner, a local dog park will not alter owner's walking patterns. Dog owners do not bring dogs to a park to do their poop/pee business; they bring them to parks after.

Robert Pestronk 7:53 PM

What is Councilman Friedson's position on the Park?

5327 Willard ave 7:53 PM

Concerned that you aren't letting us voice our concern if you're picking what to discuss

Tom Sinks 7:54 PM

I tuned in late. Will the dog park have double gates for entrance and a large and small dog play area?

Robert Pestronk 7:54 PM

What is County Executive Elrich's position on the park?

Anonymous Attendee 7:54 PM

The Dog Park Is Bad, Actually - The New York Times (nytimes.com)

sandra youla 7:54 PM

A cultural resource is an amenity.

Anonymous Attendee 7:54 PM

The Reynolds house is historically significant. Just saying you own it and have the power to "remove" it is not a reason to destroy it.

Robert Pestronk 7:54 PM

Isn't this the oldest house in Friendship Heights?

Anonymous Attendee 7:55 PM

<https://gothamist.com/news/leptospirosis-dog-deaths-nyc-parks-2022>

Blair Fishburn 7:55 PM

Why would MoCo give up the rental revenue for a project that will just be an ongoing expense?

Anonymous Attendee 7:55 PM

<https://www.cbsnews.com/miami/news/woman-killed-dog-bite-oakland-park/>

Brad Moore 7:55 PM

Without dog parks neighbors let their dogs off leash in the park and neighborhood which is not safe. Our family is in favor of the park!

Anonymous Attendee 7:55 PM

The oldest house in the neighborhood. Originally owned by a founder of the neighborhood.

Manisha 7:56 PM

Rachel told us that we could speak.

Joanna Foellmer 7:56 PM

WE THE RESIDENTS HAVE ISSUES WITH THE DOG PARK.....

Blair Fishburn 7:56 PM

Miti is making it sound as if it will be a Parks decision, not a public input-based decision.

Bill Oliveri Adjacent Neighbor 7:57 PM

The question was about public meetings which you have totally ignored

Robert Pestronk 7:57 PM

Weren't there many and more preferred amenities other than a dog park? Why spend scarce resources on this one?

Manisha 7:57 PM

One of the suitability criteria says it should be at least 200 ft from residents.

Tino Calabria 7:57 PM

Why will you not answer my questions?

Manisha 7:57 PM

that is not the case.

Anonymous Attendee 7:57 PM

what are doing about minimizing dog noise in the park to the neighbors

Anonymous Attendee 7:57 PM

You are reading all the positive posts in favor of the park and simply grouping opposition to the park with a passing comment like, "and some people opposing the park." To stress a very disconcerting point that the Willard neighbors knew NOTHING about this before July 1 and the Brookdale Citizen Association did not inform, discuss, or even mention this project to the community (to ANYONE in the community besides the few board members that serve on the Association) before issuing the letter of support on behalf of the community which they did not inform - not before issuing the letter, not after in its quarterly newsletter that came out in April, not during their annual meeting in May. The letter submitted by Brookdale Citizen Association should not be given any weight.

5327 Willard ave 7:57 PM

Give us peaceful green space. We DO NOT WANT NOISE AND MORE PROBLEMS

Anonymous Attendee 7:57 PM

Miti: please address how this location is suitable when your own criteria from 2019 say that the location should not be next to a residence and this one is?

Anonymous Attendee 7:58 PM

The dog owners, and their dogs, who are so eager for the dog park, and its creation as soon as possible, completely overlook the downsides. Indeed, they are not even aware of those downsides, and you are not disclosing them.

Blair Fishburn 7:58 PM

MoCo Parks: Dog parks or bust!!!

Robert Pestronk 7:58 PM

Why haven't Parks staff responded to earlier emails and questions?

Joanna Foellmer 7:58 PM

PRESENT BOTH SIDES.....LOTS OF US ARE AGAINST IT

Anonymous Attendee 7:58 PM

<https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/dog-parks-site-suitability-study/>

Manisha 7:58 PM

We are not in favor.

Wendy Smith 7:59 PM

We wanted to note that there is no other dog park anywhere near our area where there is a SEPARATE fenced-in area FOR SMALL DOGS. Thank you so much for planning this that way

Anonymous Attendee 7:59 PM

If nothing's been decided, DISCLOSE the objections and reasons being submitted.

