

**DRAFT**

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group**

**November 9, 2011**

**Present:** Tom Fulton, Linda Ries, Robert Moir, Chuck Ziegler, Ellen Stanton, Janice Magnuson, Philip Voorhees, Lena Rainey, Frances Terrell

**Staff Present:** Susan Cumbey, Pam Cressey, Lance Mallamo, Jim Spengler

The meeting was brought to order by Chair, Tom Fulton, at 7:05 pm when a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Deferred until the December 2011 meeting due to the absence of Glenn Eugster.

**Old Business:**

1) Phil Voorhees reported that problems with the retention pond in Marlboro Estates were referred to the Fort Ward Ad Hoc Group. Citizens complained about debris standing in the pond. Jim did go to look at the pond after a rainstorm and viewed the debris. Jim Spengler reported that TE & S will not become involved unless the pond is not functioning as intended. There is no money for clean up if the problem is simply aesthetic. The pond area is designated as part of the open space of Fort Ward Park. In addition, concern was raised by Lena Rainey regarding the storm water runoff at Oakland Cemetery. Tom Fulton moved, and the group voted in agreement, that T E & S be invited to the December 2011 meeting to discuss these concerns.

2) Tom Fulton reminded the group that the questionnaire "What does success look like?" should be completed by all members of the group as soon as possible.

**New Business:**

1) **Master Management Plan: the City View:** Jim Spengler reported on the essential components of a master plan. Please refer to the attached document entitled "Draft Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan Outline and Timeline." The document includes key aspects of a park management plan, a draft timeline, and an overview of general management planning (produced by the National Park Service). In reviewing the document, Jim noted that a master plan controls the action of staff and that if there were ever a desire to make changes to the master plan, those proposed changes would have to be docketed and brought before City Council for their review and approval. Lance also noted that if the group decides that a consultant is needed to write the master plan, this process takes time and would need to be decided in the near future. The longest lead time item is the consultant. The agreement on the purpose and significance of the park controls the plan. Each member was given a packet containing these documents.

Lance Mallamo reported that the interpretation plan for the park is supported by a Save America's Treasures Grant and is a separate document. It will be presented to the group January 2012.

Pam Cressey stated that the Ottery Group resource inventory and archaeological overview report needs additional editing. The third draft was not acceptable. Because this is a document that is essential for

the group to begin drafting a master plan, Alexandria Archaeology will probably write the report themselves. The report will contain much of the data that was reported at the last meeting; however it also will contain an overview that puts the data into perspective, for example, what areas have the potential for resources. Tom requested that maps be available to the group during the meetings to enhance the work of the group. The group concurs that time is of the essence in beginning work on a master plan.

Lance suggested that the group think “outside the box” in devising the master plan. Ideas regarding vistas and sight lines that are critical to the historic integrity of the park should be considered. Also, areas that are not part of the park currently might become part of the park in the future. Should more of the park be restored?

Linda raised the issue of the tree grid as a component of the master plan and suggested that the inventory from 2004 be used as a baseline.

2) **Possibility of Additional Stormwater Mitigation:** Lena Rainey asked if the City had made any additional changes to the stormwater mitigation efforts undertaken by the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. She said that at the October meeting, in a discussion of the mitigation effort put in place over the summer, some felt that sheeting erosion was continuing within the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery and that the City employee had indicated he would take a new look at the problem and consider additional mitigation if warranted. By motion the members tasked the Chair with inviting the Head of the City Department of Transportation and Environmental Services to attend the Group’s December 14 meeting to comment on what had, in fact, been done to mitigate ongoing stormwater erosion affecting the Cemetery.

3) **ADA Compliance for Ad Hoc Meetings:** The City guideline for groups (Open Meeting Law) includes a requirement of accessibility for the public to attend. Our current meeting location is not accessible. It was moved and affirmed that the December meeting be held at Oakland Baptist Church. Future meeting sites will be discussed at the next meeting. One suggestion is Minnie Howard School because of its proximity to the park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted,

Ellen Stanton, substitute secretary