

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
June 13, 2012**

Present:

Tom Fulton
Bob Moir
Ripley Forbes

Chuck Ziegler
Ellen Stanton
Linda Ries

Adrienne Washington
Janice Magnuson

Staff Present:

OHA:

Susan Cumbey
Pam Cressey
Garrett Fesler

RPCA:

Laura Durham

Open House / Archaeology Tour:

Garrett Fesler, OHA, led an outdoor tour of the Archaeological Survey and Cultural Resources Areas as of 6-13-12. A map was provided to those who attended showing the results of Stage 1 and Stage 2 testing. Three areas were the focus of the discussion: the Ashby home bordering the current parking lot to the right of the entrance to Ft. Ward Park; the area south of the museum bordering on the road where a well was discovered; and the area bordering the north bastion of the historic fort where a substantial brick and cement piling was uncovered with no other building remains discovered to date.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by chair Tom Fulton at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2012 were approved as submitted.

Old Business:

RFP: Laura Durham reported that the RFP has been revised as voted upon by the SAG at the last meeting and is ready to go through the procurement process. However, staff who reviewed the RFP expressed concern regarding the use of the word "approval" (twice) rather than "recommendation" in the document. A motion to change approval to recommendation was passed with a unanimous vote.

New Business:

Work Plan: Linda Ries and Ellen Stanton proposed a work schedule for the SAG meetings over the next 6 months that focuses on one chapter per month. The advantages cited include having a schedule posted on the website, providing the public with adequate notice of subjects to be discussed in the meetings, and allowing for discussion of each of the chapters. In 6 months the SAG should have a good idea of what is agreed upon and which areas need further discussion. The group concurred with this proposal. Linda Ries offered to present at the July meeting. The topic is the environment and natural resources.

Update from Pam Cressey: Alexandria Archaeology will create a cultural inventory map with a series of overlays that identifies significant areas with references (i.e. sacred, disturbed, Civil War) and

levels of significance for protection and interpretation. Pam described the park as a “U” with the Fort being the hole in the donut and the bulk of the Civil War and African American resources found in a “U” surrounding the protected center of the park. The parking lots present a classic urban archaeology situation with Civil War resources laying a couple of feet below the parking lot surface. Historic sites now recognize the evolution of sites and multiple periods are interpreted.

Following completion of “Stage 2” archaeology the cemetery boundaries will be largely known. The Save America’s Treasure grant is to be used for fencing the cemetery and for marketing. There is money left for a few weeks of work to continue to explore the grave sites. Some of the graves will be marked; others may have some physical evidence without specific information and be part of a larger memorial/sacred area.

The July meeting will be held in the library at Minnie Howard School. There will be no August meeting.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:25 pm.

Submitted,

Ellen Stanton, Secretary