

**Fort Ward Park Community Meeting**  
**February 18, 2009, 7:00 pm, St. Stephens and St. Agnes School**

## **Small Group Discussions**

### **GROUP 1**

- Parking Availability for casual use
- Security for Park
- African American History Input
- Improved communication with community (regarding events)
- Process for contacting Park Authorities
- Drainage
- Postpone facilities plan until master plan completed
- Pay Phone on Westside
- Alcohol and noise permits should be re-evaluated and possibly banned.
- Re-establish arboretum at Fort Ward
- Interpretive trail—cultural and natural resources (including African American Heritage)

### **GROUP 2**

#### Historical.Cultural Uses

- Compatible with other recreational uses
- Large special events, not historic, negative impact on historic site and unrelated to history
- Marketing “park story” through events.

#### Park Operational uses

- Damage to gravesites
- DO NOT increase parking
- Clean/upkeep of maintenance facility on a regular basis
- Storage of leaves (piles)
- Leaf blower noise—why do we pick up all leaves?

#### Active Recreational Uses

- Reasonable capacity of pavilions
- Keep playground
- Noise control—music—amplified noise
- Parking—spillover into neighborhood
- Location of pavilions—close to neighbors
- Compatible uses w/ historic character

### Passive/Casual Use

- Walking/Running Paths maintained
- Keep restrooms available

### Environmental/Natural Resources

- Why is the irrigation system needed?

### Other

- Drug Use/ Crime
- Rats/Vermin
- Parking (and speeding) for St. S./St. A.

## **GROUP 3**

### Historical/Cultural Uses

- Clearly identify Historic Areas
- Mission Statement –Historical
- Signage
- Interpretive Programs
- Expand Historical attributes
- Fort's context-Before, During, After, Civil War
- Clearly Identify Parks Historical Purpose
- African American History—Restoration of community graves and artifacts—historic markers—exhibit for museum

### Park Operations/Maintenance

- Azalea Beds
- Maintenance Yard-Debris Storage
- Trees-City Arboretum-non-existence
- Turf Damage
- Mowing Activities damaging Gravesite/Historic Property
- Embankment Issues
- Org. Structure—Who do you go to?
- Fewer Pavillions and where—Do we need them
- Doc. of Trees/Historic

### Active Uses

- Traffic—Eliminate vehicles?---Relocate Vehicles
- Safety & Security
- Parking on grass
- Mix of Walkers w/ traffic

- Crowd Size/Permits (control)—Limit Use Size
- Excessive Trash
- General Use vs. Historic preservation
- Walking Park is a plus
- Access to park—controlled
- Lighting Issues: lights on-no bodies
- More controlled active use-rentals
- Max. usage Park to balance use vs. historic
- Pavillions: How many—Size—Do we need them?
- Communications w/ Public –Mission Statement—Open Comm. w/ neigh.

#### Passive/Casual Use

- Fewer parking lots
- Tree Work
- Less Traffic
- No ABC Permits
- More Historical emphasis
- More passive use

#### Environmental/Natural Resources

- Environmental Plan—Roads, Parking, Tree Ident., etc.
- Arboretum
- Azalea Beds-Festival
- Eco City-How does this fit in the plan?
- Develop Mission Statement
- Recognize Historic Significance; Few lots, Shelters, More passive use
- Community Service Plans

#### Other

- Trash Containers/More Dog receptacles
- Flower Beds
- Seasonal Plantings
- Staff Parking using Visitor Space

#### **GROUP 4**

- Landscape concept of park- 'historical' w/ azalea beds—lower usage—simple controlled use
- Trash Dumpster-location/fencing
- New speed bumps don't 'blend' into environment
- 'Historic' park amenities should reflect 'historic use'
- Recent uses insensitive to historic aspect of park
- Pedestrian/vehicular are shared-have a pedestrian only 'loop' (safety issue)
- Utilize stormwater as irrigation location around loop
- Stop/close picnic reservations for a period to give park 'rest' regenerate
- Picnic Reservations: Users coming from outside of Alexandria—area reserved w/ 1 member from Alex.
- Staff not on duty to address problems/needs. Users go to museum.
- 'Loud' signage-inappropriate for historic park
- 'Uniform' signage needed
- Reservation timed 1 hr. before park closes. Reservations extend past park closing hours.
- Speed bumps-ADA compliant? (Shared use road—ped + vehicles)
- Limit picnic uses along residential uses
- Assess picnic usage by temporarily reducing picnic usage
- Early 80's-park extremely attractive
- Ex. "nursery" not being used as such, used more as staging area
- City vehicles parked @ museum lot. Give wrong impression (trucks,employees)
- Park under OHA?
- City operations located @ park is a major issue.

