

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 28, 2002

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: O. Marvin Sowers, Jr., Planning Director

SUBJECT: Support for Modifications to Portion of Centerville Road Through Green Spring Colonial National Historical Park

The National Park Service (NPS) has formally stated an intention to develop and open its Green Spring Plantation site to the public as a component of the Colonial National Historical Park. The Board conducted a work session on this matter on September 26, 2001, and received a copy of NPS's Park Master Plan prior to its work session. The Master Plan includes two "build" alternatives. One of those alternatives recommends closing the portion of Centerville Road that bisects the Green Spring property. While NPS and the Friends of the National Park Service for Green Spring, Inc., previously requested County action that would allow closure of the road, they have decided to proceed with developing the park with the road open at this time. Once the park is open, it is their intention to again request that the County take the actions necessary to close this portion of Centerville Road.

Since the Board's September 26, 2001, work session, considerable public discussion and evaluation has occurred on the proposed closure of Centerville Road: a public meeting hosted by NPS and the Planning Division was held on November 14, 2001, at Blair Middle School; the Planning Commission conducted a well-attended public hearing on March 4, 2002; and staff prepared an extensive report on the closing which the Board received previously. Staff and Commission members have also discussed the matter further with NPS and "Friends" representatives' since the March 4 Commission public hearing. The decision to develop the Park with Centerville remaining open was an outgrowth of these discussions and meetings. At its May 6, 2002, meeting, the Planning Commission adopted a resolution acknowledging this decision.

Requested Board Action

At this time, given the current status of the above matters there is no longer a need for the Board to further consider closing a portion of Centerville Road. However, NPS and the "Friends" have verbally requested that the County support efforts to make Centerville Road more conducive to park development and activities. It is their belief that the current design and operating characteristics of Centerville Road will detract from the historical character and ambiance of the planned park. The Planning Commission concurred, and on May 6, 2002, adopted the attached resolution. The Commission's resolution requests that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) undertake several measures to make the road more "park friendly." Staff concurs with the conclusions of the Planning Commission and has prepared a similar resolution for adoption by the Board. Should the Board approve this resolution, staff will initiate discussions with VDOT and NPS regarding the feasibility of these modifications and possible methods of financing. Before committing to any County obligations, including use of any Secondary Road funds, staff will return to the Board for approval. Also, staff does not believe that the attached resolution will obligate the County to fund any of the suggested improvements.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution requesting VDOT to undertake certain design and operational modifications to Centerville Road.

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Park

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CONCUR:

John T. P. Horne

OMS/JTPH/gb
CentervilleRd.mem

Attachments:

1. Planning Commission Resolution adopted May 6, 2002
2. Board Resolution