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Julie Crenshaw:

What I'd like to talk about is the process. The intentions of the Council I think were very admirable. But what happened with this particular process was less than desirable. It was not consistent all the way through. The reason that you have some of the items in your report is because I FOIA'd information that was not given to anyone. The May 4 matrix that I put together was an example to the staff of how to do this. The public comments from all the earlier ones were given at the May 26 meeting. They were never reviewed. There are some very serious problems with the way this was done. It was not consistent from the beginning statements at a meeting and what took place within the meeting itself. As I mentioned at one of the work sessions, I intend to do a complete evaluation and submit it as if you had hired me as a consultant. The facilitator could have done this without it boiling down to a fight over soccer fields or not, and that's really what it's come to. Now, I'm sure that you have this particular item, there's enough copies for everyone up there. It's not necessarily something that I'm going read to you. But what it shows is that there are some changes in the vegetation up there. How many children who were here tonight and even how many adults know that this is a wildflower? What are the grades of the children who have been here tonight in science? What are we really looking at for what these children need? There are a lot of soccer fields. A lot of fields in the City. How many natural laboratories do you have in the City? The gentlemen mentioned Winkler. Okay, that's over there. It's one ecosystem. There are two or three different ecosystems in this park. This is gathered from the north end of the bridge. It was lying on the ground, I did not pull it up, which you cannot do in a national park. I will take it back. But, it was an example of something. This particular cattail is a species that typically doesn't grow in this particular area. It is only supposed to grow as far south as Kentucky. There are two different kinds of cattails there. There is the common cattail, which we usually see, and there is the narrow leaf (inaudible) cattail. There are two different flowers on here – there is a male flower and a female flower. How many of you knew that? The point that I'm trying to make is what your doing in the north end of the park is for something that doesn't have the same value as this natural laboratory has. How do you think people learned about botany, about biology, about chemistry, research, medicine. A lot of the people were in these kinds of areas and they studied them. What is the cell structure of this compared to the cell structure of that? There is so much information in this ecosystem or the ecosystems in this park. They are not repeated anywhere else in this City. Where are your science clubs? Most of the schools I'm familiar with have science club, biology club, chemistry club, ecology club, environmental science. You are destroying something for soccer fields that will probably sink. This is the area that I was showing you in the photographs. It is 45 feet from the northeast edge of the northern soccer field. It is not in a ditch. If there is enough water for this to be here, that water source is underneath that ground. And I know when I have walked that ground I sink and I'm not a very heavy person. The hydrology report was not done to determine the impact on the wetlands and the neighborhood. The results of that hydrology report say that there will be no additional flood rise in the Potomac River. Okay. I think people wanted to know about the wetlands and they wanted to know about the neighborhood. I think the money is better spent soccer fields someplace else. But give these kids a laboratory. There was a little

boy featured in the *Washington Post* who lives near the National Arboretum. He lives with his grandmother. He was about 12 years old. Under-privileged kid. That was his science laboratory. This is everybody's science laboratory. And you don't get it just anywhere. What can the children in the schools get from this place. Thank you.