

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

March 11, 2010 Meeting

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

Tom Fulton
William Schreiner
Adrienne Washington
Linda Ries
Frances Terrell
Ripley Forbes
Jim Spengler (Parks and Recreation)
Susan Cumbey (Office of Historic Alexandria–Fort Ward)
Wally Owen (Office of Historic Alexandria–Fort Ward)
Lance Mallamo (Office of Historic Alexandria)

The agenda circulated by Chairman Fulton was approved. The minutes of the February 23, 2010 meeting were also approved.

Old Business

The Group continued work on the draft of the Mission Statement circulated at the last meeting by L. Ries and F. Terrell. After some discussion, **the Group voted unanimously to approve the draft Mission Statement with the removal of the phrase “post-Civil War” from the draft (a revised draft is attached hereto).**

Chairman Fulton reported on his ongoing efforts to request opinions and input from stakeholder groups, as authorized by the Group in prior meetings. Stakeholder groups that have received requests from the Chairman include Seminary Hill Association, Seminary Hill Civic Association, the Friends of Fort Ward, Oakland Baptist Church, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, Alexandria Archaeology Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Group then continued work on the draft action plan and timetable discussed at its prior meetings. The Group discussed the number of working sub-groups that would be desirable, and ultimately settled on five sub-groups to steer the next phase of its work, out of the six that were proposed in the draft action plan. Those sub-groups include Historic and Cultural Issues, Environmental and Natural Resource Issues, Recreational Use Issues, Park Operations and Management Issues, and Development and Promotion Issues. While acknowledging that the sixth proposed sub-group—Conflicts and Current Concerns—represented a significant desired focus for the Group, the Group decided to make the issues raised by that sub-group a focus of the next phase of its work after the five other sub-groups had completed their work.

The discussion turned to staffing and operating the sub-groups. **The Group agreed that each sub-group would be led by two members who would be responsible for steering the sub-group and ensuring that its work was completed,** and there was no limit on the number of

sub-groups in which members could participate. Some overlap between the sub-groups is expected. With the five sub-groups as identified *supra*, members present chose the following group leadership assignments:

<u>Group Member</u>	<u>Subgroup Leadership Choice</u>
L. Ries	Environment & Natural Resources
A. Washington	Development and Promotion
W. Schreiner	Park Operations & Management
R. Forbes	Recreational Use
F. Terrell	History and Cultural Issues

Chairman Fulton agreed to query other members before the next meeting to pin down further leadership assignments. **The Group agreed to resolve a framework and timetable for each sub-group’s work at its next regular business meeting, although there was general agreement with L. Ries’ suggestion that regular Group meeting time could be used for some sub-group work, along with telephone calls and other communications. The Group also agreed with R. Forbes’ suggestion that any communication between the sub-groups and City staff be funneled through Chairman Fulton, to avoid vexatious burdens on the staff.**

The Group held a short discussion on the City’s proposed Fiscal Year 2011 budget and its impact on Fort Ward Park and Museum, although it was generally agreed that the Group had no authority to act in response to the budget.

New Business

Chairman Fulton proposed sending a short e-mail to the City’s elected and professional leadership, informing it that the Group has commenced work and outlining in brief form its process. **The Group concurred with the proposal.**

The Group then turned to future meetings. The following were reported:

- March 20, 2010: L. Mallamo and J. Spengler to present to the Group on the work of their respective departments with regard to Fort Ward Park and Museum, as outlined in prior meetings, at 10:30 a.m. at the Museum.
- March 23, 2010: Regular business meeting of the Group, with S. Cumbey and W. Owen to present to the Group as outlined in prior meetings and communications, at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum.
- April 8, 2010: Regular business meeting of the Group, with P. Cressey to present to the Group as outlined in prior meetings and communications, at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum.

J. Spengler updated the Group on changes to the Parks and Recreation Department's plan for mowing in the Park. He outlined two areas of the Park—primarily north of the Northwest Bastion of the Fort (between the Bastion and the park roadway), and along the east boundary of the Park—that would be mowed less frequently. General discussion followed, with the benefits of the plan appearing to be: 1) some reduction in water flow from the Episcopal High School property north to the northern boundary of the Park, which may reduce erosion in that area; 2) an ability to use funds saved from mowing in these areas to permit mowing of the Northwest Bastion on a more regular basis; and 3) greater diversity of flora and fauna in the Park.

The Group adjourned shortly thereafter at approximately 8:40 p.m.

The next regular meetings of the Group will be on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, and April 8, 2010, the Museum, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Schreiner, Secretary