

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
January 11, 2012**

Present: Tom Fulton, Linda Ries, Robert Moir, Ripley Forbes, Chuck Ziegler, Ellen Stanton, Janice Magnuson, Philip Voorhees, Lena Rainey, James Walpole

Staff Present: Susan Cumbey, Pam Cressey, Lance Mallamo, Jim Spengler. Laura Durham, Fran Bromberg, Garrett -----

Guests Present: Dave Cavanaugh

The meeting was brought to order by Chair, Tom Fulton, at 7:00 pm when a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2011, were approved.

Old Business:

- 1) ADA Compliance for Ad Hoc Meetings. In a previous meeting the members stated their preference to continue to meet in the Library of Ft. Ward. Members proposed that the agenda, posted on the City website, contain a statement advising anyone requiring an accessible building to notify the Chair and the meeting would be re-located to accommodate the individual(s). Laura Durham stated that the Director of Parks, Recreation and Environmental Services was strongly opposed to this decision. Later in the meeting, when Jim Spangler was present, the issue was raised again. After further discussion the members suggested that the next meeting be held at Minnie Howard School while the City Attorney and the Human Rights Commission are contacted to clarify the City's position.

- 2) Map Overlay Process for Inventory: Pam Cressey, Fran Bromberg, and Garrett ----. Fran Bromberg presented the series of maps that serve as a Resource Inventory for the site from the Native American presence to the African American community that settled Ft. Ward following the Civil War. GIS as well as aerial photography were utilized and compiled with historic research. The maps are used for planning and management purposes. The first map dates to 1861; other maps date to 1894-98, 1927, 1938, 1949, and 1962. The maps illustrate the evolution of the site, from rural farming to the purchase of the land for the purpose of preserving Ft. Ward for the Bi-Centennial celebration.

Garrett ---- reviewed the results recent archeology at Ft. Ward. Areas focused upon yielded information on 23 grave locations, homes, the school, a possible privy and roads. Following GPR results and oral history indicators, sections were tested to determine ground truth. Archaeology will commence in the spring. Maps were provided to members that indicate confirmed and potential resources.

In Stage 2, the City Staff will determine a testing strategy using the least intrusive methodology. Determining boundaries of the Old Grave Yard and Jackson Cemetery are critical in knowing the areas of greatest sensitivity. The burial areas will be appropriately fenced. Plans include digging test pits every 30 feet.

New Business:

- 1) **Fort Ward Master Plan Discussion.** The Chair began the discussion by stating that he wanted to clarify his belief of the importance of the City Staff, the public and the members of the Ad Hoc group working together to produce the best plan for the park. Lance Mallamo will be presenting the interpretive plan at the February meeting. It is anticipated that the ad hoc group will begin by developing a plan to integrate the maintenance yard into the rest of the park. Jim Spengler raised the issue of looking at the plan from the point of view of the end product. Will the plan be a section of the City Master Plan; a park plan; or recommendations to City Council? Once the chapters have been outlined, the desired outcome will be determined.

Chapter section writers reported to the ad hoc group. Work on the chapters will commence this month.

- 2) **A Plan for Citizen Involvement; Draft Outline.** Deferred.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Submitted,

Ellen Stanton, substitute secretary