

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
May 8, 2013**

Present:

Chuck Ziegler
Ellen Stanton
Lena Rainey
Ripley Forbes

Bob Moir
Janice Magnuson
Frances Terrell

Staff Present:

OHA:

Susan Cumbey
Fran Bromberg

Visitors:

Sharon Annear

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Chuck Ziegler at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November, 2012 and January, 2013 meetings were approved.

Items:

1) Election of a new chair: Linda Ries volunteered to be the new chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group following the resignation of Tom Fulton as chair and as a member of the group. No other members were nominated for chair. A motion was made by Janice Magnuson and seconded by Lena Rainey to make Linda Ries the new chair of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

Members noted that new members of the group are needed. Jackie Henderson will be notified so that proper procedure will be followed.

2) Review of members' experience with interviews with consultants: Each member who met with the consultants reported on their experience. The reports were as follows:

- Janice Magnuson (Cultural Resources: the Museum, Its' Collections and Programs) was surprised by the number of people present as well as by the questions asked. Many of the questions did not reflect the information in the chapter report.
- Ripley Forbes and Bob Moir (Recreational Use: Issues and Recommendations) stated that the consultants had read the chapter and were informed on the issues. They mentioned to the consultants that some of the recommendations require a public process. Issues discussed included the dog park, rifle trench, playground and nature path or interpretive trail.
- Lena Rainey (African American Cemeteries and Burial Sites). Lena commented that the consultants were well-versed on the contents of the chapter. The discussion focused on integrating the African-American history into the story of the park.

- Frances Terrell (African American Cemeteries and Burial Sites, and The African American Presence at Fort Ward) reported that the consultants expressed excitement at learning about the African-American history as well as concern about the cemeteries. Among other issues they discussed integrating African-American history throughout city history, not just at Fort Ward Park. Frances also spoke about flooding in the cemetery. The city completed work on a pipe to divert water last Friday and made recommendations to homeowners. In response to a question about future archaeology to find additional graves, Fran Bromberg said that additional archaeology has been recommended. It will be an on-going process; however there are no funds in the budget for this purpose for the next fiscal year.
- Susan Cumbey (Director, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site) reported that the consultants were interested in the history and evolution of the building that began as a visitor center and became a museum. Had she known, she would have provided them with written information about the history of the building prior to the meeting so that the interview would have allowed more time for discussion of other issues. They did discuss ADA compliance, space limitations/potential expansion, and fort conservation issues.
- Chuck Ziegler (Civil War Resources) stated that his experience was similar to the comments made by other members.

3) Way Forward: The members strongly urged that for the next meeting the recommendations be placed on overlay maps of the fort. Only by having this visual resource will the members be able to review options and determine how the recommendations relate to one another. Members noted that the consultants have a 6 month contract, thus time is of the essence. Fran Bromberg will relay this request to Laura Durham.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, June 12, at 7 pm at the Minnie Howard School.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:00 pm.

Submitted,

Ellen Stanton, Secretary