#### **GROUP 5**

- Electrical Outlets for Special Events (controlled)
- Master plan for Arboretum
  - Education
  - Plant Collections
- Security
  - Closing times
  - Police in Parks
  - Gates
- Drainage along east Property Line
- Rehab Restrooms
- Rehab/Upgrade Amphitheatre
- Sidewalks
- Electronics Power Control

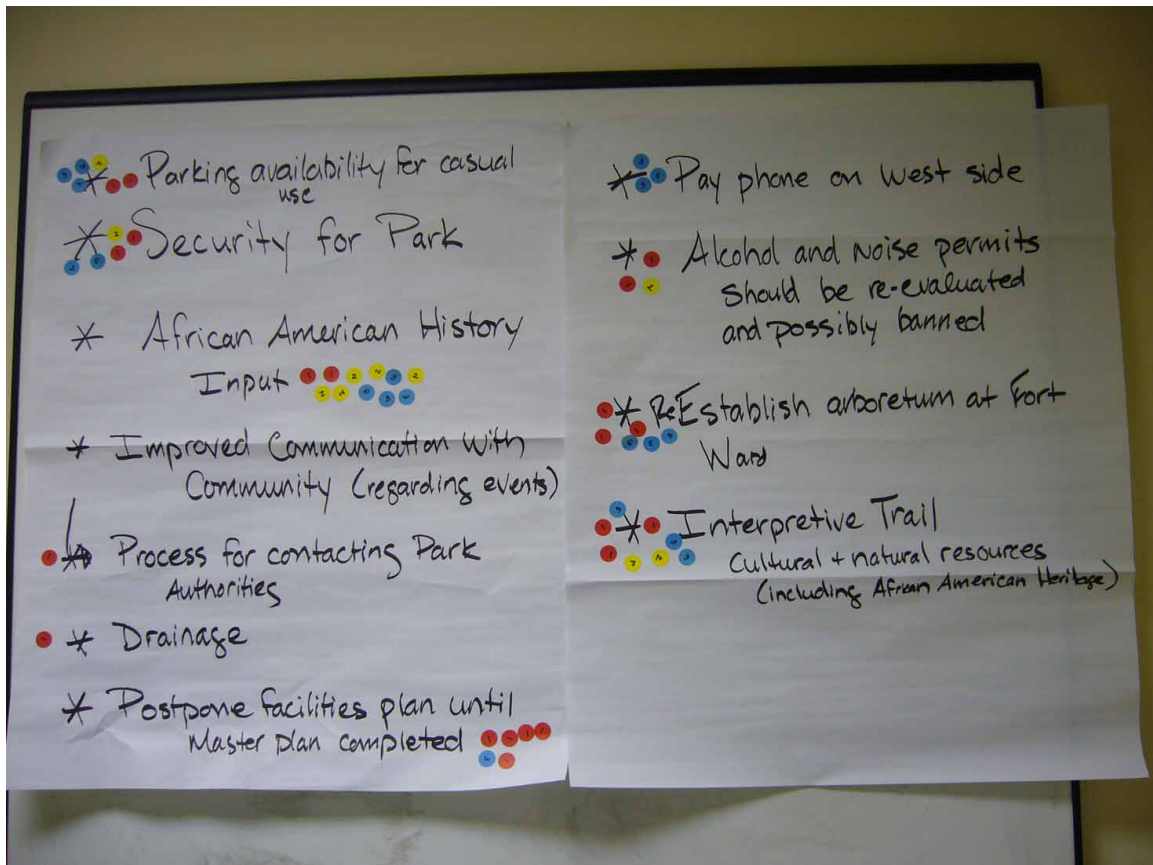
- Identify how Park is used; How under/over utilized areas
- Rebalance use
- Less Disco More Park
  - Prohibit alcohol
  - Prohibit amplified Sound
- Programming for Nursery--Now and when its gone
- Passive Arboretum
- Better Maintenance of Cemetery
- No More pavilions
- No Additional Parking

