

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
June 12, 2013**

Present:

Bob Moir	Ellen Stanton
Lena Rainey	Frances Terrell
Ripley Forbes	Linda Ries
Jim Walpole	Janice Magnuson

Staff Present:

Office of Historic Alexandria:	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs:
Lance Mallamo	Laura Durham
Susan Cumbey	
Garrett Fesler	

Transportation and Environmental Services:

Brian Rahal

Visitors:

Sharon Annear
URS Corporation: `Mary Roman and Zhongyan Xu
Lardner/Klein: Jim Klein

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Ries at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

Items:

1) Storm Water Master Plan

Project Manager Zhongyan Xu and Contract Manager Mary Roman of URS Corporation presented Fort Ward Park Master Drainage Plan. Project goals and objectives include identifying potential drainage improvements, developing effective solutions, minimizing impacts to the historic nature of the park, and minimizing impacts to adjacent properties. Important municipal issues are flooding, sewer system function and erosion. They will work with the city and citizens to create viable solutions and coordinate with on-going projects including the Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan.

The project schedule is as follows: draft report late summer, concept improvement plans fall, public meeting winter and final report submission winter 2013.

2) Discussion regarding recent public outreach/surveys by consultants

Jim Klein of Lardner/Klein and Laura Durham of RPCA reported a good result from the June 1 and June 5 public input sessions. The goal was to reach the general users of the park and to have those individuals complete a written survey. Many people noted their appreciation of Fort Ward

Park as a green oasis within the city. Comments included need for better maintenance of the trees, misunderstanding of the “no mow” areas, desire for flowering azaleas and events in the amphitheater, positive response to the new interpretive signage and desire for orientation to the location.

The members suggested ways to stimulate interest in the survey including requesting a newspaper article be written by Michael Pope in the local paper.

3) Presentation of a matrix tool and maps to evaluate Advisory Group recommendations

Upon a suggestion by Chair Linda Ries, Laura Durham presented a draft matrix to complement a map overlay that the SAG requested at the May meeting. This matrix would be another means to assist the SAG in identifying possible conflicts in their chapter recommendations. One possible matrix includes columns reflecting conflicting recommendations (none, possible, conflicts with...). Another option is to divide the park into zones of intensity of activity that includes a sensitivity analysis (high, moderate or less sensitive). Linda Ries will present Laura with possible modifications before the July meeting. At the next meeting we will work on completing a matrix to better inform the consultants on SAG recommendations. (Note: A link to the map overlay prepared by the city was emailed to the group after the meeting)

4) Current status of Fort Ward SAG vacancies

At present there are four openings, one of which is expected to be filled shortly. The SAG will continue to work with the city and recommending groups to fill the vacancies.

5) Other discussion

Lance Mallamo brought up the subject of choosing an option for marking graves in Fort Ward. He suggested looking at the flat, sandstone markers that have been placed in Freedman’s Cemetery. He mentioned there are some financial resources to assist with the cost, at least until early in 2014. Lena Rainey volunteered to check these markers out and will report to the group in July.

Fran Terrell reported to Brian Rahal and to the SAG that it appeared the drainage improvements that were made adjacent to the Baptist Cemetery by the city seemed to be working as she checked out the cemetery after a heavy rain and there was no apparent new erosion.

5) Next meeting

Wednesday, July 10, at 7 pm at the Minnie Howard School.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Submitted,

Ellen Stanton, Secretary
Amended, Linda Ries, Chair