

## January 24, 2022 --- Fort Ward Park Virtual Community Meeting

Compilation of questions received during the virtual meeting

Prepared March 8, 2022

#	Question/Comment	City Staff Response
1	So glad to see your goal of planting more trees and caring for the trees that are already there.	Thank you for your comments.
2	Has evidence of indigenous sites been found in the park?	Despite the past 250 years of construction and development, remnants of the Native American past still remain buried within the City. To date, archaeologists have identified more than 30 sites containing American Indian materials in the City of Alexandria, including one site on the Fort Ward property. However, the Native American site has poor integrity because the artifacts were displaced from their original location during construction of the Civil War fort in the 1860s. For more information on the City's indigenous history, visit <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/cultural-history/indigenous-peoples-virginia-indians-and-alexandria">https://www.alexandriava.gov/cultural-history/indigenous-peoples-virginia-indians-and-alexandria</a>
3	New parking stated in your presentation yellow area for no disturbance until review by OHA. When will the review take place.	Once the construction plans are drawn and the ground disturbing impacts understood, Alexandria Archaeology will review those plans and make a determination about the level of archaeological work that needs to occur. We will share the results of our review with the public and the descendants of The Fort community for input and feedback. We recognize that the parking area to the east of the main entrance is in a sensitive area near the vicinity of the former location of the Ashby house site. The Ashby's were one of The Fort community's long-time families.
4	How confident are we that there are no burial sites in the playground area?	Based on previous archaeological and documentary research, and oral history accounts, we believe that there is a low likelihood of burials in the area of the proposed playground.
5	The first location for the playground was too expensive and visibility not too good but the site you recommend you want to import fill soils to build up the playground to protect archaeological resources that you know are there.	<p>The adopted Management Plan recommended moving the playground to the west side of the park. Other sites were evaluated during the Management Plan process but ultimately the west side was the final recommendation. Please refer to page 146 of the Management Plan: <a href="https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/102714fortwardfinaldraftmanagementplan=adopted.pdf">https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/102714fortwardfinaldraftmanagementplan=adopted.pdf</a></p> <p>The site directly south of the amphitheater was not considered for several reasons including visibility. The intent of bringing fill soils was to avoid land disturbance and to preserve resources in place. Our intention was not to hide or harm the artifacts buried there, but to leave them in place for the future. Staff understands there are concerns about this approach to preserving resources. Based on feedback received from this community meeting staff are evaluating other locations in the park and will present those alternatives to the community for further input later this spring.</p>

6	I think the staff recommendation need to proceed with ground penetration for the playground area.	Thank you. Ground penetrating radar and other geophysical survey techniques (like magnetometry and electrical resistivity) may provide information about buried features present in the footprint of the proposed playground. Results of geophysical surveys vary depending on soil conditions and may indicate false positives and false negatives. This is where ground truthing comes in, the next step of a GPR survey. By that I mean, in order to identify any anomalies in the soil indicated by the radar, excavation occurs so that the soil feature can be exposed and assessed. We will share the results of the geophysical survey work with the public and offer the opportunity for questions and feedback.
7	Is there a plan to refurbish the azalea garden that is dedicated to Alexandria's first Landscape Architect? It is terribly overgrown and neglected.	Thank you for calling attention to the garden area named after the first City Arborist, Mr. Hendryx. The garden will be placed on schedule for trimming and cleanup. There are currently no plans to refurbish the garden.
8	Have you talked to the descendant family members about the property you are proposing to develop the playground on?	We are continuing to reach out to members of The Fort descendant community, not just for the proposed playground area, but for the entire park. We would like to reach out to as many people whose families once called The Fort home and appreciate any assistance in accomplishing this. Current descendants have helped us to identify additional people and families associated with The Fort community. Genealogical websites, and local historic and civic associations have also helped us to identify additional descendants. We recognize that reaching out to descendants is a continuing process, and one that is essential to managing the park now and into the future.
9	<p>My home overlooks Fort Ward Park. I am in the park 4 to 5 days a week for daily exercise. I care deeply for the history, current and future state of the park.</p> <p>I want to make a few comments and questions for the record:</p> <p>1) I voice my support to all projects that establish better accessibility to the park</p> <p>2) I voice my support for thoughtful management of the park and its history. Can we evaluate and plant more trees as there is significant erosion.</p> <p>3) Many projects going on for the park. Can park officials must do a better job to educate and enforce responsible park use?</p> <p>a. Ground disturbance should be kept to a minimum; can people with dogs who don't pick up after their pets should be warned/ticketed/trespassed?</p> <p>b. Use of the park in the reservable picnic areas generates a lot of trash from irresponsible patrons. Can park staff enforce rules and warn/ticket/trespass those that do not follow the rules? Be happy to share pictures of how the park looks when patrons don't practice good stewardship</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. We appreciate your efforts to bring attention to community stewardship of the park.</p> <p>Park Trees: There is dedicated funding to plant additional trees in the park. Tree locations are carefully coordinated with other City agencies to avoid resources and conflicts with future park projects. Erosion can be minimized by establishing no-mow zones and meadows, and by planting trees and ground cover. Areas with dense shade can also exacerbate erosion if there are minimal plants and soil cover.</p> <p>Regarding park use, rules and regulations are posted at the park entrances. Fort Ward is a public park and like other City parks, our parks are not staffed to monitor visitors. Staff inspects the park at minimum once per week. We encourage people to report service needs. Trash and other service requests may be reported to the City's 311 service portal: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/Alex311">https://www.alexandriava.gov/Alex311</a></p> <p>Off-leash dogs can be reported to Animal Control, 703-746-4774. Animal Control can issue citations and increase patrols.</p> <p>Patrons that reserve picnic areas sign an agreement to abide by all park rules including cleanup. If rules are not followed, groups may be financially responsible for damages or barred from reserving facilities. Park staff inspect the sites prior to reservation and conduct follow up inspections after the reservation.</p>