Manisha 7:59 PM

You went to Norwood 8 months before the first meeting

Blair Fishburn 7:59 PM

What about an in person town hall meeting?! Zoom is not a substitute for in person public meetings.

Manisha 7:59 PM

you came to us 3 weeks before.

Anonymous Attendee 7:59 PM

CRITERIA EXPLANATION

Available Space 10,000 square feet of unconstrained land

Playground Proximity Not directly adjacent to a playground (ideal min 65')

Residential Proximity Not directly adjacent to residences (ideal distance is 200' or more)

Manisha 8:00 PM

We do not want it here

Joanna Foellmer 8:00 PM

Then let us give you feedback from the neighbors

Bill Oliveri Adjacent Neighbor 8:00 PM

Are you required to comply with other county rules and regulations about zoning and environmental issues

Iris Lav 8:01 PM

As an apartment dweller on Willard Ave with a dog, a dog park would be most welcome. As you say, we don't have a yard, so a common facility would be great for us.

Zach E 8:01 PM

Would there be any accompanying safety initiatives to make it safer to cross Willard to get to the dog park or slow traffic?

Tom Sinks 8:01 PM

We need to take advantage of extending the park given the house being owned by parks for this purpose. I'm in favor of a dog park as long as we create a great dog park. AKC has some guidelines worth looking at. It is really important to monitor the park and to intervene when necessary when dog owners are not being responsible.

Anonymous Attendee 8:01 PM

The Oliveris' house is right next to the park. They are a retired, old couple who are at home all day. Rachel did not do her homework because she would have seen that the Oliveris' property is right next to the proposed location. Shame on you - they've lived here for 25 years.

Robert Pestronk 8:01 PM

What type of odor prevention is planned?

Anonymous Attendee 8:02 PM

Th existing resident objects DESPITE the proposed buffer and small dog placement.

5327 Willard ave 8:02 PM

Who cites??? What is this line you're giving us. Nobody is citing improper parking either

Blair Fishburn 8:02 PM

Regarding noise, as a decades-experienced roadway transportation executive, vegetation in no way is an effective noise barrier.

Joanna Foellmer 8:02 PM

NOISE on a very busy noisy road will cause dogs to park even more

Anonymous Attendee 8:02 PM

You seriously gave them 3 weeks' notice.

Anonymous Attendee 8:02 PM

What about the residents on the other side (close to River Road)? Those residents are very concerned about this. (I have no opinion one way or another.)

Joanna Foellmer 8:02 PM

bark not park

5327 Willard ave 8:02 PM

Not being sarcastic but I think you should bring 20 dogs to the area and stand across the street and see what happens. Do a demo and show us your "vegetative buffer"

Manisha 8:03 PM

Community policed? really?

Anonymous Attendee 8:03 PM

We know the difference between EVALUATION criteria and what you are describing. You still failed your own evaluation criteria, ie what the situation was at the time of your evaluation. Your suggested intervention gives that neighbor, what? A massive 400 foot buffer? And you have no one monitoring the park to control dogs. You'll allow people there until sunset - ie up until 9pm in the summer

Anonymous Attendee 8:03 PM

Over 100 apartments in the adjacent high rise building (Willard Towers) face the dog park location and will hear the dogs.

Blair Fishburn 8:03 PM

Only high height solid walls will serve as effective noise barriers.

Joanna Foellmer 8:04 PM

You are NOT addressing our questions from residents that are opposed to the dog park. Really disappointed

5327 Willard ave 8:04 PM

You're talking about a situation that has already angered the residents multiple times and we've had to catch this aggressive dogs multiple times and bring them to you. That's ridiculous

Anonymous Attendee 8:04 PM

Self-policed barking restrictions are no restrictions.

Bill Oliveri Adjacent Neighbor 8:05 PM

Trees are not a noise buffer, do your homework.

Anonymous Attendee 8:05 PM

OLDEST house in the neighborhood, regardless of no locational atlas or no designation.

Ivan Goldberg 8:05 PM

Wanted to comment that your presentation is very professional! Very impressed by your efforts and greatly appreciate. Of course, there will be opposition and negativity, sadly, but generally I know the community is very excited at the prospect.

