

# THE ROXBOROUGH FORUM

## THE COMMUNITY VOICE

**March 11, 2006**  
**Volume 1, Number 2**

Welcome to the second edition of the Roxborough Forum. The Forum is provided as a service to the Roxborough Park community. The Forum will print your opinions about issues in our community. We will not print your opinions about people living here.

The Forum will not attempt to provide the news of the community. That task is most ably handled by the Roxborough e-News. We would not attempt to compete with the reporting done in the e-News. One small error was noted however in the Roxborough e-News (#109) dated March 4, 2006. In a brief article mentioning the board findings in the Blues and Jazz Club issue which was titled, "BOARD FINDS NO COVENANT VIOLATION" it was reported that, "Lawyers representing the Foundation and the Johnson's were present for the private session with the Board."

The error occurred in reporting that a lawyer for the Johnson's was present. At that private meeting the Johnson's were not represented by a lawyer. The only lawyer in the room for that meeting was a lawyer representing the Roxborough Park Foundation. Those in attendance at that private meeting were Tom and Donna Johnson, the Foundation General Manager, the board of directors to include Eklund, Inohara, Kennedy, and Livingston (one board member-Jones-- was teleconferenced in from Seattle), and the attorney representing the Foundation.

Back to business --

There was a lot of interest and many responses to the first issue of the Forum. It seems you wish your ideas to be heard in the community. Lets move on and discuss your feedback. The first opinion violates the rule about "people" comments. But what the heck, this is my creation so I can break the rules.

### READER COMMENTS:

There are already several places to display opinions about our Roxborough Park. We don't need separate KENNEDY inputs. Why don't you voice your opinions through the recently created Long Range Planning Committee? (I recommend that you precede(sic) that with a ten year sabbatical).  
(Submitted by D)

OUCH, that one hurt!! Maybe it is a good rule not to print peoples gripes about other people.

I have a radar detector and it now goes off every time I go through the entrance. I have seen a box mounted on a pole there and I think that is some kind of a radar speed measuring device. Is this true? Don't those things also tell me how fast I am going? This one doesn't.

(Submitted by M)

Dear M: you are right. That is a radar speed detector and it is in use near our entrance. Perhaps someone on the Traffic Safety committee could answer the rest of your question in the next issue of the Forum. If we get a building with a community room could we have square dancing there? Also why can't the Johnson's have their Jazz parties in the community room? (Submitted by R)

Dear R: I'm fairly sure square dancing could be a part of the activities in the community room, but to bring in live entertainment such as the Johnson's private party's would require a sophisticated sound system that would add up to \$100,000 or more to the cost of the building, which is capped at \$700,000.  
What is the value to me in having an office building and community room here in the Park?

(Submitted by B)

Dear B: That is a decision each of us must make because we will have an opportunity to vote on a \$700,000 capital expenditure to build this structure. That vote will take place in the next few months. Your vote for the building should be based on your need to use the building and the status you perceive that the building would bring to the community. If you don't plan to use the building a successful vote against would free up \$700,000 to be used for other badly needed community projects. **We NEED the community building....that is why we (the HOA) have been putting aside money for the past five years! Get on with it and get a quality building built.**

(Submitted by T)

Dear T: Your comments are appreciated and I am sure there are others in the community who feel exactly the same as you.

Your e-mail "Roxborough Forum" is WONDERFUL. You will receive many responses to this, some will be from us. You named many of the issues facing our community in your remarks at the Annual Meeting. It is up to the members of this community to prioritize how, where, and when we will spend our money in resolving issues facing us. You have challenged the community to discuss the "nice to have" against the "need to have."

(Submitted by L-not my wife).

Thanks L: My wife was going to say the same thing, but you said it first.

I've read where the new office building will be called, "the Pavilion." That sounds odd. I looked up pavilion in my dictionary and here is what I found:

PAVILION -1. An ornate tent, especially of the kinds used in chivalry in medieval Europe. 2a. A temporary, ornamental and often open structure, used at parks or fairs for amusement or shelter. 2b. A summerhouse.