10	Trees-what steps are being taken for the ones planted every spring-April, Arbor day earth day?	Please be advised that any tree planting in the park done through volunteers or other resources must be authorized by the City Arborist because of sensitive resources in the park and because of future project planning. Each tree planted through the City's tree planting contract includes a 1- 2 year maintenance plan that covers watering and tree stake removal, depending on tree stability.
11	Why is there a need to relocate the playground to an area that could potentially be sacred ground? The comments of "as best we can" and "there can be" lends considering another area for relocating the playground shouldn't this be a consider?	The primary reason for relocating the playground is accessibility. The existing playground is located at the bottom of a steep hill and is inaccessible per American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. <a href="#">The Management Plan (p. 146)</a> recommended relocating the playground to an area on the west side of the park that would be more accessible. Previous archaeological and documentary research, and oral history accounts, indicate there is a low likelihood of burials in the area of the proposed playground. Based on the feedback received at this meeting staff are evaluating other locations in the park and will present those alternatives to the community for further feedback.
12	What uses did the Peter's use the land for?	Between 1913 and 1960, John H. Peters and his family owned several parcels of land at what is now Fort Ward Park. Eventually the Peters family owned about 10 acres, half of which was inside what is today's park, and the rest extended north outside of today's park. Based on census data, John H. Peters was employed as a "coachman" in 1910, a chauffeur at the Seminary School in 1920, a janitor at the Seminary in 1930, and as a janitor for a private household in 1940. Although not formally designated as "farming" their land, we know from oral history accounts that the Peters family kept some livestock on the property, in particular, a cow, and probably a few other animals. And it is likely that the family tended a garden for home consumption. So, it is fair to say that the Peters used their land raise livestock and possibly to garden on a small scale, but that farming was not the Peters' sole source of income.
13	Any plans for concerts/events? We paid for stage and seating.	<p>Since the pandemic City sponsored events at the amphitheater have not been held, however, the amphitheater has been available for private rentals and concerts. If a concert was cancelled, we recommend contacting the organizer.</p> <p>To reserve the amphitheater, go to the Special Events office:  <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/basic-page/special-event-permits">https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/basic-page/special-event-permits</a></p> <p>Upcoming Fort Ward history events are listed on the City calendar:  <a href="https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/">https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/</a></p> <p>and Office of Historic Alexandria Fort Ward website:  <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/museums/programs-events-at-fort-ward-museum">https://www.alexandriava.gov/museums/programs-events-at-fort-ward-museum</a></p>
14	Are you confirming GPR will proceed?	Yes, ground penetrating radar will proceed if the proposed playground area (at picnic area #5) is selected. Staff are evaluating other locations for the playground. If this area is ultimately selected, GPR will be conducted. Please see responses to Questions #6 and #26 for information on the GPR process.