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## Priority Exercise

After the group discussions, all the notes were displayed on a wall. The participants reviewed the notes and were given colored dots to place next to items they thought to be of importance and priority. The dots were given the following ratings:

Red= HIGH level of priority  
Yellow= MEDIUM level of priority  
Blue= LOW level of priority



## Historic/Cultural Uses

- \* Compatible w/ other (recreational uses)
- \* Large special events <sup>not historic</sup> negative impact on historic site and unrelated to history
- \* Marketing park "story" through events

## Park Operational Uses

- \* Damage to gravesites
- \* Do NOT increase parking
- \* Clean / upkeep of maintenance facility on a regular basis
- \* Storage of leaves (piles)
- \* Leaf blower noise - WHY do we pick up <sup>all</sup> leaves?

## Active Recreational Uses

- \* Reasonable Capacity of pavilions
  - \* Keep playground
  - \* Noise control
    - ↳ music + amplified noise
  - \* Parking - spillover into neighborhood
  - \* Location of pavilion
    - ↳ close to neighbors
  - \* Compatible uses w/ historic character
- ## Passive/Casual Use
- \* Walking / Running paths maintained
  - \* Keep restrooms available

## Environmental/Natural Resources

- \* WHY <sup>is</sup> the irrigation system needed?

## Other

Drug / Crime

Rats / Vermin

Parking (and speeding) for St. S/S.T.

Environ/Natural Resources

- Environmental Plan
  - Run, Biking, Tree Plant, etc
- Kitchen
- Historic Bells - Festival
- Laundry - Monitor this not in the plan?

- Develop Midway Street
- Green use Historic Signage
- Commuter, Signage Plans

Other

- Food Canteen / More dry Republic
- Flower Beds
- Signage / Plantings
- Staff Parking using water space

Historic/Cultural Uses

- Clearly Identify Historic Areas
- Mission Station - Historical
- Signage
- Interpretive Programs
- Expand Historical Activities
- Get's Later - Before During After - Consider
- Clearly Identify Risk Historical Property

Park Openness/Persistence

- Access to Park
- Persistence - Delicate Storage
- Trees - City Administration Persistence
- Park Design
- Planning Activities - Demanding Gardens/Historic Property
- Entertainment Issues
- City Structure - Where do you go to?
- Fewer Health Facilities - Drive use there
- Doc of Dates/History

Communications

- Mission Station
- Open Comm w/ Historic

Active Uses

- Traffic
- Safety + Security
- To Lay on buses
- More water w/ Table
- Ground Size / Permits (later)
- Curbside Trash
- General Use vs Historic Preservation
- Walking Route is a plus
- Access to park - ramps
- Lighting Issues: light on No Bikes
- More Controlled Active Use - Routes

Passive/Carroll USE

- Fewer parking lots
- Less Water
- NO ABC Permit
- More Historical emphasis
- TRES Work



1. Assessment  
2. Identification  
3. Implementation
- Picnic reservations: users coming from outside of Alexandria - area reserved w/ 1 member of group from Alex.
  - Staff not on duty to address problems/needs. users go to Museum
  - 'Loud' signage - inappropriate for historic park
  - 'Uniform' signage needed
  - Reservations timed 1 hr. before park closes. Reservations extend past park closing hours.
  - Speed bumps - ADA compliant? (shared use road - ped + vehicles)
  - Limit picnic uses along residential uses
  - Assess picnic usage by temporarily reducing picnic usage
  - Early 80's - park extremely attractive
  - Landscape concept of park 'historical' w/ actual beds - lower usage, simple controlled use
  - Trash dumpster - location/fencing
  - New speed bumps don't "blend" into environment
  - Historic park amenities reflect 'historic use' - Inconsistent to historic aspect of park
  - Pedestrian/vehicular are shared - have a pedestrian only 'loop' (Safety issue)
  - Utilize ~~trash~~ stormwater as irrigation location around 'loop'
  - Stop picnic reservation for a period close to give park 'rest' regenerate

- Ex: "nurseries" not being used as such, used more as staging area
- City vehicles parked @ museum lot, give wrong impression (struck, employees)
- Park under OHA?
- City operations/located @ park is a major issue.

