



Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association

February 21, 2013

Brian J. Hanlon, Director
Department of General Services
2000 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Jesus Aguirre, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
1250 U Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Hanlon & Mr. Aguirre,

The Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association is eagerly looking forward to the forthcoming renovation of Noyes Park at Tenth and Franklin Street, N.E. We, along with others in the community, have actively participated in discussions about various features of the new park. Your staff, Jackie Stanley and Brent Sisco, have done an excellent job of involving Brookland residents and have been very responsive to community ideas and suggestions.

We are writing because several concerns have recently been brought to our attention related to the artificial turf planned for the 13,000 square-foot lawn at its center. These concerns include the health issues presented by possible lead and chemical constituents and off-gassing, excessive surface temperatures, and abrasion and injury issues. Apparently these concerns are often associated with artificial turf and have been the subject of considerable debate in many communities across the country.

During the public comment period, members of the BNCA raised concerns with the Department of Parks & Recreation related to the use of artificial turf at the park's heart. We understand that the DPR is interested in a surface that would have longevity, unlike grass turf, but we are not substantially convinced that DPR has made

commitments toward its maintenance, toward its safety for play, or for the longterm care and maintenance of the park as a whole.

We are also not convinced that artificial turf will be less expensive than natural grass. Earlier this month, we sent Freedom of Information Act requests to DPR and DGS seeking information about the short and long-term costs of artificial turf vs. the costs of natural grass. We have not received answers to our requests. We are skeptical whether artificial turf offers any significant cost advantage, especially when considering the high costs of installation and the longer-term costs of maintenance and replacement.

As such, at our February 19th meeting, the organization adopted a resolution to this effect:

Be It Resolved That The Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association rejects the use of Artificial Grass at Noyes Park, in the absence of concrete cost calculations and in the absence of maintenance plans under the two alternative possibilities, which are real grass vs. artificial turf.

The Civic Association requests that DPR address these concerns as soon as possible.

I am reachable by telephone at 202.525.6475, or by email at brooklandcivic@yahoo.com, to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Bridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Bridge" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Bridge, President

Cc: Hon. Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5
Hon. Vincent Orange, At-Large
Hon. David Grosso, At-Large
Hon. Anita Bonds, At-Large
Commissioner Carolyn Steptoe, ANC-5B04