15	The comments of "as best we can" and "there can be" lends considering another area for relocating the playground shouldn't this be a consideration?	Based on the feedback we have received at this meeting staff are evaluating other locations in the park and will present the alternatives to the community later this spring. We understand the community's concerns about cultural resources and plan to hold several more community meetings in 2022.
16	The Lewis family all you have to do is check with Oakland Baptist Church.	Thank you, we will reach out to ensure that we have all the families included. So far, we have not found any evidence that the Frank Lewis family--who owned a house next door to the Peters family in the 1920s and 1930s--belonged to the Oakland Baptist Church, although future research may uncover new evidence.
17	Any thoughts-plans about the azaleas-such as the wood ones?	Per the Inter-Departmental Maintenance MOU, the azalea beds at the front entrance are maintained by the Office of Historic Alexandria through a landscape contract. All other planting beds are maintained by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA). RPCA occasionally uses volunteers to assist with maintenance. Currently there are no plans to refurbish/replant the beds.
18	The Peters used the land adjacent as a farm.	Yes, the Peters farmed some of their land--by the 1930s they owned approximately 10 acres both within the bounds of today's park and on adjacent land that extended to the north. However, the farm was not the sole source of income for the family. A neighbor, Lewis Creed, lived to the south of the Peters on the opposite side of West Braddock Road in the 1920s and 1930s. Creed raised pigs on his property which triggered a lawsuit in 1934 by some of the neighbors who objected to the smell.
19	If the committee wants to connect to descendants of the FT Ward or Seminary family they can contact Oakland Baptist Church family members are members of the church	Thank you. We will follow up with you for additional contacts.
20	Has your group already determined where an alternate site could be or was this the only choice for playground?	Based on the feedback from this meeting, staff are evaluating other sites for the playground and will present alternative locations for input later this spring.
21	Will the picnic area be inaccessible during construction?	Due to safety, the picnic shelter will be closed during construction.
22	Have you considered any other location for the playground especially since the families involved as well as the local African American community is concerned about its location	The adopted Management Plan recommended moving the playground to the west side of the park. Other sites were evaluated during the Management Plan process but ultimately the west side was the final recommendation. Based on feedback from this community meeting, staff will be evaluating other locations in the park and will present those alternatives to the community for further input.
23	I believe I heard you say that only the west side of the park was considered for playground site. Are there areas in the park being reserved for other purposes?	Areas of the park reserved for other uses include the future interpretive trail located south of the Oakland Baptist Cemetery and former maintenance yard. As previously mentioned, the adopted Management Plan recommended moving the playground to the west side of the park. Other sites were evaluated during the Management Plan process but ultimately the west side was the final recommendation. Based on feedback from this community meeting, staff are evaluating other locations in the park and will present those alternatives to the community for further input.

24	<p>Can you talk about the city's laws, regs or policies for building on top of grave/ burial areas? I recall that the city library, ALX High School and the Freedman's Cemetery were built on top of graveyards. One of these was with permission of owners while the other two were not. Can you cover other sacred areas in the park to "preserve them".</p>	<p>The Virginia Department of Historic Resources provides statewide guidance and oversight for historic cemeteries and their website has a good reference for frequently asked questions: <a href="https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/archaeology/cemetery-preservation-frequently-asked-questions/">https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/archaeology/cemetery-preservation-frequently-asked-questions/</a></p> <p>The historic cemetery located at Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial was the final resting place for 1,711 African Americans who sought freedom in Union-occupied Alexandria during the Civil War. The cemetery became the site of repeated desecration for decades due to systemic racism and the historic mistreatment of African American cemeteries in Alexandria, in the state, and across the country. More can be found: <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/FreedmenMemorial">https://www.alexandriava.gov/FreedmenMemorial</a></p> <p>Little is documented about graveyards in the vicinity of Alexandria City High School. There is brief mention in the Courageous Journey brochure (page 19) <a href="https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/alexandria/AVA295_CourageousJourney_Web_2019_01_31_fe6ba3b4-8424-4a2b-b034-c3e2dd0a9cb9.pdf">https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/alexandria/AVA295_CourageousJourney_Web_2019_01_31_fe6ba3b4-8424-4a2b-b034-c3e2dd0a9cb9.pdf</a></p> <p>The intent of the proposed playground project at Fort Ward is to build up instead of dig down in order to preserve that area. Research indicates a low likelihood of burials in this area. Ground penetrating radar is one geophysical tool that can be used to survey the ground for buried features. We appreciate your feedback on that proposal.</p>
25	<p>Why again the first site not recommended for the playground.</p>	<p>The adopted Management Plan recommended moving the playground to the west side of the park. Other sites were evaluated during the Management Plan process but ultimately the west side was the final recommendation. Reasons for not selecting other sites include accessibility, constructability, cost, cultural resources, natural resources, and other factors. Based on feedback from this community meeting, staff will be evaluating other locations in the park and will present those alternatives to the community for further input.</p>
26	<p>I appreciate all the work so far to ensure the playground is done respectfully. I think GPR would be prudent. Assuming that doesn't turn up anything concerning, it seems to me this site is consistent with the management plan and is a good solution to advance the needs and balance concerns.</p>	<p>Thank you. Should the proposed playground site be selected, the City will contract with a specialist in geophysical survey techniques to undertake the work. We will share the results of this survey and any associated ground truthing with the public. By ground truthing, I mean that in order to identify any anomalies in the soil indicated by the radar, excavation occurs so that the soil feature can be exposed and assessed. For more information on the prior ground penetrating survey work that has been conducted at Fort Ward Park in the location of the cemeteries, see: <a href="https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/arsitereportfortwardgpr.pdf">https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/arsitereportfortwardgpr.pdf</a></p>

