

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
September 11, 2013
[DRAFT]**

Present: Chair -Linda Ries, Vice-Chair – Chuck Ziegler, Rich Brune, James Walpole, Ripley Forbes, Janice Magnuson, Adrienne Washington, Sharon Annear, Ryan Sloan

Staff Present: Susan Cumbey, Wally Owen, Lance Mallamo, Laura Durham, Fran Bromberg, Audrey Davis

Consultants: Peter Benton, Principal of Heritage Strategies (interpretive planning sub-consultant); Jim Klein (Lardner/Klein Consultants; Barbara Franco (museum planning sub-consultant)

Guests Present: Dave Cavanaugh

Call to Order: The meeting was brought to order by Chair, Linda Ries, at 7:05 pm when a quorum was present.

Appointment of Secretary: Charles Ziegler was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of August 14, 2013, were approved, as amended: In the second line of page 2 of the draft minutes, the word "by" was stricken; further down on page 2, the fifth and sixth bullets were combined and amended to read, "Mr. Dennis Carroll, a neighbor abutting the park, inquired about a recently-received letter from the City regarding correction of storm water runoff, and noted that some corrections could cause financial hardship to some homeowners in Marlboro Estates;" the date of the next meeting was amended to read "September 11, 2013.

Items

Consultants Presentation

Barbara Franco and Peter Benton conducted presentations based on the draft chapter circulated earlier concerning interpretive planning opportunities and ideas. That chapter, in turn, was based on the Civil War Resources chapter, the African-American Cemeteries and Burial Sites chapter, the African-American Structures and Other Resources chapter; and the Cultural Resources – The Museum and Its Collections and Programs chapter of the Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group draft report.

In her presentation, Barbara Franco noted that in the planning process it is first important to determine *what* you want to do, then determine *how* you will do it. It is necessary to balance facts and what visitors think the facts are. The *facts* may be slightly off, but the *meaning* has to be true.

Discussion questions also included:

Audience: *Who* are the current and potential future visitors?

Geography: *To what extent* is interpretation limited to within the boundaries of the park itself?

Timeframe: *When* did the Fort Ward story begin and end; upon *what* timeframe should it be focused?

Themes: *What* subjects can and should be covered in interpretation?

Implementation: *How* will storytelling be managed and coordinated so that the presentation is seamless; *how* to coordinate with related stories at other sites?

A spirited discussion ensued. The consultant team took notes on the discussion and noted each comment for their future work.

-Cemetery and Grave Markers

Discussion of the options for marking cemeteries and graves was deferred, as many of the interested descendents could not be present. However, it was noted that there should not be too many different types of markers, as this would complicate maintenance procedures. Also, a quartzite sandstone sample that would be used to mark currently unmarked graves was displayed. If the name of the person buried there was subsequently discovered, the name could be engraved on the marker, or a plaque could be affixed to it.

-Draft Chapters

-Jim Klein requested that comments on the consultants' draft chapters be sent to Laura Durham one week prior to the meeting at which it is scheduled to be discussed, so as to facilitate responses from the consultants.

Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Minnie Howard School Media Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Ziegler, Secretary