

DRAFT-DRAFT-DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group

October 9, 2013, 7:00 PM
Library/Media Center, Minnie Howard School

Members Present: Chair – Linda Ries, Vice-Chair – Chuck Ziegler, Rich Brune, Ripley Forbes, Ellen Stanton, Jim Walpole, Frances Terrell, Lena Rainey, Bob Moir, Ryan Sloan, Sharon Annear.

City Staff Present: Susan Cumbey, Lance Mallamo, Laura Durham, Fran Bromberg.

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

Public: 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: Ripley Forbes was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of August 14th (amended) and September 11th meetings were approved by unanimous voice vote. The minutes will appear on the Advisory Group web site.

Items

Invitation for comments from the public. No comments were presented.

Presentation from Consultants Peter Benton and Jim Klein

The consultants presented a powerpoint slide show suggesting a general framework for interpreting Fort Ward Park. The presentation reviewed the purpose of a park management plan and highlighted the challenge of balancing “natural, cultural and recreational resources.” The presentation summarized the status of work completed and studies that are still on-going. The consultants continued with a brief review of possible best interpretative practices from other historic/park sites that offered ways of blending the goals of interpretation of the past with preservation and maintaining public access. It was noted that creative strategies have been used successfully at other sites for recognizing lost landscapes and ruins. Examples are highlighted in the powerpoint presentation (“Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan – 9/11/13”) that is displayed on the Advisory Group Web Site.

The consultants identified possible themes that could guide interpretation of the Fort Ward Community including Reconstruction and Hardship/Struggle. A draft document was distributed offering an “Interpretative Concept for Fort Ward Park which suggested a Primary Theme might be “Civil War to Civil Rights – A Century of Change at Fort Ward.” The document illustrated how an interpretative trail could be designed to take park visitors on a journey that could encounter interpretive exhibits and landscape enhancements across Fort Ward Park. A map (“Composite of Features, Potential Path Route + Enhancement Opportunities – DRAFT 10/03/13”) was distributed illustrating a possible route for an interpretative trail that would be designed to broaden access to the park off N. Van Dorn Street, protect historic structures such as the rifle trench, allow “The Fort” community to be fully interpreted and sacred grave sites respected. There was a general discussion among the members about the importance of assuring that the trail is designed to be safe for public use while assuring public access to public land. Comments from members and the public were encouraged and copies of these documents will be available on the Advisory Group Web Site.

Consultants continued their presentation with a discussion of a management plan for aeration at the park. A descriptive document and general map was distributed showing those areas where aeration would be feasible and appropriate. Following a general discussion it was noted that the map was only a general illustration and that “The delineated areas include some wooded areas and some natural areas where no grass is to be planted and where aeration will thus not be done.” The document “Management Plan for Aeration, Fort Ward Historic Park” will be available on the Advisory Group Web Site.

The presentation concluded with a request that members continue to study the draft chapters prepared by the consultants and submit additional comments to Laura Durham at least one week before the November 13th meeting. An updated summary of previous comments from members/city staff and consultant responses was distributed and will be available on the Advisory Group Web Site. (DRAFT – Fort Ward Park Responses to Comments Received 09/25/13)

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, November 13, 2013 at 7:00 pm in the Minnie Howard School Media Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ripley Forbes, Secretary