

January 30, 2016

Keith A. Anderson
Director
DC Department of Parks and Recreation
1250 U Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Director Anderson:

I am writing to express our strong support for the comprehensive design and rehabilitation of Hardy Park, located at Q Street Northwest between Foxhall Road and MacArthur Boulevard. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been exploring this concept with community stakeholders and we strongly advocate making Hardy Park a priority project.

The need is great in our neighborhood for a strong community park, as we have a large and growing number of young children and seniors. As it stands now, the condition of Hardy Park falls far short of the standard we should expect for our city. The playground equipment is in disrepair. Fence gates hang loose. The sprinkler posts for a play area are broken and jagged. Cracks and potholes mar the tennis court surface. The basketball court has goals that are broken or missing. Such conditions discourage use and pose safety hazards. The community deserves better and DPR has proven it can do much better.

As the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) moves toward the design and rehabilitation of Hardy Park it is vital that the surrounding community be closely consulted. Last year, DPR initiated and completed a renovation of the park's building without notice to the community or consultation about the priorities and budget for the project, which we have been told cost the city \$500,000. We want to make sure that this unilateral approach to a public space improvement project is not repeated.

The FCCA Board voted on November 18, 2015 to have Friends of Hardy act as our liaison to DPR, providing a primary conduit for exchange of information and ideas about the project. Attending the meeting were Mayor Muriel Bowser's Ward 3 Liaison Ian A. Maggard and Ward 3 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh's Legislative Counsel Sonia A. Desai. Friends of Hardy has worked hard to solicit, compile, and synthesize our community's opinions about the future of the park, and are continuing to refine concepts and approaches, and communicate with residents.

The DPR has completed significant community engagement in other areas of the District regarding park development plans that has helped to inform those projects and we anticipate that the Foxhall area community will be treated comparably.

We look forward to working with you and your representatives to ensure that Hardy Park reaches its potential. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Avery
President
Foxhall Community Citizens Association

cc.
Mayor Muriel Bowser
Ward 3 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh