

Discussion Questions: Park and Recreation Commission Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP)

1. The County has committed to protecting and enhancing Arlington's natural resources: air and water, wildlife habitat, pollinator health, to name just a few.

What challenges or opportunities do you think the County will face that make this commitment harder or easier?

2. How do we manage the needs for healthy trees and natural areas against demands for organized and casual recreation?

3. Should the plan provide general guidance or be more prescriptive with respect to policy, practices and responsibilities of public and private owners?

Prescriptive guidance would set explicit, measurable targets, and general guidance would be more philosophical and flexible in scope.

4. Is there a role for APS in developing and sustaining trees and other natural areas on school sites?

5. Arlington depends on partnerships with local nonprofits to achieve many of its natural resource objectives.

How might these relationships be expanded, and deployed more effectively?

6. What changes would you recommend in the new, integrated plan to make it more useful in decisions about development in Arlington?

How can this plan integrate with other comprehensive plan components, such as transportation planning, public health, affordable housing, stormwater plans, and biophilic design goals?

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting March 16, 2021

Memorial Plaque Request: To memorialize Mr. Erik Gutshall

Sponsor: Lyon Park Citizens Association (LPCA)

Proposed Location: Zitkala-Ša Park (Attachment I).

Proposed Plaque Inscription:

In honor of
Erik Gutshall

The people of Lyon Park remember Erik as a loving
father, husband, son, friend, neighbor, colleague, civic
leader, small business owner, citizen planner,
and County Board member.

Always focused on the future of Arlington, Erik was a
leader who spent his years striving to build a more
resilient, environmentally sustainable,
and equitable community.

April 28, 1970 - April 16, 2020

Description of Request:

The purpose of the [Arlington County Memorial Plaque Policy](#) is to provide the public with an opportunity to recognize exceptional individuals who have made a significant public service contribution to Arlington County and its residents. The policy provides criteria to assess whether an individual's contributions during their lifetime make them eligible for a memorial plaque; terms by which the plaque must be financed, fabricated, installed; a process for seeking approval of memorial plaque requests; and describes the extent to which the County is responsible towards its maintenance.

LPCA provided a letter of support (Attachment II) for the memorial plaque on behalf of the civic association and a description of Mr. Erik Gutshall's contributions (Attachment III), demonstrating his significant and sustained public service contributions which have made a lasting impact on the Arlington community.

LPCA is requesting to place a 12" by 12" memorial plaque, with the above inscription, attached to a boulder adjacent to a walkway within Zitkala-Ša Park. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff assisted in selecting the location and support the boulder placement at this site as it will not impact the roots of the nearby maple trees and it will be visible from the walkway.

Final Design Concept



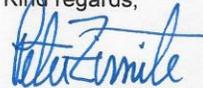
January 27, 2021

Bill Ross, Chair
Arlington County Parks and Recreation Commission
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Ross and Commission Members,

At the January meeting of the Lyon Park Citizens Association, the members present voted unanimously in support of the proposal to place a plaque honoring the late Erik Gutshall in Zitkala-Ša Park. Erik was a pillar of our community and county, serving both in a variety of roles. The LPCA is confident that, given the countless contributions Erik made, you will agree he is worthy of this honor. We look forward to your approval.

Kind regards,



Peter Zirnite, President
Lyon Park Citizens Association



Lyon Park Citizen

May 2020

It is with deep sadness that we mark the passing of Lyon Park community member Erik Gutshall. Erik was a committed leader within Lyon Park for many years, serving previously as President of the Lyon Park Citizens Association, member of the Community Center Board of Governors, member of the Board of Directors for Doorways for Women and Families, and most recently as a member of the Arlington County Board.

Erik was a true friend to many in our neighborhood and a constant and steadfast supporter of our community. Few gave more than Erik, and we owe him and his wonderful family so much. Beyond just missing him as a person, we are heartbroken to think of what Lyon Park will be missing now that he left us too soon.

We will never forget him.



Good evening.

I am Bill Anhut

My wife, Dale, and I have lived in Lyon Park 37 years.

For nearly 20 years, I have been the treasurer of both the Lyon Park Citizens Association and Lyon Park Community Center.

I am also an Arlington Tree Steward.

I have known and been Erik Gutshall's friend for over 20 years.

As you know, Erik was taken from us at the age of 50, while in the prime of his energies for Arlington County, the Lyon Park Community, his family and friends.

I am confident other county-wide recognition will be forthcoming soon, but his beloved community of Lyon Park believes the dedication of a space in memory of Erik, in Sitkala Sa Park, beneath a row of lovely red maples, 800 feet from his home, is appropriate at this time.

Erik was instrumental in moving the renovation process of Sitkala Sa Park through its many stages of study, approval and funding.

Erik was a multi-term President of Lyon Park Citizens Association and Board Member of Lyon Park Community Center, during the years Clarendon experienced explosive growth and development. Erik was our leader in guiding our community's review and approval of nearly every development during that time.

Erik was also instrumental in the planning and private fundraising for the renovation of the historic Lyon Park Community House.

Erik served on numerous commissions and charitable boards, especially Doorways for Women, which has a facility located near the park.

Erik was respected and loved by his neighbors. His wife Renee and three daughters live nearby on Highland St, and from there, operate Erik's business, Clarendon Home Services.

Given Erik's many contributions to our community, we ask your approval for a portion of Sitkala Sa Park be reserved to honor our friend, Erik Gutshall.