

DRAFT
Minutes

Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum area Stakeholder Advisory Group
May 14, 2014, 7:00 PM
TC Williams High School

Present: Chair-Chuck Ziegler, Sharon Annear, Ellen Stanton, Janice Magnuson, Frances Terrell, Rich Brune, Susan Gitlin, Robert Moir and Lena Rainey

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

Consultant: Elisabeth Lander (Lander/Kline Consultants)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Chair, Chuck Ziegler. Lena Rainey was appointed Secretary for this meeting. The chair asked if anyone was in attendance from the public and invited them to speak. There was no one present from the public.

The minutes from April 9 were approved with one correction; Sharon asked that the November minutes be changed to reflect the 13th instead of the 11th. Frances Terrell, acting Secretary for the April meeting, was asked to make the date correction and distribute the updated minutes to the group. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote and will appear on the Advisory Group's web site.

The Chair reported that Jim Walpole relocated to Delaware but will continue to offer his support to the group as needed. Linda Ries resigned and her position will not be filled. Also it was reported that the Citizen At Large has stepped down. Per Laura, Parks and Recreations will more than likely not fill any of the above positions given that late stage that the project is in. Citing that it would be difficult to bring new team members

Chuck Ziegler read a statement from OHA stating that they are interviewing former and current employees from a list provided by the Ft. Ward African American Descendants Society, Inc. The first person interviewed was Wanda Dowell, former Director of Ft Ward. Both Lance

and Fran B. commented that Wanda was made aware that grave headstones had been seen at the back of the park however, she was not physical present to see them firsthand. Sharon Annear asked for clarification, “what did Wanda hear”? Lance and Fran B responded she heard that grave stones were in the ravine filled with debris. She wasn't sure if they were illegally dumped or how long they had been there. Lance stated that the interviews are ongoing which they hope will answer any further outstanding questions.

With regards to the Jackson cemetery, Fran Bromberg stated that Ms. Elizabeth Douglas confirmed that headstones were in fact once located there but had been removed. This was also confirmed by **Frances Terrell**. Lena Rainey asked if a paper trail existed that would show jobs that the city gave to workers when they go out to job sites. Lance replied that there should be a paper trail, but in 1965 there wasn't email so it could have been a verbal order, meaning more than likely a traceable record would not exist.

Lena and Fran requested that appropriate credit gets acknowledged in the management plan. For example, Oakland Baptist Church is not mentioned and Lena Rainey's name is also omitted from the credits.

L/KLA will work with LD to determine where credits are missing and supply appropriate credits

Susan – issue of ornamental/native plantings = *Susan to identify text where reference should be changed (Susan supplied 18 recommended text changes on 5/20/14)*

Chuck – issue with primary theme's focus (or lack of specific focus on Civil War); reinforced by Ellen = *L/KLA to provide introductory paragraph in text on page 58*

Chuck – desire to have Council-appointed group as follow on to oversee the plan implementation = *this did not receive support from the group, no follow up required*

Assume all other comment responses are acceptable and draft report will be changed accordingly. NO other changes to those indicated on comment response forms dated 3/27/14.

Priority Indication Review

- Priorities as identified by individuals are acceptable to the group at large. NO changes.

Other Discussion Items

- Sharon raised the need for quarterly reports/meetings related to the MOU.
 - Sharon asked for the specific cost for removing the fill at the maintenance yard. The group seemed to think developing such a cost was premature and that OHA would come back to the group with the trench investigations cross –sections in June.
 - July – target for meeting with Commissions with revised draft.
 - Related documents – some interest in having the Krystyn Moon History Report included as an Appendix; others suggested it be referenced in the Bibliography due to size of overall document.
 - MOU issue of OHS notification 7 days in advance of work vs 3 days.
 - Bob suggested FWAG members write letter of support (or disagreement) for report contents and that those be included in the back of the document.
 - Jim Walpole has moved to Delaware, unclear if he is eligible to formally remain involved now that he is no longer a city resident; for certain he can review the document and provide comments as a member of the public (LD has raised question with City Attorney).

Recommendations from Chuck Ziegler:

Goal 1: MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING

- Review and Update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) annually and ensure that quarterly meetings at the working level are held on a regular basis.
- Link financial needs of park to other City initiatives; broaden “ask.”
- Make existing paved loop pedestrian path system accessible where possible and sign areas where not possible.

Goal 2: PARK CHARACTER; PRESERVE, PROTECT, REPAIR AND MAINTAIN RESOURCES.

- Mark and protect unrecognized Civil War archaeology, “ The Fort” community and burial sites, and map areas in conjunction with OHA where ground disturbance may occur unsupervised where ground disturbance may occur with supervision; and where no ground disturbance is allowed (and add Request funding from the City Council for the third stage of archaeological research for Fort Ward Park.)
- Re-direct storm water away and sheet flow away from sensitive cultural and recreational resources through small berms, spreaders, and other techniques.
- Remove former maintenance yard access drive, fencing, gate and structures from eastern edge of the park, and removing or reshaping fill at the site.

Goal 3: LANDSCAPE CULTURAL PRACTICES

- Plant new trees annually
- Remove fallen and hazardous trees
- Train all personnel on the use of equipment to minimize damage to resources

Goal 4: EDUCATE AND ENGAGE VISITORS: SHARE THE STORIES OF FORT WARD PARK

- Formally invite key stakeholders from the Descendants Group, Civil War historians, naturalist, educators and community to participate in a new advisory committee on interpretation.
- Identify Fort Ward on region-wide maps, brochures, web-sites, and other City publication as a place to see Alexandria’s history from the Civil War to the Civil Rights eras.
- Continue to feature exhibits on topics that support interpretation of Fort Ward using the museum’s extensive collection

Goal 5: ENHANCE PARK FACILITIES

- Make pedestrian use the priority use for paved loop path
- Continue to monitor and limit noise from park activities
- Remove off-leash dog exercise area from park

Next meeting June 11, 2014. Location TBD

Submitted By

Lena Rainey