

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
August 14, 2013**

Present:

Chair- Linda Ries	Vice-chair- Chuck Ziegler	
Rich Brune	Sharon Annear	Ryan Sloan
Adrienne Washington	Ellen Stanton	Janice Magnuson

Staff Present:

Office of Historic Alexandria:	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs:
Susan Cumbey & Garrett Fesler	Laura Durham & James Nichols

Transportation and Environmental Services:

Brian Rahal

Visitors:

URS Corporation: Mary Roman, Zhongyan Xu, Lil Sargent
Lardner/Klein: Elizabeth Lardner, Jim Klein, Joe Balicki
Dennis Carroll- neighbor

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Ries at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July 10, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

The chair asked Rich Brune if he would take the meeting minutes. Chuck Ziegler said he would record the meeting and give the tapes to Rich at the end of the meeting

There were two main topics presented by the Lardner/Klein consultant group to address **existing conditions** of Fort Ward with a focus on the Natural and Cultural Resources.

- **Natural Resources:** Landscape Management Practices, Declining Turf and Meadow Management, Soil Erosion
- **Cultural Resources:** Exposure or potential exposure of Archaeological Resources, Ground Disturbance, Soil Erosion and vegetation damage, Depth of Resources from surface, Vegetation Damage to Historic Resources,
- **Recreational Resources** were briefly discussed as the next topic for consideration (next meeting).

Tentative Time Line for presentations by Lardner/Klein group:

August 14th, 2013 – Natural, Cultural and Recreational Resources

September 11, 2013 - Interpretive Framework

October 9, 2013 - Interpretive Enhancement Opportunities

November 13, 2013 - Facility Enhancement Opportunities

January 8, 2014 - Draft Review of Management Plan

Note: Public meetings will follow as scheduled.

Here is a summary of topics discussed about this night's presentation:

The aggressiveness of the time line. Concern for funding for projects and money for trees to plant. Discussion on leaf removal. Concern about introducing weed seeds with by use of offsite leaves & mulch. Discussion on artifacts and graves not yet found. Discussion of other animals that are found in the park beside squirrels and chipmunks.

Comments on the Lardner/Klein presentation were overall favorable.

City Drainage issues presented by URS consultant group:

Five different maps were distributed and discussed with group:

Cultural Resource Areas, Summary of Existing Natural Resources, Existing Conditions/Adjacent Land Use, Flow Direction Arrows and Drainage Pipe map.

- The methodology used for the study was discussed.
- The capacity of the culverts was very good with a few exceptions.
- Examples of 16 areas that need repair/maintenance were presented.
- There was a lot of discussion about the hay bales and other erosion issues that exist
- Neighbor complained about Tom Fulton's retaining wall and the city letter to the homeowners.
- The homeowners would suffer extreme financial hardship.
- Drainage issues have affected this area since the civil war.

At the end of the discussion on drainage issues, Adrienne Washington expressed concern that there was no mention of how to protect her ancestor's grave in this presentation. The chair said that because of our allowable time limit on the use of the meeting, we would need to have that discussion at another time. Meeting was quickly adjourned at 9:05 to allow workers to clean the carpets in the room as we had been allowed only use of the room up to 9:00 pm.

NOTE: Laura Durham requested the group send any comments on these two presentations to her directly before the September meeting.

Next meeting:

September 13, 2013 at 7 pm, at Minnie Howard School, room to be announced later.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Submitted,

Rich Brune

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Lardner/Klein consultants: Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan (Presentation)
2. URS consultants: Fort Ward Drainage Plan (Presentation)