

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

July 27, 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:

Tom Fulton
William Schreiner
Frances Terrell
Philip Voorhees
Richard Brune

Susan Cumbey (Office of Historic Alexandria – Fort Ward)
Wally Owen (Office of Historic Alexandria – Fort Ward)
Lance Mallamo (Office of Historic Alexandria)
Jim Spengler (Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities)
Glenn Eugster
Richard Hobson
Carolyn Griglione

The Chairman observed that a quorum was not present, and so no formal action could be taken. Consideration of the minutes of the prior meeting was deferred.

Informal discussion was held as follows:

1. Roadmap for Change: In response to the Chairman’s requests, Jim Spengler discussed the “Roadmap for Change.” This City initiative asked departments to look at their core missions and assess services that could be performed more appropriately by other departments or not performed at all. In Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, the emphasis of this initiative focused on a transportation planning group that spent much of its time reviewing subdivision plans. Mr. Spengler’s recommended changes would free this planning group to resume master park planning.

The master park planning process would involve: 1) collecting baseline data on all City parks; 2) developing standard infrastructure for City parks; and then 3) preparing master plans for all City parks. The effort would take at least three years.

2. Carolyn Griglione commented that the “no-mow” policy created a fire hazard, a possible rodent hazard, and a safety hazard as families with children are now pressed to use mowed areas closer to Braddock Road for recreation. A general discussion ensued.

3. Lance Mallamo reported on the pending contract for archaeological excavation in certain areas of the Park. The contract is awaiting clarifications from the bidder. Lance requested that the Group’s August 24 meeting include a pre-meeting walking tour of the areas where

archaeological excavations will be undertaken, followed by a public meeting where the City would announce that work was about to begin. A wide-ranging discussion ensued.

4. The undersigned reported, on behalf of the Friends of Fort Ward, that riding mowers had once again damaged the historic earthwork of Fort Ward. A wide-ranging discussion followed regarding the City's ability, or inability, to properly mow the earthworks.

5. Fran Terrell reported that OHA intern Neil Voss was preparing the text of signs to be located in the Park. A total of six signs were being prepared. Sign themes include: 1) an overview of the Park; 2) the founding of the Oakland Baptist Church and its cemetery; 3) the Civil War; 4) education in the community surrounding Fort Ward; 5) the founders of the community surrounding Fort Ward; 6) the Jackson family cemetery.

Ms. Terrell also noted recent discussions with the City regarding tree removal in, and fencing of, the Oakland Baptist Cemetery.

The next regular meetings of the Group will be on August 24, 2010, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Schreiner, Secretary