

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

September 9, 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
Linda Ries
Charles Ziegler
William Schreiner
Adrienne Washington
Frances Terrell
Phillip Voorhees
Richard Brune
Ripley Forbes

Susan Cumbey (Office of Historic Alexandria – Fort Ward)
Wally Owen (Office of Historic Alexandria – Fort Ward)
Lance Mallamo (Office of Historic Alexandria)
Pam Cressey (Office of Historic Alexandria)
Glenn Eugster
Laura Durham
Esther White

The Chairman observed that a quorum was present, and the agenda was distributed and approved. The Group unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2010 meeting without corrections.

Old Business

The Chairman explained that the focus of the meeting would be on addressing the concerns raised in D. Cavanaugh’s letter distributed to the Group on August 24, 2010. The Chairman read the letter and an August 25, 2010 letter from D. Cavanaugh (attached as exhibits to the minutes of the August 24, 2010 meeting). The jist of the two documents, which speak for themselves, is that an archaeological contract under consideration by the Office of Historic Alexandria for certain field work in the Fort Ward Park should be delayed pending completion of documentary research.

In response to the concerns raised in the August 24, 2010 Cavanaugh Letter, Lance Mallamo and Pam Cressey gave a presentation focusing on: 1) the timeline of events leading to the current archaeology contract under consideration; 2) the distinction between the stewardship-based archaeology needed at Fort Ward and the archaeological processes contemplated by Section 106 of the National Historic Code; 3) a point-by-point rebuttal of the comments made in the August 24, 2010 Cavanaugh Letter; 4) the interaction between the archaeological process contemplated

for the Park, the timeline of the Group's work, and the contract under consideration; and 5) the scope of City Council's decision in November 2009 to fund archaeology at Fort Ward Park.

After their presentations, L. Mallamo and P. Cressey took questions from the Group, and a wide-ranging discussion on issues (1) through (5) above followed. A. Washington stressed that moving forward with the archaeology contract under consideration – the step opposed by the Cavanaugh Letter – could mean that the documentary part of the archaeological research may never be accomplished. Others variously contended that the field work was needed for the Group to move forward with its work, or that the City Council should be asked to appropriate funds for the documentary part of the work.

The Chairman moved that: **The Group recommended that the Office of Historic Alexandria proceed with negotiations to pursue the contemplated contract for archaeological field work.** The motion was seconded by P. Voorhees. All voted in favor except A. Washington.

As a follow-on discussion, the Chairman proposed sending a letter to the City Council on this issue, with a suggestion to fund the documentary research separately. The Group generally supported the concept, and the Chairman agreed to prepare a draft.

New Business

Given the lateness of the hour, new business contemplated by the agenda was held over to the next meeting.

The next regular meetings of the Group will be on September 28, 2010 and October 14, 2010, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Schreiner, Secretary