

## MINUTES

### AD HOC FORT WARD PARK AND MUSEUM AREA STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP JANUARY 29, 2014 LEE CENTER

Group Attendees: Linda Ries; Charles Ziegler; Ellen Stanton; Robert Moir; Rich Brune; Ripley Forbes; James Walpole; Janice Magnuson; Francis Terrell; Adrienne Washington; Susan Gitlin; Bill Schreiner.

City Attendees: Susan Cumbey; Fran Bromberg; James Spengler; Garrett Fesler; Laura Durham.

Guests: Ryan Stewart; Peggy Stevens; David Cavanaugh; Krystyn Moon; Boyd Walker; Kathy Burns; Carol James.

Meeting was called to Order at 7:05 pm. Susan Gitlin, representing the interests of the Environmental Policy Commission, was welcomed as the newest member of the Advisory Group.

Laura Durham announced two upcoming public meetings on the Draft Fort Ward Park Management Plan. The first will be a formal presentation by the consulting group Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, PC at 7:00 pm on February 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes middle school campus located adjacent to Fort Ward Park. The second meeting to be informal (no consultants) soliciting public comments on the Draft Report will be held on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 pm at the same location. This meeting is to be staffed by members of the Advisory Group. Any member of the public unable to attend the meeting is encouraged to go online and review the Draft Report and make comments at <http://alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=29638>.

Linda Ries, Chairperson of the Advisory Group, announced she would be stepping down due to her impending relocation to Idaho. The Advisory Group expressed their appreciation and thanks for Linda's service to the Group and wished her and her husband well. Charles Ziegler was nominated to replace Linda, the nomination was unopposed.

Jim Klein of Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, PC followed with a presentation regarding the Chapter 5 (Recommendations and Best Practices) of the Draft Report. Again, he asked for additional public comments in order further improve the Draft Report. Jim stated that a draft of the separate Storm Water Study would be released soon and public hearings would be held on that issue.

Some of the questions and concerns raised by the Advisory Group and guests:

Adrienne Washington asked who would be providing the detailed level of interpretation for the Fort? Laura responded that it has yet to be determined, the project was still unfunded and Lardner/Klein would be considered. The interpretative history developed by Ms. Moon will not

be part of the Management Plan according to Jim Klein, but will form the basis of the Interpretative Plan. Adrienne stated that the descendants' group would like to be a "full participant" in the development of the Interpretative Plan. Francis Terrell and Adrienne suggested that the Ashby house, currently covered by the front parking lot, be highlighted in any interpretative plan;

James Walpole suggested finding appropriate sized corporate groups to rent the amphitheater;

Dave Cavanaugh stated the need to revitalize the facilities and the need to bring in history groups who could share costs. Linda noted the need to bring in volunteers to assist;

Kathleen Burns stated that the walking path needed to be kept and the amphitheater was a wonderful asset that was being underutilized. She also suggested that the Advisory Group not pit environmentalist versus historians. She asked that the Hobsons' and Wheelers' be acknowledged in the park interpretation as they were instrumental in stopping Fort Ward from becoming a condominium complex;

Fran stated there were seventeen graves in the old cemetery most of which still have not been located. The old cemetery and the Oakland Baptist Cemetery were essentially one cemetery and should be treated as such with a common fence and ownership;

Adrienne reiterated that not all graves sites have been identified and work at the Park should not be allowed to go forward until all graves sites were identified.

The date of the next meeting is to be determined with a tentative date of February 24<sup>th</sup>. The meeting concluded at 9:07 pm.