The definition of pavilion goes on but doesn't come close to describing the building planned for Roxborough Park. I don't think this building should be called something that it isn't. I don't like the idea of calling a building a tent. I don't live in a tent. I probably won't vote for a pavilion. Are we going to allow a carnival in Haney Park?

(Submitted by A)

Dear A: A rose by any other name would smell the same. Perhaps those on the building committee could have a naming contest for the new building We hadn't given the name much thought until you brought this up. Could be an issue with some people here.

I don't want my share of the \$700,000 back, but I can think of a lot of things we need more than an office building.

(Submitted by M)

Dear M: Thanks for your opinion, but you didn't support it with suggestions of better ways to spend the \$700,000 windfall that the Foundation has accumulated. Perhaps you could submit some ideas on how you would spend that money to the Forum. Perhaps there are other readers out there who also have thoughts on how they would spend this money rather than use it for constructing a building. Let's hear from you.

This isn't a gripe ... more of a repeat of a suggestion I made in (?) 2004, when Tom Johancen was still on the Board. I sent this suggestion to Joyce Garrett and Lt. ? at the West Metro Fire Department. For a variety of reasons, the suggestion never went anywhere. The subject was "Fire Mitigation," which you and other Board members have indicated is a community priority. Let me start with the basic steps to mitigate fire threats around our houses:

1. Cut down, cut up, and drag and carry slash to a pile near the driveway or street.
2. Load slash into your nice car to take it to the dump site.
3. Unload the slash at the dump site.
4. Repeat Steps #1-3 until job is complete.
5. Repeat Steps #1-4 annually (or thereabouts.)

Step #1 was unavoidable. We did it ourselves, clearing out the "evil forest." We decided our car was just too

nice to use to haul the 12' x 12' x8' pile of slash to the dump site. Rather than continuing with the following steps we elected to rent a Large (6") chipper to chew up the pile we had accumulated. Cost us \$167 for two days. (We turned in our receipt to the Foundation per RPF's request having to do with some sort of grant. Don't know what happened there.)

After all that work, our house is at lower risk than it was, but is still at risk because of some of the surrounding homesites.

Obviously, the great effort required to clear out dead stuff is only one part of the problem. I would assert that the reason many/most people don't clear their dead limbs and brush is the even greater effort to haul the slash to the dump area. I think Roxborough Park could help in this area. You can figure out the details, but the idea is that RPF establish a "Fire Mitigation Week(s)." During this week(s), RPF would hire/rent a large chipper and would pick up slash stacked by the roadways and chip it on the spot. All residents would have to do is to get the stuff to the street on their appointed day, eliminating Steps #2-4, making the job a lot easier, thereby encouraging people to actually do the job. Could be done by special advance request only.

What do you think?

(Submitted by K)

Dear K: You may be on to something. The basic idea is a partnership between the Foundation and the members to aid in fire mitigation. The test of your idea is how the board will react.

I have made my inputs to Herb Livingston. These concern - flood is a greater threat than fire; add an office only section to the existing maintenance building for about \$ 100,000., etc. I retired from FEMA and have 39 years of experience working on disaster response and recovery operations and disaster related planning activities. Fires are an insured risk. Floods are not and FEMA will not provide disaster assistance for repair/restoration of our roads/trails, culverts, bridges, equipment and buildings. Reason is we are a "gated community." There is no flood insurance or any other insurance to cover our infrastructure except for the buildings. Homeowners can get fire and flood insurance.

Unlike a flood, fires will cause minimal impacts to our infrastructure. I assume the maintenance facility is covered by fire insurance.

(Submitted by D)

Thanks, D. These are very good thoughts. I'm sure Herb and the rest of the board are giving consideration to your ideas. I can't help but think though what a fire, that would destroy part of our community, would do to the property values of the rest of the community.

OK, that's all folks--for this week. I was not able to get all of your comments in this edition due to sheer volume. I will try to get the ones we missed in the next edition.

Oh, almost forgot-the Roxborough Park Foundation has a website with lots of valuable info on it. To visit the website go to this address: <http://www.roxborough-park.com/>  
The website has a number of Foundation pages and several community pages.  
Simply click on either and go exploring.

P.S.: The board members and the General Manager of the Foundation are on the Roxborough Forum emailing list. They read everything you submit.