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Citizens Seek New Center

By MARY ELLEN COLANDENE
JM Special Writer

More than 30 people attended a recent meeting for horse enthusiasts held at the Evergreen Fire Department.

Leah Miller and Jeri Collins, area residents, called the meeting so people could express their support and interest in developing an Equestrian Center at James S. Long Park, located on U.S. 15 about one and a quarter miles north of Interstate 66.

Peggy Delinocci, executive director of the Prince William Park

Authority, filled in for Bill Broadus, Park Authority chairman, who could not attend due to illness. Delinocci presented long-range plans for Long Park and displayed a park map which showed the location of the 15 acres set aside for the Equestrian Center.

Collins, who is actively supporting the center, gave a brief history of the park. The park's 167 acres were originally part of Burnside which the Collins purchased in 1951. The acreage was sold to the Long family in 1962 and in 1980 was purchased by the Park Authority. The park was

officially dedicated on April 28, 1984

Miller explained that lack of Capital Improvement Plan funding from the county forced the initiation of Phase One development of the center into the hands of area residents who have a strong desire and determination to see a center established at Long Park. Phase One would consist of footing an drainage for an outdoor show ring and construction of a judging stand.

Attendees included Dr. John Aldred, a veterinarian and resident of Log Mill Road; Jinnie Cohn and daughter Candy from the Mid



At Meeting

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Haymarket area residents (from left) Leah Miller and Jeri Collins organized a recent meeting for citizens to

express views on a Equestrian Center. With them are Gainesville Supervisor Tony Guiffre.

dleburg-Orange County Pony Club; Brenda George of the Bull Run Hunt; John Millhiser, president of the Virginia State Appaloosa organization; members of the Arabian Association; the Dressage Association; the Quarter Horse organization; the Fairfax County Thoroughbred Association, and Gainesville Supervisor Tony Guifre.

Many horse enthusiasts expressed dissatisfaction to Delinocci over the proportion of acreage allotted to the Equestrian Center in comparison to sports fields which are presently installed.

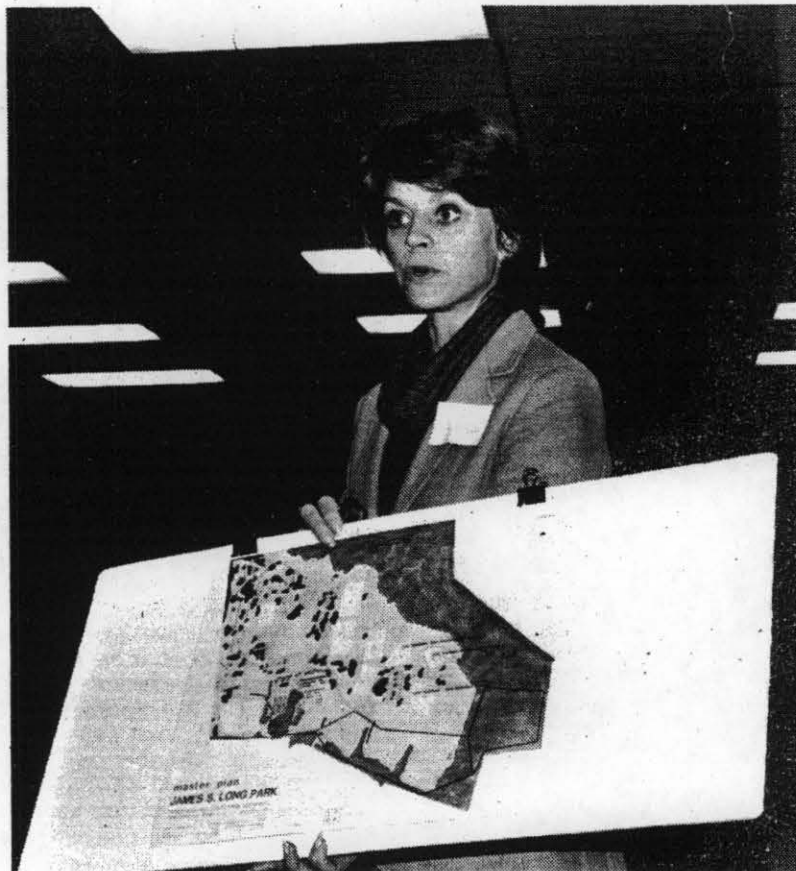
Aldred voiced concern that the location of an indoor, all-purpose center be given first priority so park land would be planned most efficiently. He felt that an adviser knowledgeable in equestrian matters should be used by the park planning staff.

Millhiser advised that a statistical study showing the economic benefit returned to the county by horse show participants be presented to the County Council of Economic Development.

Miller recommended that attendees make their ideas and recommendations known to the Park Authority. "It's really up to the community. If we want it in we have to work on it together," she said of the project.

Volunteers offered to work on committees to draw up alternative plans for the 15 acres, to do a demographic study to show the proposed use of the center and to raise funds for Phase One of the center.

Another meeting is planned for next month. The date will be announced later.



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Long Park Plan

Peggy Delinocci, executive director of the Prince William County Park Authority, shows horse enthusiasts the master plan for James S. Long Park near Haymarket.

REC Group Meets