

Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group

Minutes February 15, 2012

Members Present: Tom Fulton, Linda Ries, Robert Moir, Ellen Stanton, Janice Magnuson, Frances Terrell, Adrienne Washington, Jim Walpole

Staff Present: Jim Spengler, Susan Cumby, Pam Cressey, Lance Mallamo, Laura Durham, Fran Bromberg, Garrett Fesler

Guests: Dennis Carroll

The meeting was brought to order by Chair Tom Fulton at 7:10 PM
The minutes from the previously meeting were accepted as corrected.

Old Business: Tom Fulton asked for updates on the work done on the chapters assigned to the Group for the Fort Ward Master Plan. Ellen Stanton outlined what she and Janice Magnuson have written.

Linda Ries distributed a worksheet of items to address in the chapters. She told us that the City arborist is working on a GIS map of the existing trees to use as a baseline for future work. In 2002 there were 661 trees. Four species of trees dominate today: Leland Cypress, Black Locust, Black Cherry, and Virginia Pine.

Frances Terrell identified several items she would like completed such as: inclusion of the cemetery on the National Register, solving the drainage problem, and completing signage. She recommended some kind of marking for unidentified graves. She said June 2 there will be a program about the history of the park. A panel discussion is planned, possibly in the amphitheater as well as a tour focusing on the African American history of the Fort.

Tom Fulton also spoke about the June 2 dedication program and the expanded roll of the Fort. The focus in 1961 was just on the Civil War. There is now a great deal of additional information. Susan Cumby is concerned about lack of space for the collection. She noted that the staff has been complimented by the American Association of Museums for what they have accomplished with their current limitations.

Jim Spengler mentioned that our agenda refers to a Master Plan. He would like clarification of what it should correctly be called. He explained a Master Plan is what the Park would look like in the future and a Management Plan is a document of policies and it provides guidance to management. He also said the City Council is looking for resolution of the appropriate use of various areas of the Park such as the Maintenance Yard.

Tom Fulton said our goal is developing an idea of what Fort Ward should look like in the future. He suggested our first public meeting could be about the Maintenance Yard and we could learn

what citizens are interested in and whether it should be integrated into the Park or be a separate area.

Lance Mallamo said that before meeting with the public we should organize our data. He suggested the Maintenance Yard could reflect the Post-War Years.

Dennis Carroll, who lives on land bordering the Park, spoke of a lack of City response to the neighbors in the past and is worried about future cooperation. He commented on weeds growing through the fence from the Park and Lyme disease acquired by his dog from long grass in the Park.

Pam Cressey is very interested in the remains of the Ashby house under the parking lot on the right when entering the Park. It's important to identify areas with nothing significant to use for parking, bathrooms, etc.

The idea of hiring a consultant to write the Master Plan was again discussed. Jim Spengler said that the process of hiring someone would take about six months.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM