

July 24, 2009
Vol. 34, Week 20

The OBSERVER

34
Years of
Service

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Stream Appeal Denied

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A group of Reston residents from the group Save the Glade made an appeal to the Reston Association Design Review Board for its previous approval of Glade Reach 4 of the ongoing stream restoration. The DRB voted against the appeal on Tuesday night.

Prior to hearing the appeal Mike Rolband, president of Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc., provided an update of the project. He said Glade Reach 1 is complete while Reach 2 is 75 percent complete and Reach 3 is 40 percent complete. The DRB originally approved Glade Reach 4 on June 19, he noted.

Currently Reach 4 construction is set to begin in mid-August and community meetings for Reaches 5 and 6 are underway and preliminary plans are in the design phase. During her statement Diana Carter, of Save the Glade, said the appeal was out of concern for the birds and wildlife that live in and near the Glade stream. She said she and her husband want WSSI to hold off on beginning construction on Reach 4 until September so the bird-nesting season is disturbed as little as possible.

Carter conducted a small study of what birds may be nesting in the Glade stream and presented it to the DRB. "This kind of a study should have been done not just for the birds but for all

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the animals," she said. She said although WSSI conducted an analysis of the trees on the land they did not consider what the impact to the trees and stream would have on the wildlife.

Carter said the birds would have a more successful breeding season if WSSI pushed their construction schedule back a few weeks. She said the wildlife inventory completed by RA and WSSI was not nearly comprehensive enough. She said her small study used definitive information "including Reston's own bird list." She said because the DRB is also responsible for encouraging environmental stewardship the appeal is within the board's domain.

Renette Oklewicz said her family supports the appeal and although Save the Glade is presenting facts they are being ignored. She pleaded with the DRB to consider the wildlife. She said the group has all but given up on saving the forest but if the project could be held off for a few weeks they could save many species of wildlife. She said she feels only Rolband is listening to them and working with them and RA is ignoring the group's concerns.

Mike Miller, a member of the DRB, said disruption to any wooded area is difficult but most animals are smart enough to leave. He said he has never seen a construction schedule built around wildlife. "Every time we come in here we get another reason why we don't like this project," he said after commending Carter's study. He said a program such as the stream restoration will always have adverse impacts but it is improving the damage that was done when Reston was developed decades ago.

Carol Hadlock, a Reston resident, said Carter's study was misleading and some of the birds on the study are not nesting currently or do not nest in this region. Carolyn Badila, another Reston resident, said she still supports the project. She said on a recent dragonfly count in the nearly completed Snakeden stream

a group of area residents found dragonflies where they had not seen them previously for years.

Barbara Byron,
chairwoman of the

DRB, said the wildlife concerns have been brought up at many past meetings and did not think the information brought to the meeting qualified as new enough to postpone the project by two weeks. She said she also did not think postponing the project by two weeks would have a large impact on wildlife.

DRB member Neal Roseberry said the applicant, WSSI, has gone above and beyond in considering tree and wildlife impacts and has worked with the residents. He said he is not comfortable with the DRB getting into the work of setting an applicant's construction schedule and did not see enough new or changed information to warrant the appeal or delaying the project. The board voted unanimously against the appeal.