

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
January 9, 2013**

Present:

Tom Fulton
Ellen Stanton
Lena Rainey
Ripley Forbes

Chuck Ziegler
Linda Ries
Adrienne Washington
Jim Walpole

Bob Moir
Janice Magnuson
Frances Terrell

Staff Present:

OHA:

Garrett Fesler
Fran Bromberg

RPCA:

Laura Durham

Visitors:

Glen Eugster
Steve Walz

Boyd Walker

Dick Hobson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by chair Tom Fulton at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A quorum was not present at the December meeting, therefore there are no minutes.

Draft Recreation Chapter, "The African American Presence at Fort Ward," Adrienne Washington, Frances Terrell and Jim Walpole:

Adrienne presented the chapter on African American structures and other resources (with the exception of unmarked and undiscovered graves and burial sites). The overview provides a history of the structures and resources of the self-sustaining African American community that lived at "The Fort" including homes, school, paths and roads, wells and privies, gardens and cemeteries and gravesites. Recent archaeological discoveries include artifacts of the African American community. Determination will be made as to the priority of various sites, structures, artifacts and areas within the park. The report includes photos taken by Alexandria Archaeology and recommendations.

The following are recommendations made by the authors of the chapter:

- Locate and honor all of the lost graves
- Designate on a map the location of structures and include these on a walking tour
- Reconstruct at least one structure
- Highlight all areas where the African American families lived, not just the east portion of the park
- Devote a section of the museum to African American life at Fort Ward
- Include African American history in park and museum interpretive tours
- Nominate Oakland Baptist Cemetery for the National Register of Historic Places

A discussion ensued regarding possibly updating the National Register designation.

Cemetery/Grave Summary:

Fran Bromberg, City Archaeology, reviewed the findings using maps to illustrate the location of graves within the park. A motion was offered, seconded and passed to place GIS maps, when verified, of cemetery and grave locations on the park website.

Status of RFP - Laura Durham:

Laura Durham reported that five proposals were received. The proposals will be evaluated; a decision and offer will be made by the end of the month. It is anticipated that the firm will begin work in February. A full day briefing will be held with each chapter's authors assigned a specific time to speak about their research. (Laura requested electronic copies of each draft chapter. They too will be posted on the park website.)

Opportunities for public comment are central to the success of a plan for Fort Ward Park and will be planned by the contracted firm.

The Advisory Group can be extended beyond September 2013 because the RFP process has taken longer than expected.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, February 13, at 7 pm at the Minnie Howard School.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:35 pm.

Submitted,

Ellen Stanton, Secretary