

Draft Minutes of Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group

January 26, 2010 Meeting

The Stakeholder Advisory Group (“Group”) convened at the Fort Ward Museum at its announced meeting time of 7:00 p.m. All members were present except Member Washington, who communicated an excuse via Member Terrell.

City Management Staff Present:

Laura Durham (Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities)
Pam Cressey (Office of Historic Alexandria – Alexandria Archaeology)
Susan Cumbey (Office of Historic Alexandria – Fort Ward)
Lance Mallamo (Office of Historic Alexandria)

The agenda circulated by Chairman Fulton was approved. The minutes of the January 10, 2010 meeting were also approved.

Old Business

Acting on a motion approved at the last meeting, Chairman Fulton and Members Moir and Ries circulated drafts of mission statements. A discussion of the principles involved in each draft followed. Member Terrell suggested that drafts include a reference to the work of the Fort Ward History Work Group. Further discussion followed on this proposal, along with the role of the mission statement itself in the context of the Group’s overall work and charge by the City Council. Chairman Fulton proposed that a framework for the Group’s work should be to analyze and collect information about Fort Ward Park, then digest that information, and then compile a report at the end of the Group’s term. The proposal met with acceptance, although no motion was made. **Chairman Fulton moved that the Group form a subcommittee of interested members to revise the drafts and edit them into one, to be resubmitted to the entire Group. Member Terrell seconded the motion. The motion was carried over Member Mohr’s opposition.**

Following on a letter sent to J. Spengler and L. Mallamo, requesting certain information from their respective departments, L. Mallamo and L. Durham noted that a response was being prepared and the information requested by the Group was being researched. Chairman Fulton noted the cooperation between the respective City departments and hoped it would continue.

No other old business was undertaken.

New Business

Chairman Fulton circulated a partial contact list to Group members and asked them to provide certain further information.

A discussion of scheduling of the Group’s next meetings, and topics to be considered at each one as part of the Group’s investigation phase of its work, was undertaken. Relatedly, Member

Terrell noted a meeting of the History Work Group on February 6 at 10:00 a.m. at Oakland Baptist Church. L. Durham also noted that information on the History Work Group could be found on the City's internet pages.

Chairman Fulton focused the discussion of upcoming meetings on the issues to be reviewed at each meeting, and the order of presentations on them. **On consent motion, the Group agreed to Chairman Fulton's proposal that he send a letter to R. Baier of the Transportation & Environmental Services Department, requesting a presentation on erosion control issues in the Park, with the caveat that the letter give Mr. Baier leave to seek input from other City agencies in preparing and making his presentation as he saw fit.**

The Group discussed the use of Fort Ward Park as the City's Arboretum. **On consent motion, the Group agreed to Chairman Fulton's proposal that he send a letter to the city arborist, requesting a presentation on that use of the Park.**

The Group discussed the playground equipment in the Park. Member Mohr noted that the playground equipment is being replaced in accordance with a City-wide plan to do so.

Chairman Fulton noted the Cultural Resource Inventory that the Office of Historic Alexandria is developing, and the Group agreed to learn more about this evolving resource. **On consent motion, the Group agreed to Chairman Fulton's proposal that he send a letter to L. Mallamo and P. Cressey requesting further information on this item.**

Member Schreiner proposed that the Group should have a thorough understanding of the role of Fort Ward during the Civil War, primarily as part of the Defenses of Washington. A discussion followed. **On consent motion, the Group agreed to Chairman Fulton's proposal that he send a letter to S. Cumbey and W. Owen, requesting further information on that issue and the City's planning for the Sequicentennial of the Civil War and possible impacts of that event on the Park.**

A discussion ensued regarding the soccer field, located to the immediate west of the boundary of Fort Ward Park and immediately north of the adjacent school. Chairman Fulton noted that he was aware of concerns from neighbors regarding the use of lighting on the field. Member Forbes countered that the lighting issue had only been raised by one person and had been addressed; moreover, he stated, the field itself is outside of the geographic boundary of the Group's charge of work. L. Durham noted that J. Spengler could address the use of the soccer field in his presentation. She also said that City Staff is drafting guiding principles for management of the Park that would, at some point, be submitted to the Group for review and comment. No action was taken by the Group on the particular issue of the lighting of the soccer field.

The next meetings of the Group will be on Thursday, February 11, 2010 and Tuesday, February 23, 2010, at locations to be determined and published in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Schreiner, Secretary