



24 May 2007

Hand Delivered

Ms. Evelyn Lightfoot
Ward 6 Manager
Department of Parks and Recreation
640 Tenth Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-5316

Dear Ms. Lightfoot:

I would like to thank you for meeting with me and Joe Fengler on yesterday to discuss issues relating to recreation and parks in the northeast Ward Six community. In that meeting it was brought to our attention that the Friends of Sherwood (FOS) had completed an event application for the annual "Father's Day" activity.

The Friends of Sherwood is a group of individuals which has kept the spirit of Sherwood bright during Sherwood's darkest days. In recent years, however the SRAC and ANC 6A have been overwhelmed with complaints of activity on the public streets abutting Sherwood that are inconsistent with the way the vast majority of the residents live. In response to past complaints the SRAC requested that the Applicant provide notice of the impending activity along with a contact number should there be issues that arise to each resident two weeks prior to the event each year.

In the past several years we have continued to hear complaints from community members and have seen that the Permittee does not control the event to the extent that all patrons use the grounds of the facility for socializing (including the facility). Because Sherwood is bounded on three sides with residential property, it is incumbent upon any permittee to ensure that everyone who attends an activity at Sherwood be respectful of those who reside in the immediate community. We recognize that all residents have a right to ensure that the quality of life that they are accustomed to is not unreasonably disturbed.

Discussions with FOS representatives have revealed that they see no need to be responsible for what happens immediately outside of the gates of Sherwood. This behavior is inconsistent with the philosophy of the Sherwood Recreation Advisory Council and has created unnecessary tension with a variety of residents who believe that the SRAC should not support this event.

We have done our very best to assist, include and support this organization as we transitioned into the new Sherwood during the last three years. We have stationed observers at each of the events and have passed through the events, including photographing the different events each year as a part of our documentation. Yesterday, I found myself in a position where I could not deny the allegations made by Joe Fengler of ANC 6A02. There are complaints; there are people who drink from open containers and Joe requested that the permit be denied due to our fellow neighbors concerns.

We all serve the community from our respective positions and we seek to balance various groups of residents concerns with the reality of life in and around a recreation facility. There are limitations and accountability for those who would seek a permit. Our need to be responsive to anyone who approaches us, whether an individual citizen or fellow organization as well as to preserve the rights and privileges of a permittee is understood by all members of the SRAC.

The SRAC takes no personal interest in approval or disapproval of this activity, only that our recommendations and applications thereof is reasonable based on the evidence and facts that we have available; have been weighed in the interest of the immediate community. In part we review the objective of the event, its benefit to Sherwood, presentation and input from community members on whatever event may request a permit.

In conclusion, the attempts to make this event a more acceptable activity have failed. We therefore, regrettably find that we cannot in good faith support the scheduled event at Sherwood on Father's Day, Sunday, 17 June 2007. Furthermore, we request that Council Member Tommy Wells review his Office support of this event and discuss the merits of the activity with you and the appropriate DPR administrators.

Should you require additional information the officers of SRAC are available.

Sincerely,



Robert Pittman
Co-Chairman

cc: Claudette Clark, Co-Chairman SRAC
Patricia Floyd-Hicks, Secretary
Sherwood Recreation Advisory Council
Maria Barner, Sherwood Site Manger
Council Member Thomas Wells (Ward 6)
Council Member Harry Thomas, Chairman Committee on Parks, Recreation and Libraries
Joseph Fengler, ANC Commissioner (Single Member District 6A02)
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PSA 102 Dave Klavitter
Diane Groomes, Commander 1D Command-MPD