

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

February 23, 2010 Meeting

The Stakeholder Advisory Group (“Group”) convened at the Fort Ward Museum at its announced meeting time of 7:00 p.m. All members were present except Members Washington and Terrell, who had previously communicated excuses to the Chairman. City Management and Staff present included:

Laura Durham (Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities)  
Pam Cressey (Office of Historic Alexandria – Alexandria Archaeology)  
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 January 26, 2010 meeting were also approved.

### **Old Business**

Chairman Fulton noted that, pursuant to a motion approved by the Group, requests for information had been sent the following City staff: R. Baier, J. Noelle, P. Cressey, and S. Cumbey. L. Durham proposed that a one-day work session – possibly on a Saturday – be held so that several City staff members could coordinate their presentations. A general discussion on possible dates followed, with the **resolved consensus that S. Cumbey and W. Owen would present information in response to requests regarding the Fort Ward Historic Site and Museum on March 23, 2010 and P. Cressey would present on April 8, 2010, although the dates are subject to further adjustment.** Chairman Fulton was authorized to caucus further with L. Durham and L. Mallamo regarding additional presentation dates.

The Group continued work on the mission statement. Pursuant to an action of the Group, a revised draft mission statement had been prepared by L. Ries and F. Terrell and circulated for discussion in advance of the meeting. **On a motion of R. Brune (seconded by Chairman Fulton), the draft mission statement was tabled** given the absence of F. Terrell, although members with an interest in editing the draft were to circulate edits to the same in advance of the next meeting.

### **New Business**

The Group then turned to drafts of a timetable and action plan for its work. Drafts of action plans, including timetables, had been prepared by Chairman Fulton and L. Ries and circulated in advance of the meeting. In the context of reviewing the drafts and proposing a merger of certain elements of each one into one document, Chairman Fulton noted the importance of melding the concerns of the public as expressed before creation of the Group into a framework for use by the City.

Chairman Fulton then suggested that certain stakeholder groups be invited to submit comments or suggestions to the Group as part of the Group's action plan. A general and wide-ranging discussion followed on the pros and cons of the idea, as well as which stakeholder groups should be solicited for this purpose. **The Group, concurring in concept with Chairman Fulton's suggestion, asked the Chairman to draft: 1) a letter inviting certain stakeholder groups; and 2) a list of stakeholder groups to receive such an invitation; in advance of the next meeting for the Group's further review and consideration.**

The group then returned to the draft timetables/action plans. Further discussion was held regarding the merits of each one, with a consensus on the overall goals of: 1) preparing an action plan; 2) distributing some work from that plan to members or groups of members; with the notion of 3) completing a final written product to conclude the Group's work in or before January 2011. In light of that framework, Chairman Fulton and L. Ries were to merge together the various elements of their individual drafts to prepare a final product for the Group's approval.

### **Other Business**

At the conclusion of the New Business, the following announcements/discussions were noted:

- 1) L. Durham advised the Group that J. Spengler would be providing an update to the Group at its March 11, 2010 meeting;
- 2) L. Durham noted that certain Group materials have now been posted on the City's Web pages, and she encouraged members to review them and provide feedback;
- 3) W. Schreiner noted that the Friends of Fort Ward would be holding a general meeting on March 16, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum; and
- 4) Chairman Fulton noted the release of the City's proposed budget for the next fiscal year, and commented on the impacts of that budget on Fort Ward Park and the Fort Ward Museum. A brief discussion along the same lines followed.

The next meetings of the Group will be on Thursday, March 11, 2010 and Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at locations to be determined and published in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Schreiner, Secretary