27	<p>I wanted to express my support for all the projects here, including the equitable goal of the accessibility projects. The picnic area path to Van Dorn is most critical to me and my community. I live across Van Dorn at Park Place, and my park use is diminished both due to lack of a paved pedestrian path to the park loop and due to the playground placement.</p> <p>I have strength/mobility issues, and due to the unsteady ground between the park loop and Van Dorn, I drive around the park to a parking space to then get exercise walking the loop. I'd really prefer to use the ADA crosswalk and walk up Van Dorn to get in via a steady path to get more frequent exercise. The building I live in had many seniors and persons with disabilities who would benefit from this path as well.</p>	Thank you for your comments.
28	When will the final plan be decided on?	We understand that further community outreach and evaluation of alternatives are needed for the playground project. We anticipate holding several more community meetings in 2022.
29	<p>The lack of path access also impacts my family's ability to go into the park. There's no easy way to take a stroller in from Van Dorn absent this path, and I hope to see it implemented. Perhaps this would even work to make the area more attractive to families.</p> <p>Last, I hope we can get to a solution for further study on the playground either in the current proposed location or in the alternate accessible location by the picnic shelter/old dog park considered in the Management Plan.</p>	Thank you for your comments. Based on the feedback we have received at this meeting, staff are evaluating other locations for the playground, including areas by the picnic shelter. The alternatives will be presented to the community for feedback later this spring.
30	The West End could use more playgrounds that are convenient to strollers. It's unfortunate, but we drive to the East End for tot lots and playgrounds that are more accessible. I hope we can all work together to make a more equitable recreational and cultural resource for all's enjoyment.	Thank you for your comments. For further information about playgrounds, including playgrounds in the West End, please try Park Link: <a href="https://geo.alexandriava.gov/Html5Viewer/Index.html?viewer=parksvviewer">https://geo.alexandriava.gov/Html5Viewer/Index.html?viewer=parksvviewer</a>
31	Does OHA have any plans to update the National Register listing for this property? The additional archeological data, modifications to the recreation Civil War-era buildings, and modifications to the playground/picnic shelters might make this worth thinking about.	Yes, this is a project that OHA will undertake. The original National Register nomination for Fort Ward, officially accepted in 1983, emphasized the Civil War significance of the Park's history, focusing on the reconstructed and preserved elements of the Union fort, the museum and Civil War-pattern buildings, and other preserved earthwork features related to the fort. The National Register listing will be updated to include the historical significance of the post-Civil War African American Fort community that developed on the present-day grounds and vicinity of Fort Ward Park, cultural resources on the Park grounds that document that history, and additional archaeological findings related to both Civil War and Fort community excavations and research since the 1990s.

