

NATURE CENTER  
RESTON, VIRGINIA

October 2, 1967

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Second Homeowners Planning and Budget Committee

FROM: Vernon J. Walker, Director Nature Center

The Nature Center has been established by the Reston Foundation for Community Programs with the hiring of a director, a part-time secretary and the establishment of an office on Washington Plaza.

Certain aspects in the development of Reston appear to warrant a nature center with a new approach. It is the purpose of this memo to point out this need and to establish a basis for some community financing of the program.

Commonly Owned Lands

The establishment of commonly owned lands throughout Reston brings the opportunity for study and management of these lands by the residents. It also brings the problems associated with land management.

The challenge is great and the results can be dramatic, valuable, and far-reaching. Coordinated efforts in planting trees, shrubs, and flowers will build an even more beautiful community. Such finer points as the introduction and maintenance of beneficial wildlife can make Reston a much more interesting place in which to live.

The Education of Children and Adults

The nature center as a community institution can do much to fill what often is a void in the education of our citizens.

The nature center can serve as a catalyst in a variety of roles to help bring about more effective education about the environment.

Such planned aspects of the nature center development as a garden program, a children's farm, guided tours through nature preserves, a greenhouse where plant propagation and study can take place, outdoor laboratories on school sites, special courses, and community planting projects provide a maximum of participation in a variety of kinds of activities related to the natural environment.

On the basis of the above, I request that the Planning and Budget Committee budget an amount of \$3,000 to help finance the nature center program for 1968.

In supporting the nature center, then, the Second Homeowners would be partially underwriting the following programs and services to residents or groups of residents:

1. Helping with the implementation of environmental improvements; such as the bulb planting project (over 9,000 bulbs planted this fall), help in analyzing land management problems.
2. Providing services to teachers in Lake Anne and LANK
  - a. Inservice Training
  - b. Consultant services
  - c. Demonstration lessons
3. Interpretive walks for adults and children
4. Consultant services to various groups
  - a. Second Homeowners Environmental Management Committee
  - b. Cluster Grounds Committees
  - c. Girl and Boy and Cub Scouts
  - d. Camping Committee
  - e. Churches
5. Periodic Bulletins
6. Special programs
  - a. Talks, movies, slides, etc.
7. Telephone service on environmental problems
8. Development of a total nature center program



In summary then, the Homeowners Association by helping to support such a program is helping to ensure the building and maintenance of a more beautiful and valuable environment. Concurrently, it is also helping to educate a citizenry which will be sensitive to their environment. One cannot exist without the other.