

Emails from a neighbor adjacent to Blake Lane Park written in 2006 to the School Board Member representing the Providence District reveal that there was never an indicated intention of keeping Blake Lane Park in FCPS's back pocket. Labeling BLP a school site is not supported by the email exchange from a couple of months before Blake Lane Park was actually transferred to the Board of Supervisors. An alert resident wrote to the elected School Board Member, at the time, asking for advice on what he needed to do to *"guarantee preservation"* of Blake Lane Park? After a few emails back and forth, it was clear that once Blake Lane Park was transferred, *"their intent is to keep it a park"*.

Elected officials have the capacity to make these decisions on behalf of their constituents and keeping these words is accountability.

It is a good reminder of what they have committed to in the past and what we need to hold them accountable to.

What did really happen between then and now?

@Dalia Palchik - As current **School Board Representative for the Providence District**, please provide us documentation surrounding the land transfer that indicates Blake Lane Park was at all times foreseen to be a school site. According to the emails from a former School Board Representative, we were told that there needs to be nothing further done to guarantee the preservation of Blake Lane Park.

@All Candidates for **Providence District Supervisor** – Given that there are over 1,000 signatures on the Save Blake Lane Park petition along with over 400 comments from the surrounding neighbors of Blake Lane Park urging current officials/staff to stop the plans of destruction and asking for guaranteed preservation of our greenspace, would you, and how would you respond to this as Providence District Supervisor?

@All Candidates for **Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors** – When the land transfer took place current Congressman Gerry Connolly held the position of Fairfax County Chair of Supervisor, the very same position you are seeking. Congressman Gerry Connolly shared his opinion and support of preserving Blake Lane Park. As Fairfax County Chair of Supervisor would you, and how would you, respond to the residents who are calling Blake Lane Park their backyard?

*Constituent's name has been covered for confidentiality. Read Emails from top to bottom.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2006 11:42 AM
To: NiedzielskiEichner, Phillip A
Cc: Hunt, Stephen M.; Moon, Ilryong; Oleszek, Janet
Subject: Constituent Feedback

From: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

District: Providence

Message:

I understand Blake Lane Park is being administered FCPA under a interim use agreement. I would like to know who I need to write to in the school board to ensure the park remains a park and is transferred to FCPA under Land Preservation ASAP to guarantee its preservation.

my work daytime E-mail [REDACTED]

I look forward to your reply.

-----Original Message-----

From: NiedzielskiEichner, Phillip A
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2006 12:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Hunt, Stephen M.; Moon, Ilryong; Oleszek, Janet
Subject: RE: Constituent Feedback

Mr. [REDACTED]: You have written to the correct elected official, as I represent the Providence District on the School Board. The Blake Lane Park property is under consideration for conveyance to the County government. We are currently in discussions with the County concerning this property, among others. Based on my conversations with both Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth and Board Chair Gerry Connolly, I would expect that their intent is to keep it a park if the property is conveyed from FCPS to the County. But we won't know for at least another month whether our discussions with the County will lead to conveyance or whether the site will stay in our inventory . Best. Phil N-E

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner

Chairman, Fairfax County School Board

Providence District Representative

703-246-4783 (voice mail)

703-246-4629 (Cathy Walton - Administrative Assistant)

pneichner@fcps.edu

From: "NiedzielskiEichner, Phillip A" <pneichner@fcps.edu>
To: <[REDACTED]>
CC: "Hunt, Stephen M." <steve.hunt@fcps.edu>, "Moon, Ilryong" <Ilryong.Moon@fcps.edu>, "Oleszek, Janet" <Janet.Oleszek@fcps.edu>
Subject: FW: Constituent Feedback
Date: Thu, 2 Feb 2006 17:08:14 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
Received: from SMTP01.mail.fcps.edu ([151.188.5.68]) by bay0-mc9-f17.bay0.hotmail.com with Microsoft SMTPSVC(6.0.3790.211); Thu, 2 Feb 2006 14:08:24 -0800
Received: from MB09.mail.fcps.edu ([151.188.5.63]) by SMTP01.mail.fcps.edu with Microsoft SMTPSVC(6.0.3790.1830); Thu, 2 Feb 2006 17:08:14 -0500

Mr. [REDACTED]: I received today your e-mail indicating that you have not received a response to your inquiry on the Blake Lane property. Please note below that I did send a response on January 10, 2006, the same day that I received your inquiry. I assumed it had made it's way to your inbox. I regret that you believed a response had not been sent. Best. Phil N-E

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2006 11:16 PM
To: NiedzielskiEichner, Phillip A
Cc: Hunt, Stephen M.; Moon, Ilryong; Oleszek, Janet;
Subject: RE: FW: Constituent Feedback

phil

many thanks i half suspected the problem was with my work e-mail. news now recieved and sounds encouraging- i hope the decision to make this land a park comes soon. several persons on my hoa share same concerns would it help the cause for them to contact you/board also?

thanks again for your time and the resend. i have 2 infant children and i look forward to them going through a great school system and running on blake lane park

cheers

[REDACTED]

From: "NiedzielskiEichner, Phillip A" <pneichner@fcps.edu>

To: [REDACTED]"

Subject: RE: FW: Constituent Feedback

Date: Fri, 3 Feb 2006 06:25:55 -0500

MIME-Version: 1.0

Received: from SMTP01.mail.fcps.edu ([151.188.5.68]) by bay0-mc9-f11.bay0.hotmail.com with Microsoft SMTPSVC(6.0.3790.211); Fri, 3 Feb 2006 03:26:17 -0800

Received: from MB09.mail.fcps.edu ([151.188.5.63]) by SMTP01.mail.fcps.edu with Microsoft SMTPSVC(6.0.3790.1830); Fri, 3 Feb 2006 06:25:55 -0500

[REDACTED]: I normally encourage folks to contact their elected representatives. It's good to be heard from and it's good to hear. In this instance, however, I don't believe it is necessary. If current plans start to come apart, I will let you know. Otherwise I believe we are on track to accomplish your objective. Best. Phil

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner

Providence District Representative

Fairfax County School Board

703-246-4783 (voice mail)

703-246-4629 (Cathy Walton - Administrative Assistant)

pneichner@fcps.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2006 12:11 PM

To: NiedzielskiEichner, Phillip A

Subject: [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] RE: RE: FW: Constituent Feedback Save Blake Lane Park :)

[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Phil-

Thank you again for your previous response; the encouraging news was reported in our HOA newsletter. Just checking in to see if there has been any further development and/or a decision date set.

Once again thanks for your time.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]