32	I believe there is a oral history indicating the Peter's used the land as a farm-raising pigs.	<p>Previous research indicates that the pig farm was on Lewis Creed's land, located to the south of the Fort neighborhood and to the west of Howard Street along Braddock Road:  <a href="https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/historic/info/archaeology/forwardparkhistoryreportmoon-2014.pdf">https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/historic/info/archaeology/forwardparkhistoryreportmoon-2014.pdf</a></p> <p>Charles McKnight talks about Creed's pig farm in his oral history:  <a href="https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/historic/info/history/oralhistorymcknightcharles.pdf">https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/historic/info/history/oralhistorymcknightcharles.pdf</a></p> <p>The Peters may well have kept pigs on their land, but not on a large scale.</p>
33	Can we see the presentation that determined the playground site required moving, the location selection, the cost of moving vs the cost of leaving and making ADA compliant	<p>The Fort Ward Management Plan recommended moving the playground to the west side of the park. Please refer to page 146 of the Management Plan: <a href="https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/102714fortwardfinaldraftmanagementplan=adopted.pdf">https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/102714fortwardfinaldraftmanagementplan=adopted.pdf</a></p> <p>Sites on the west side included south of the amphitheater and south of the picnic area 5. The site currently proposed is located south of picnic area 5. Please go to the Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan page to see the playground concepts and video recording:  <a href="https://live-coa-drupal-dev.pantheonsite.io/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan">https://live-coa-drupal-dev.pantheonsite.io/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan</a></p> <p>Video:  <a href="https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=29&amp;coa_view_id=29&amp;coa_clip_id=4508">https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=29&amp;coa_view_id=29&amp;coa_clip_id=4508</a></p> <p>The cost to leave the existing playground in place and to make it ADA compliant is one of the alternatives that staff will further evaluate. Page 146 of the Management Plan does shows that a 620' length path could be built but would require substantial grading and removal of trees.</p>
34	The Master Plan states that the tree count in the park is down by one quarter. I appreciate your efforts to save mature trees in the park, and the new add native trees you have added. What are your plans for adding trees in the future?	<p>The next round of tree planting will occur through upcoming capital projects in the park such as the picnic shelter pathway. Urban Forestry will develop plans for continued planting after the projects are completed and develop a new baseline to work from. Also, the FY 2023 proposed capital budget includes funding to plant and water 25 new trees in Fort Ward. This is in addition to trees planted through other capital projects. Tree locations are coordinated with City agencies so that they do not impact resources or conflict with future projects in the park.</p>
35	This location is not protecting the history but you want to build on top of it.	<p>The intent of the proposed playground project at Fort Ward was to build up soil as a barrier to protect the artifacts instead of digging down into the ground and disturbing them. We hoped this would be a way to protect archaeological resources, but also allow the park to grow and change. Our intention was not to hide or harm the artifacts buried there, but to leave them in place for the future. Of course, artifacts are different from graves. If the ground penetrating radar study discovers graves, then no playground or any other development will occur there, and that area will be off limits to any future activity, just like the other burial areas in the park.</p>

36	<p>I appreciate the presentation, As you noted at the outset, the park plan states that significant parts of the park are “hallowed ground.” This is a terribly important part of the history of the park. Please take a moment to understand how the city totally mistreated the African American community that had their land and homesteads and often burial sites for loved ones for many decades. Back in the day, the city showed up and threatened the African American community. The city threatened them and it is a huge embarrassment in our city’s history. If the new playground can go in a part of the park that does not have any potential burial sites, then I feel strongly that the city owes it to our African American residents, ancestors, and current residents to pick a spot that does not interfere with the burial sites. I realize this may be difficult, but their family burial sites should have never been disturbed or destroyed by the city in the first place. We must do the right thing here. — Allison Silberberg</p>	<p>Thank you and we appreciate your long term dedication to Fort Ward's history and families.</p>
37	<p>It appears that the plan calls for removing the gravel areas, which presumably are permeable and replacing them with asphalt which is not permeable. Has any thought been given to considering some sort of permeable surface instead of asphalt that would be ADA compliant for these roads and parking areas? Stormwater runoff is an issue in our city and it would seem that Parks and Rec should be concerned about increasing impermeable surfaces within the park.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion. The existing gravel parking areas are considered an impermeable surface because of the compaction of gravels and underlying subsoils. Staff will evaluate the use of permeable pavement though. The Fort Ward Drainage Master Plan recommends both structural and non-structural methods of controlling stormwater. Permeable pavement would be considered a structural method that would need an outfall to an appropriate drainage area. This method is generally more costly and may include substantial excavation. We have used permeable surfaces in other areas of the park such as the Civil War Fort pathway. The new picnic shelter pathway will also have a permeable surface.</p>
38	<p>Could you also share your project plan and work breakdown structure for the playground movement. thank you</p>	<p>The playground concept plan is available at this link: <a href="https://live-coa-drupal-dev.pantheonsite.io/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan">https://live-coa-drupal-dev.pantheonsite.io/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan</a></p> <p>The initial proposal to relocate the playground and salvage existing equipment would require closure of the existing playground. When the existing equipment is ready to be re-installed, the structures would be dismantled and the parts transported to the new location. The former playground area would be restored. Restoration work will include removal of timber ties, smoothing out of terrain, and plantings, including trees.</p>
39	<p>Will you talk to the descendant family members about their feelings about each of these proposals?</p>	<p>Staff are working to identify additional descendent family members associated with Fort Ward. We have relied on current descendants known to us to help us widen the circle. And we also have been seeking connections on genealogy websites, and also reaching out to existing historic and civic associations. Over the years, city staff and descendants have worked together to broaden our understanding of the history of Fort Ward. Reaching out to relatives of those who once lived at the park is a rewarding and continual process and we are always seeking to include as many descendants as possible.</p>

40	On the access path, this is highest priority for me. The lack of access from Van Dorn is a huge impediment for me since I have mobility challenges. I cannot use any of the other convenience paths in and literally have to get in my car and drive all the way around. I hope this can move forward while the playground issue is resolve.	Thank you for your comments. Our intention is to construct the picnic shelter pathway this spring. A community pre-construction meeting will be held on-site prior to the contractor mobilizing on-site.
41	Related to the proposed visitor center/video - would that be in the existing museum or a new building?	The new overview exhibit and short video on Fort Ward's history will be in the existing museum. It will occupy a 16 1/2 ft. long x 8 1/2 ft. wide wall space on the main exhibit floor, and provide visitors with an introduction to the two main phases of FW's history, the Union fort built as part of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, and the African American community known as the Fort, which dated from the 1870s to the early 1960s.
42	Thank you for this - super informative!	
43	New parking stated in your presentation yellow area for no disturbance until review by OHA. When will the review take place.	Once the construction plans are drawn and the ground disturbing impacts understood, Alexandria Archaeology will review those plans and make a determination about the level of archaeological work that needs to occur. We will share the results of our review with the public and the descendants of The Fort community for input and feedback. We recognize that the parking area to the east of the main entrance is in a sensitive area near the vicinity of the former location of the Ashby house site. The Ashby's were one of The Fort community's long-time families.
44	I fully support both projects (accessible pathway and park). They leverage a tremendous amount of work to be respectful of history and advance the park for current City residents. I hope both can move forward.	Thank you for your comments.
45	Picnic shelter route is that moving forward	Our intention is to construct the picnic shelter pathway this spring. A community pre-construction meeting will be held on-site prior to the contractor mobilizing on-site. Archaeologists will be on-site to monitor the construction.
46	If the picnic shelter and the access path is delayed beyond the spring, will you please make it usable again (seating) in the interim?	Yes, should the picnic shelter work occur later in the year, some of the picnic tables will be brought back for community use.
47	I like what you have covered tonight. I would like a copy of the Annual Implementation Report that the city agreed to do between OHA, TES, Rec & General Services. Talking to people and the timely sharing of information to families, adjacent landowners and park users is key to rebuilding trust with the public.	The four departments (OHA, RPCA, TES and DGS) that manage the facilities in Fort Ward Park meet quarterly in accordance with the MOU agreement adopted in 2018. An annual report was prepared for FY2020 and posted on RPCA's web site: <a href="https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/fortwardinteragencyreportfy2020.pdf">https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/fortwardinteragencyreportfy2020.pdf</a>  Although the interdepartmental team met regularly in FY2021, priorities focused on pandemic management and a variety of other projects prevented a report from being compiled. Staff continued to meet in FY2022, and an annual report for this fiscal year will be prepared and posted for the public in June.
48	yes	
49	There is an Anonymous Attendee over my question on the location of the park and the African American community having concerns. I am Frances Terrell	

50	Thank you for doing this! Very helpful!	
51	The meeting has been extremely informative and greatly appreciated. Thank You	
52	Will tonight's attendees be sent an invite to attend future virtual meetings?	Yes, all attendees and persons who signed up for this meeting have been added to the Fort Ward contact list. Information about future meetings will be sent to the contact list and will also be promoted through the City eNews and City website at this link:  <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan">https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/fort-ward-park-and-museum-area-management-plan</a>
53	Thank you	
54	Thank you!	
55	Thank you for this meeting.	