PS Miti is fabulous and cuts to the chase

Ivan Goldberg

Willard Towers

Blair Fishburn 8:06 PM

I request that ALL comments and questions posed in this Q&A section be published as part of the public record on this project.

Manisha 8:06 PM

We are taking pictures of our questions and comments.

Whitney Fishburn 8:06 PM

Environmental studies? Will you do any assessments as to the potential impact on the creek and surrounding greenway? This is the third time I have asked. I am not against the park, btw

Anonymous Attendee 8:06 PM

please, please address the residential proximity question. Didn't the suitability study mention 200 feet as buffer from neighboring residence? Does this do so?

Anonymous Attendee 8:06 PM

I arrived late. Where can we find the recording of the entire session?

5327 Willard ave 8:7 PM

I've made a lot of negative comments that you aren't saying out loud. The BCA did not ask any residents for input. They acknowledge their mistake and apologized. One BCA member has retracted his support

Rohit Khanna 8:7 PM

Have you considered adding a pickle-ball court in the park area?

Manisha 8:7 PM

Not the minorities on our block

Anonymous Attendee 8:7 PM

How do you know there is a strong demand for dog parks? Please explain

Joanna Foellmer 8:7 PM

The noise level; lack of parking; high density; noise level already intense on Willard Avenue; we need a senior's accessible park not a dog park

Willard Ave 8:7 PM

Can you share your screen so that we can see the questions?

Manisha 8:7 PM

We want to speak publicly.

Anonymous Attendee 8:8 PM

How will you "enforce the rules" for persistent law-breakers if the only remedy is to call Park Police who, most likely, will not be there when the Park Police arrive nor will they be there to ensure the rule-breaker won't come back. This park cannot be compared to other dog parks in Montgomery County because of the proximity to the houses on Willard. The issues residents near Norwood Park raised are amplified for this park because it's smaller, closer to residents, closer to the stream, closer to the playground, etc.

Michael Lav 8:8 PM

dog parks are wonderful opportunities for dogs to socialize. we miss access to dog parks which we had when we lived in DC. our dog greatly benefitted from that access.

Stephen Lane 8:8 PM

I am dissappointed that I have had no answers to my questions.

Zach E 8:8 PM

In case you missed it - Would there be any accompanying safety initiatives to make it safer to cross Willard to get to the dog park or slow traffic?

Robert Pestronk 8:8 PM

Will there be a written response to each question posed in this Q & A?

dawn calabia 8:8 PM

Where will access to dog park occur? How far from sidewalk to dog park facilities?

Manuel Ochoa 8:8 PM

I am not necessarily against the dog park but as a process point, it would have been good to know years or months ago that Willard Avenue Park was a good site for a dog park. Who knew about the Dog Park Feasibiity Study!

Manisha 8:8 PM

Let us speak on air.

Anonymous Attendee 8:09 PM

You have led with the group expressions of support, and are not reading the objections, from individual residents who have this opportunity to express objections.

Anonymous Attendee 8:09 PM

Would you be able to provide more parking on site if it tuns out that a lot of people want to drive to the park. There are not a lot of spaces along Willard Avenue.

Anonymous Attendee 8:09 PM

<https://www.vin.com/vetzinsight/default.aspx?pid=756&id=5158509> article written by a veterinarian - Dog Parks: Danger Unleashed

I noticed a mounting body count of injured dogs coming directly to the emergency room from the nearby dog park.

Tino Calabia 8:09 PM

Ms. Figueredo, do you live next to a dog park?

Anonymous Attendee 8:09 PM

where can I download the slide deck?

Manisha 8:09 PM

Do you know that there is a dog park less than a mile away?

Joanna Foellmer 8:09 PM

WHO DO WE SEND OUR COMMENTS TO? Please provide an email address to someone who will listen to our issues.

Anonymous Attendee 8:10 PM

Why do we need this park when Cabin John is a 10 minute drive away?

Manuel Ochoa 8:11 PM

I think the lack of any community visioning over the years or even options is what has really rankled people. Just given you all feedback we have heard. Folks are feeling that they have been given one option and one options only rather than a menu of possible options for this site. For example, the first two slides listed public gardens and historic sites as higher ranking than dog parks in the PROS Survey.

