

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

Tuesday, November 23, 2010

The Stakeholder Advisory Group (“Group”) convened at the Fort Ward Museum at its announced meeting time of 7:00 p.m. Members, City Management and Staff, and identified guests present included:

Charles Ziegler
Linda Ries
William Schreiner
Adrienne Washington
Frances Terrell
Richard Brune

Susan Cumbey (Office of Historic Alexandria – Fort Ward)
Laura Durham (Parks and Recreation)

The Vice-Chairman observed that a quorum was present, and the agenda was distributed and approved. The Group unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the last meeting with one change.

Old Business

The Vice-Chairman reported that the Group’s draft report (“Report”) had received five comments from the public during the open public comment period. All of the public comments have been, or will be, made available on the Group’s website. He proposed that: 1) each chapter team review the comments submitted, consider those applicable to that section, and incorporate any as relevant; 2) each member of the Group consider those comments that are applicable to the entire report, and circulate draft edits on the entire Report as relevant; and 3) each member of the Group circulate edits of their own making, as desired, to the Report as relevant.

The Group generally agreed with the approach without formal motion, although it was the subject of some discussion during which certain sub-issues arose and were addressed, as follows:

1) W. Schreiner stated that the suggestion raised in one of the public comments that the City of Alexandria publicly apologize for prior decisions made with regard to the Park did not fit neatly into any section of the report, had not been raised or considered during the Group’s deliberations, and may be outside the Group’s charge; therefore, that issue should be addressed, if at all, outside of the process the Vice-Chairman had outlined. After some discussion, the Group unanimously agreed to a motion of A. Washington to set all issues relating to the proposed apology for discussion at the next meeting.

2) S. Cumbey queried how the Group would address the results of the current archaeological field work in its Report, given that the field work would barely be concluded before the Report is concluded. The Group’s consensus was that summaries of the field work, to the extent available when the Report is to be put in final form, should suffice.

New Business

S. Cumbey reported on the archaeological field work. She stated that shovel test pits had been finished in the area around the Shorts homestead, and work would soon begin near the Jackson Cemetery. As of yet, no evidence of foundations had been located, but the work had disclosed concentrations of significant artifacts.

L. Durham reported that the Group's letter regarding a timeline for three interrelated projects – the archaeology field work, the stormwater plan and remediation, and the master plan -- had been received and that the City executive staff with authority for the Park were coordinating on a response. She said the staff may respond on an interim basis, or in full after the Report is completed.

This led the Group to discuss how to focus the Report on the issues raised by the timeline. L. Ries volunteered to edit the executive summary to focus it more on that issue, and circulate a revised version to the Group.

L. Durham pointed out that a the Parks and Recreation Department's mowing plan for Fort Ward Park had been posted on that department's web site.

The next regular meeting of the Group will be on December 9, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Schreiner, Secretary