

Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
SOAPSTONE VALLEY & MELVIN C. HAZEN, PARKS AND TRAILS COMMITTEE

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Resolution Requesting Formal Involvement of DOEE in the Design of the Hearst Recreation Center Park and Pool Project and Hydrology & Geologic Study

WHEREAS, ANC 3F is graced with beautiful natural parkland and streams including Soapstone Valley Park and Creek, and Melvin C. Hazen Park and Tributary;

WHEREAS, ANC 3F established this Soapstone Valley & Melvin C. Hazen, Parks and Trails Committee to protect the natural beauty of both Soapstone Valley Park and Melvin Hazen;

WHEREAS, one of the key objectives of the Soapstone Valley & Melvin C. Hazen, Parks and Trails Committee is to protect those parks and mitigate the effects of storm water runoff;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and Department of General Services (DGS) have commenced the formal community outreach and design phase for the Hearst Recreation Center Park and Pool Project (known as Hearst Park);

WHEREAS, significant water runoff issues already exist at Hearst Park and affect nearby areas of significant natural beauty and history, like Melvin Hazen Park and the Springland Farm Community;

WHEREAS, the District's Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) has identified numerous potential projects in and around the proposed Hearst Park site that would mitigate the effects of storm water runoff on nearby areas;

WHEREAS, DPR and DGS have indicated that they will be retaining all of the storm water runoff at Hearst Park and not permitting it to flood down onto Springland Lane and into Melvin Hazen Park;

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has granted historic status to the Adlum Springhouse, which is located on a spring, on Springland Lane;

WHEREAS, a number of other springs and intermittent creeks are located on Springland Lane that contribute to the runoff into Melvin Hazen Park;

WHEREAS, Hearst Park itself is sited on significant landfill fill and deals with issues created by pre-existing springs, creeks and a major ravine that comprise the headwaters of Melvin Hazen Creek;

WHEREAS, these conditions have already raised concerns within the community regarding their impact on Hearst Park's upper playground;

WHEREAS, DOEE has indicated a need to be formally invited by DPR and DGS before it can participate in the design phase for the Hearst Recreation Center Park and Pool Project;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bowser's administration has prioritized the development of an efficient and effective 21st century government; and

WHEREAS, one of the expressed purposes for which the Soapstone and Melvin Hazen Parks & Trails Committee was established is to "research and establish facts relating to public projects in and affecting Soapstone Valley and Melvin Hazen parks";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Soapstone Valley & Melvin C. Hazen, Parks and Trails Committee recommends that ANC3F formally adopt a resolution requesting the following:

That DPR and DGS formally invite DOEE and any other applicable city agency to participate in the design phase of the design phase for the Hearst Recreation Center Park and Pool Project;

That DPR, DGS and DOEE immediately undertake or contract for a hydrology and geologic study to determine the movement, distribution, and quality of ground and storm water around and from the Hearst Recreation Center Park and Pool Project site, the available options to remediating the environmental and property damage that arises or may arise from this ground and storm water, and the effect of this hydrology and geology on the feasibility and environmental impacts of available options for renovating Hearst Park;

That representatives of DPR & DGS provide monthly status reports regarding the involvement of DOEE and other applicable city agencies in regards to their involvement with the Hearst Recreation Center Park & Pool Project and also status updates regarding the hydrology and geology studies;

That DPR and DGS not make any determinations regarding renovation of Hearst Park until the results of this study are complete and communicated to the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissioners Pat Jakopchek and David Dickinson are authorized to represent ANC 3F in all matters relating to this issue.

ANC 3F's Soapstone Valley, Melvin C. Hazen, Parks and Trails Committee PASSED this resolution at its meeting on September 12 2016, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining (10 - 0 - 0).



Pat Jakopchek, Chair