Robert Pestronk 8:11 PM

If only 14.4% feel a need for more dog parks don't 85.6%, an overwhelming majority, feel there isn't a need?

Anonymous Attendee 8:11 PM

The Reynolds house is itself a neighborhood amenity (shelter from street noise; historic significance).

Manisha 8:12 PM

LET US SPEAK ON AIR>

Behnaz 6677 8:12 PM

can you provide when the survey happened and which questions and results?

Anonymous Attendee 8:12 PM

No one in Willard Towers were ever notified -- no doors knocked.

Anonymous Attendee 8:12 PM

some people are concerned that property values for homes near the park could be reduced. What has been your experience with other dog parks?

Joanna Foellmer 8:13 PM

There you go again....you mention the comments for the dog park but pass over the negative ones.

Anonymous Attendee 8:13 PM

People prefer to sit inside the dog areas in case of any emergencies (i.e. one dog attacking another) or other issues.

Anonymous Attendee 8:13 PM

<https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2020-10-01/study-finds-parasites-common-dog-parks>

Anonymous Attendee 8:14 PM

are there really so many questions that you can take 6 of my husband's 14 and none of my one questions repeated three times?

Anonymous Attendee 8:14 PM

Brookdale Community Association expressed support, but the Association had to hold a meeting just last night to address the fact that such expression does not reflect consensus.

sandra youla 8:14 PM

The front yard of the house at 5320 Willard is River Road because the house predates Willard Avenue. its front porch faces the bb court and River Road.

Anonymous Attendee 8:18 PM

The Willard Towers Tenant Association Board did not comment on behalf of the building, but the majority of the members of the Board voted against the dog park.

Ralph Wooden 8:18 PM

It looks like the only way into the dog park will be from Willard Avenue. Why can't there be an entrance from the park itself?

Robert Pestronk 8:19 PM

Older people who are not computer savvy can't comment through this process.

Anonymous Attendee 8:19 PM

Failing to canvass the residents of Willard Towers, immediately adjacent to th Park, and with hundreds of tenants, many of whom object, is a MAJOR FAILURE of the process.

Anonymous Attendee 8:19 PM

People prefer to sit inside the dog areas in case of any emergencies (i.e. one dog attacking another) or other issues.

Blair Fishburn 8:19 PM

To be fair, this meeting was communicated on the Willard Towers list serve to,resident subscribers multiple times.

Al Muller, MD 8:20 PM

All Willard Tower residents were aware of the park proposal because it was announced and discussed at the monthly public Village Council meetings and publicized in its monthly newsletter. The main critic in that building actually lives on the other side of the building and does not face the proposed dog park.

Manisha 8:20 PM

This Q&A is a waste of everyone's time. You are not reading questions in their entirety, and you are skipping half the questions and comments. This "meeting" is not a meeting - it's a presentation by you. We had no say.

jmb 8:20 PM

Noise will certainly be an issue. Hopefully you will consider evergreens when looking at the buffers.

Anonymous Attendee 8:20 PM

It's not a question for you, it's information. They did NOT contact the community therefore you should not consider their letter valid.

Robert Pestronk 8:20 PM

The closest high rise building association did not provide a letter of support. Why not mention that?

Tino Calabria 8:20 PM

I asked if Councilmember Friedson lives across the street from a dog park. Yes or no?

Anonymous Attendee 8:21 PM

You would DESTROY the value of the neighboring house.

Anonymous Attendee 8:22 PM

There is no evidence that "generally the community is in support."

Manisha 8:22 PM

We are not excited. The people who are most affected are not excited, but hey, we are just the minorities that you're not concerned about.

Anonymous Attendee 8:22 PM

please, please address whether you will conduct an EIS because we are worried about the condition of the creek and the greenway. thank you.

Michael Mezey 8:22 PM

Well done. Miti's comment that we do not do these things via plebiscite is important

Blair Fishburn 8:22 PM

Is an Environmental Impact Study required for this project?

Anonymous Attendee 8:22 PM

Darren you're doing a great job but maybe someone should explain to you how property values work. Piles of shit in your backyard and barking from sunup til sundown are not generally considered a boon to house value.

Manisha 8:22 PM

If you won't let us speak, we will have to find another outlet

Willard Ave 8:22 PM

Repeat -- The Newark Street Dog park is about two miles away in Washington, DC. Did you consider the location of that park in your proposal?

