



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of May 14, 2011**

DATE: April 27, 2011

SUBJECT: Dedication of Memorial Plaque at Lyon Village Park for Carl Diener, Jr.

C.M. RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the dedication of a park bench with a plaque memorializing Carl Diener, Jr., as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission.

ISSUES: This is a request to approve the installation of new park bench with a plaque at the Lyon Village Park. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: The Park and Recreation Commission recommend the installation of a new park bench with a plaque at Lyon Village Park to memorialize the longtime Lyon Village resident Carl Diener, Jr. ("Carl"). The new bench with an attached plaque will be placed near the park's renovated tennis courts where Carl once played tennis. The plaque will have the following inscription on it:

*Carl Diener 1952 – 2009
Stranger to no one, Friend to all*

BACKGROUND: As required by the County Plaque Policy, the Park and Recreation Commission must make recommendations to the County Board concerning requests to place recognition or memorials on park land, public open space and recreation facilities. The Park and Recreation Commission recommend that the County Board approve this bench and plaque.

Carl became a resident of Arlington County in 1975 when he moved to a residence on Key Boulevard. Later he moved to N. Calvert Street where he lived for 35 years as a Lyon Village resident. Carl was ever-present in the community - playing racquetball at the Sport & Health Club, hitting tennis balls for hours at the YMCA, playing tennis or basketball at Lyon Village, patronizing Clarendon-area restaurants or visiting the Arlington Library. Carl made friends wherever he went because he took a genuine interest in people, often asking about their families, remembering something important to them, doing favors for them, or giving a gift with no expectation in return. Carl's life ended tragically when he was fatally stabbed to death in the early morning hours on December 29, 2009, at the age of 57, while he was walking to open up the nearby Sport & Health Club. When Carl's friends hosted a celebration of his life in Lyon

County Manager:

BMD/mjs

County Attorney:

BRC

[Signature]

Staff:

35. B.

Village, after his death in 2009, more than 400 friends from his many circles of work, sports and neighborhood came to honor him.

Carl received many awards during his career as a health inspector for the District of Columbia and then as a Program Analyst for Concessions for the federal General Services Administration (GSA). In his work with the GSA he was involved with the development, design, construction and operation of Randolph-Sheppard facilities, which are snack bars and cafeterias affording visually-impaired individuals the opportunity to operate their own businesses. Some of the GSA projects for which he received awards were the Patent and Trademark consolidation in Alexandria, Virginia; consolidation of the Secret Service Headquarters in D.C.; and for oversight of two Randolph-Sheppard facilities at the Department of Energy headquarters in D.C.

Because of Carl's background and work as a health inspector for D.C. and the GSA, he became close friends with many merchants serving the Lyon Village community. He used this knowledge to offer advice to the merchants on health regulations, restaurant renovations, County agencies to contact for information, and where to find specific products they needed.

Since his death the community has offered additional tributes in Carl's honor, such as a scholarship in his name to provide youth with tennis lessons at the Arlington YMCA Tennis and Squash Center, and the organization of an annual tennis tournament by the Sport & Health Club in Carl's name.

DISCUSSION: The Park and Recreation Commission's recommendation meets the criteria listed in the Arlington County Plaque Policy. The plaque and bench will be donated by the Diener family and placed within Lyon Village Park at a site that will benefit park users by providing additional seating near the tennis courts.

As required by the Plaque Policy, the Park and Recreation Commission received comments and endorsement of the request from the following organizations: Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC), Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) and the Lyon Village Citizens Association.

NCAC

PRCR staff presented the memorial plaque and bench proposal to the NCAC on April 14, 2011. The NCAC voted to support the request.

HALRB

County staff presented the same proposal to HALRB on April 20, 2011, and received unanimous approval by the members present that night.

Lyon Village Citizens Association

The Lyon Village Citizens Association provided a letter of support, dated April 26, 2010, for the bench and plaque (*see* Attachment 1).

Park and Recreation Commission

PRCR staff presented the same proposal, with evidence of support from NCAC, HALRB and the Lyon Village Citizens Association, to the Park and Recreation Commission on April 26, 2011. The Commission voted to approve the plaque and bench proposal.

FISCAL IMPACT: The bench and inscribed plaque will be provided by the Diener family. Maintenance costs will be included in the PRCR department's budget.

**Lyon Village Citizens Association
1601 N. Herndon Street
Arlington, VA 22201**

April 26, 2010

Dr. Stephen Glasser
7839 Midday Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

Dear Dr. Glasser:

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Lyon Village Citizen's Association, I write to express our support for the proposed bench in the Lyon Village park to honor the late Carl Deiner, Jr.

We applaud that the family and friends of Carl Deiner would like to erect a memorial in his memory, and honored that they would like to erect it in our park. We fully support this donation.

We ask that the County consider the long-term interests in this investment that the family is making, and that you/we identify a place and plan to ensure that whenever the County determines that the bench requires maintenance or replacement, that the plaque be moved to a new bench in the park.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to this donation, and would like to do anything we can to ensure it happens. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 703-528-3731.

Sincerely,



John M. Carten
Acting President
Lyon Village Citizen's Association