



ARLINGTON RIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 2443

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202

March 14, 2013

Mr. Paul A. Holland, Chair
Arlington County Park and Recreation Commission
Department of Parks and Recreation
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 414
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Holland,

Subj: Memorial Bench with Plaque and Stone in Memory of Mrs. Katharine "Kit" Whitely

Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA) is pleased to sponsor a park bench at Fort Scott Park with a memorial plaque and stone in memory of Mrs. Katharine "Kit" Whitely, in recognition of her many contributions to our neighborhood. The enclosed provides details regarding this request.

Bonnie Flynn is the ARCA Point of contact. She may be reached at 703-989-6171 or via email at bflynn1914@verizon.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie Buck".

Katie Buck

President, Arlington Ridge Civic Association

Enclosure

cc:

Department of Parks and Recreation:

Ms. Diane G. Probus

Mr. Kurt Louis

Mr. Patrick Wegeng

Ms. Katharine “Kit” Marie Miller Whitely
October 28, 1955 to October 30, 2012

Mrs. Katharine “Kit” Whitely, our friend and neighbor, passed away on October 30, 2012, at her home in Arlington after a courageous six year battle with breast cancer.

For 30 years, Kit worked in Crystal City, and lived in Crystal City, Aurora Highlands and Arlington Ridge. She never asked for or wanted recognition, and in that sense, she was not an "activist". However, she believed in community involvement and that you should find ways to give back to the neighborhood where you lived.

Kit was an active member of the Arlington Ridge Civic Association (ARCA). After retiring from an illustrious career in senior engineering management positions in the defense sectors at McDonnell-Douglas and The Boeing Company, Kit approached ARCA looking for new challenges. Kit was Secretary of ARCA from 2009-2011 and, in addition, took on a much greater role on key issues confronting ARCA, given her unique energy, leadership and analytical skills. For example, as ARCA’s secretary, Kit took the lead for communications within ARCA. She provided oversight for the ARCA Newsletter to focus on factual content, including editing, writing, production and distribution. She established other network channels for passing timely or perishable information, including a website and listserv. Kit shaped our neighborhood survey, seeking useful feedback for our upcoming Neighborhood Conservation Plan. She was the lead for ARCA during the final reviews of the Crystal City Sector Plan, ensuring objectives were included to address the encroachment of development bordering our community. To further ensure long-time community involvement with the County Board and staff, Kit worked to have the Crystal City Citizen Review Council (CCCRC), a citizen-led advisory body, established. County Board Member Chris Zimmerman said Kit’s *“...participation in the Crystal City Sector Plan process made a positive impact that will benefit Arlingtonians for many years to come.”*

Kit was a voice of reason on the many issues facing our neighborhood. She thought it important to build bridges with our neighboring communities of Aurora Highlands and Crystal City, and equally important to have open communications with the County staff and County Board. As a leader, she encouraged voluntary efforts through personal contact, working for the overall good of our “urban oasis”. She was tireless in her efforts to protect and support our neighborhood. Even in the latter stages of her illness, Kit personally developed and steered a proposal through the County’s Park Enhancement Grant process to improve the safety of Fort Scott Park for current and future generations. She was an active participant in the Nominating Committee for the 2012-2013 ARCA slate of officers, ensuring continued future quality leadership for our community. She was also active in fundraising for and participating in the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk.

ARCA would like to place a memorial bench with a plaque and stone at Fort Scott Park in Kit's memory. In conjunction with Parks and Recreation, we have selected a location that would enable neighbors sitting on this bench to view the stones placed at Fort Scott as a result of the PEG request that Kit developed, as well as view Crystal City where Kit worked for many years and where she worked tirelessly during her retirement to help draft a reasoned approach for the Crystal City Sector Plan. In addition to the bench, we have selected a large stone which will be placed beside the bench – a place where children can climb and play while their parents rest on the bench.

We understand that ARCA must fund the cost of the bench and memorial plaque and we will raise the funds through contributions from Kit's many friends and neighbors who have benefited from having her in our community. The Department of Parks and Recreation has agreed to provide a stone from their supply. The cost for the bench and plaque from the Arlington County contractor (Melody at Kenneth Lynch) is:

6-ft. Hermann Bench with Ipe slats	\$827	<i>(no center arm)</i>
Bronze 2" x 10" Plaque	240	
Shipping (approximate)	<u>200</u>	
Bench:	\$1267	
County Installation is estimated to be:	\$500	
Grand Total	\$1767	

Proposed wording for the plaque:

**Katharine "Kit" Whitely
October 28, 1955 - October 30, 2012
Beloved Friend and Neighbor**

Pictures and location details are provided in Tabs A and B.

If possible, we would like to have the bench installed for the first anniversary of Kit's passing – October 30, 2013. We would need Arlington County approval by July 1, 2013, in order to allow the lead time required by the contractor for the bench and plaque. To meet that deadline, our proposed schedule is as follows:

- March: Final letter and package to the Park and Recreation Commission (complete)
- March-June: Raise approximately \$1800
- April: Present the memorial request to the two advisory groups (Historical Landmark and Review Board and Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee)
- April 23rd: Present the final memorial request package to the Park and Recreation Commission
- June 15th: Request to the County Board for approval
- Mid June: Order the bench
- By October 30, 2013: Memorial installed at Fort Scott Park

Thank you for considering this request.

Proposed Location in Fort Scott Park



Katharine "Kit" Whitely Memorial

6" Hermann Bench (without center arm)
– plaque will be centered on the back.



Stone (marked with red brick/ribbon)



Proposed location:



Closer view of location w/bench & stone in a mulch bed:



View of Fort Scott Park PEG stones and Crystal City from the bench:

