

**Symmes Advisory Committee Public Use Working Group  
Meeting Minutes, 19 November 2001,  
Jefferson Cutter House**

**Attending:** Harris Band, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Steve Frigand, Ann LeRoyer, Suzi Lubar, Jim Marzilli, Brian Rehrig (Chair), Sue Sheffler

**Not Attending:** Greg Blass, Ellen Kushner, Linda Privitera (Vice Chair), Denis Sullivan

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

**Approve minutes of prior meeting**

The minutes of the fourth meeting of the Symmes Advisory Committee (SAC) Public Use Working Group, held on 22 October, were approved.

**Negotiations Update**

Brian Rehrig reported that the Committee was required to go into executive session to discuss the status of the Symmes property negotiations with Lahey/Health South at the last SAC meeting. Although negotiations are continuing, certain issues persist in clouding a positive outcome. If Town Meeting is to reconvene this year to vote on the acquisition, a purchase and sale agreement will have to be completed in very short order. The town is still considering alternatives to a purchase, and a 40B development may also threaten the outcome.

**Contact Lists of Organization & Opinion Leaders**

Ellen Kushner, through Brian Rehrig, reported that most of the Working Group members had submitted their assigned lists of people and organizations in Arlington who represent special interests in public uses for the Symmes site. Delinquent members were urged to submit their lists to Ellen as soon as possible.

**Community Outreach Questionnaire**

The questionnaire that was developed by the Community Outreach Working Group, and approved by the SAC at their 15 November meeting, was reviewed. Members of the Group continued to question the purpose of the instrument, believing that the intention was unclear. Concerns were also voiced over the questionnaire's use of an open-answer format. Further concerns addressed issues of security, with suggestions of modifications being raised to minimize the potential for fraud. Brian Rehrig and Elisabeth Carr-Jones agreed to revisit these issues with the SAC.

**Criteria for Use Evaluation**

Steve Frigand presented his draft of the Criteria for Use Evaluation. Although similar in content to the Principles Statement developed by the Working Group, the Criteria are meant to provide a simple list for the comparative screening of proposed uses for the site. The Group discussed each criterion in detail, and made revisions. To test the Criteria, the Group evaluated two potential uses, a skateboard park and a walking trail, with each of the uses being rated as low, medium or high for each criterion. It was recognized that each of the criteria could also be assigned a relative weight. Steve Frigand agreed to modify his draft to reflect the revisions, and post it for approval by the Working Group. Working Group members were encouraged to continue investigating potential public uses for the Symmes property, and to enjoy the holidays.

**Next Meeting**

Setting of the next meeting of the Working Group, expected to be sometime in January, was deferred.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

**Handouts**

19 November Meeting Agenda

22 October Meeting Minutes

Symmes Public Use Working Group Draft Criteria for Use Evaluation

Community Outreach Working Group Questionnaire