

I met with Supervisor Joan DuBois and her staff in regard to the Pensive Lane (Hickory Run) site. All intended uses of the site will have its greatest impact on Lexington Estates First Homeowners Association (“Lexington Estates”). Ownership was transferred from Fairfax County Public Schools to the Board of Supervisors, but ownership has *not* been transferred to Fairfax County Park Authority. Supervisor DuBois said that before it is transferred, the Park Authority must be given six months notice of the termination of the present management agreement. She stated it will not be transferred prior to adequate notice to the association and input by it.

Possible uses for the site were discussed. Supervisor DuBois said she would not support selling it for a “nominal price” to Lexington Estates, which I raised. Sale to a private developer was mentioned, but not discussed. The staff expressed strong intentions to have this remain in the public domain. A natural area, perhaps with a small park, and recreational uses were discussed. I said Lexington Estates has not formed an “association” position, which would be done after the members were surveyed, but I believed active uses will be opposed. I raised the reasons that the association’s decided not to build its own picnic and children’s play area, stating a “park” would be used only by persons outside of the Great Falls community. Next we discussed sports fields. They said there is a shortage of sports fields; I believe they meant McLean and Great Falls. I stated lighted fields would be unacceptable. I thought some members may want a field to be used occasionally, but most members will object to active fields because of inadequate internal roads on “game days”, security, maintenance, limited usable land on a site that is divided and that has grade and wet land issues and environmental problems for any development because of the stream and pond that are within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Supervisor DuBois expressed to her staff her concern in regard to these problems.

The Supervisor said that Great Falls Citizens Association is in the process of developing a master plan for the area and it was suggested that Lexington Estates participate. Personally, I think we should work with whomever we can and not be uncompromising NIMBY’s, but, with caution, I remember the zeal of distant neighbors to keep a school on the Hickory Run site and the opposition of surrounding neighborhoods. Therefore, a “greater” community, unimpacted by its use, may plan to use this site for sports fields. While members will be surveyed, I personally think the best strategy is to support a common natural area on this site and the Shesue common ground site that will have no more than trials.

THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS BETWEEN NOW AND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN JANUARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT FALLS CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS WORK, HELP SURVEY THE MEMBERSHIP AND HELP DEVELOP INFORMATION ON THE ECOLOGY OF THIS SITE. REMEMBER EDMUND BURKE’S STATEMENT, “ALL THAT IS NEED FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH IS THAT GOOD MEN [AND WOMEN] DO NOTHING”.