Anonymous Attendee 8:23 PM

can you post your power point on the web? Good job!

Robert Pestronk 8:23 PM

There were 6 or 7 other sites considered. Why is Willard at the top of the list now?

Anonymous Attendee 8:23 PM

Thank you.

sandra youla 8:23 PM

Did you know that the owner of the Reynolds House was the surveyor who prepared the plat for this end of Willard Avenue back in the early 1900s? This is one aspect of this dwelling's local importance. It is also one of an interesting collection of family houses that surround the park.

Anonymous Attendee 8:23 PM

Going with what you know at the time, when you did not canvass the community (especially Willard Towers), is going on no information.

Manisha 8:23 PM

There is also a dog park a mile away.

dawn calabia 8:23 PM

Appreciate zoom and wonder why county isn't putting greater priority on access for handicapped and seniors to willard park in a visible area and need for community gardens

Manisha 8:23 PM

livingston & western

Anonymous Attendee 8:23 PM

what about the amount of traffic from DC residents who will use our park?

Anonymous Attendee 8:24 PM

With all the increased dog traffic, and people using the parking right next to the playground, do you really consider the proximity of the playground to the environs of the dog park to be safe? Those dogs will be amped up on their way to and from the park and it would be easy for a toddler to get in their way.

Robert Pestronk 8:24 PM

I sent Rachel a picture of how park garbage and feces are presently cleaned up poorly. Please review and consider the inattention.

Anonymous Attendee 8:25 PM

We love the idea, would strongly support it, and we do not live next door to the facility. So, we also understand the opposition. We do not feel that the noise is truly an issue, but the site of having a dog park next to home.

Blair Fishburn 8:25 PM

Will all of these questions & comments be posted as public record for this project?

Anonymous Attendee 8:25 PM

Was there consideration to move the dog park closer to the corner of River and Willard?

Al Muller, MD 8:26 PM

Crime is usually less in high dog areas!

Manisha 8:26 PM

you missed a lot

Anonymous Attendee 8:26 PM

You were pushed out of Norwood Park because the residents/neighbors there organized and objected, so you move the plan to a neighborhood where the residents would be less organized (because they are high rise building residents) and less able to object. Bad.

Manisha 8:26 PM

we took pics of our questions and comments

Joanna Foellmer 8:26 PM

the way to make it better is to do a senior

5327 Willard ave 8:27 PM

The lady just laughed and said "I don't live adjacent to I live near a dog park and love it"- extremely disrespectful of what we're going through right now. Adjacent is not same as near.

Joanna Foellmer 8:27 PM

park and not a dog park

sandra youla 8:27 PM

There will be much development in next few years on both sides of DC - MC border, why not get a dog park through one of these developments and not affect the quiet character of this park?

Anonymous Attendee 8:27 PM

You just admitted that you reported expressions of support because those are what you received. That is reading only positive comments.

Robert Pestronk 8:28 PM

This dense urban area needs green space preserved and enhanced not turned into a dog park.

Tom Sinks 8:28 PM

Limiting parking or leaving it as is will prevent there being a significant increase of dog owners bringing their dogs to the park. This will keep the park use as local. A good thing.

Anonymous Attendee 8:28 PM

The whole point is that parking is insufficient.

Robert Pestronk 8:28 PM

So there isn't street parking, as you indicated.

Anonymous Attendee 8:28 PM

Brookdale restricts parking, at the same time as they want to attract more need for parking.

GF 8:29 PM

Please address the waste that could possibly make it's way into the stream.

Anonymous Attendee 8:29 PM

The FHCC does not represent the opinions of the residents.

Manisha 8:29 PM

No, we'll go public.

Robert Pestronk 8:30 PM

That individual who was chair told me the parks dept has made it's decision and will not backtrack on it. "It's a fool's errand" I was advised.

dawn calabia 8:30 PM

Are the plans for new entrance available

Blair Fishburn 8:30 PM

WHEN will all of our questions & comments be posted? Please advise.

sandra youla 8:30 PM

Once you tear down this house, it is gone forever. We have other opportunities in FH due to redevelopment that is being considered. It is unfair to pit dog parks vs. existing cultural resources.