

Memorandum

Date: February 10, 2011

To: Jones Point Park Community Liaison Information Group

From: Jennifer Lavin, Community Relations Manager, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project

Subject: **Jones Point Park Community Liaison Information Group Meeting Minutes**

The first meeting of the Jones Point Park Community Liaison Information Group was held on Thursday, February 3, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Center in Alexandria, VA.

Attendance

The following groups were represented as follows:

- Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission – Judy Noritake
- Fords Landing Homeowners' Association – Michael Reed
- Jones Point Park Community Gardens–Royal Street – Barbara Lynch
- Old Town/Hunting Creek Civic Association – Maureen Dugan
- Yates Garden Civic Association – John Wilson
- Jones Point Park Community Gardens–Lee Street – Teresa Miller

The following people joined them at the head table:

- Kate Barrett, Landscape Architect, National Park Service (NPS)
- John Lynch, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project (WWB) Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Jonathan Jacobsen, WWB Executive Project Manager, Potomac Crossing Consultants (PCC)
- Brad Pittsnogle, Project Engineer, Jones Point Park Improvements Project, PCC
- Jennifer Lavin, Community Relations Manager, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, PCC

Jim Spengler, Jack Browand, and Ron Kagawa from the City of Alexandria were also in attendance. In addition, there were approximately 15 people in the public seating area.

The indicated representatives for the following groups were invited but unable to attend:

- Old Town Village Homeowners' Association – Herve Aitken
- Old Town Civic Association – Tim Elliot
- Old Town Civic Association – Yvonne Weight Callahan (alternate)

Presentation

Mr. Jacobsen kicked off the meeting with introductions. He then stated the purpose of the group, which is to serve as conduit for information exchange between the Jones Point Park Improvements Project and the community. He briefly discussed the purpose of the project, which is in line with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge settlement agreement with the City of Alexandria.

He then gave an overview of planned park improvements, recapping what was presented at the December 8 Pardon Our Dust Meeting. A map was projected showing the current public access to the park. The next stage of public access (scheduled for late summer or early fall) was described in general terms. Details are still being worked out with the construction schedule.

Questions & Answer Session

The following topics were discussed as a group:

- **Fairfax Street Fence** -- Residents of Fairfax Street requested a fence at the park boundary at the end of the street due to safety concerns. Black chain link is standard National Park Service fencing. Residents would prefer a more attractive boundary. It was suggested that an impenetrable bush, such as holly at 100 percent density, be planted in the area were there was once bamboo. (The bamboo was identified as an invasive species and is being removed during the first phase of the project.)
 - **Action item:** WWB, NPS and the Community Liaison Group will work together to identify an acceptable option for the end of Fairfax Street. **OPEN**
- **Signage needs** – People are getting turned around at the Lee Street Gardens now that trails have been re-routed and access is limited. There is need for additional signage.
 - **Action item:** WWB is replacing the some orange trail detour signs with green signs and adding additional direction signs at Lee Street and the end of S. Royal Street. The project team will consult with Teresa Miller for additional sign improvements at the end of Lee Street. **OPEN**
- **Rodent concerns** – Rats are being displaced by the construction, specifically the pile driving.
 - **Action item:** The contractor will hire a pest control specialist to provide rat control services. **OPEN**
- **Bridge lighting** – Residents feel lighting under the bridge is inadequate and this is a safety concern.
 - **Action item:** When complete, WWB will provide two foundations along S. Royal Street and under the bridge for the City to add poles and lights as part of the S. Royal Street lighting. Until then, Jack Browand will talk with City Transportation and Engineering Services (TES) in regard to the possibility of creating temporary lighting under the bridge. [Note: subsequent to the meeting, Jacobsen agreed WWB project would support TES with a potential design for the temporary lighting.] **OPEN**
- **Holes Near the Recycling area** – Representatives reported holes in the ground near the recycling area that pose a safety issue.
 - **Action item:** WWB will ask their contractor to locate and fill the holes. [Note: subsequent to the meeting three holes were filled.] **CLOSED**
- **Royal Street Gardens access** – A temporary fence is needed at the south end of the gardens because a permanent fence will not be placed until spring 2012.

- **Action item:** WWB will ask their contractor to connect the orange safety fence completely across this area. [Note: subsequent to the meeting, the contractor extended the orange fence so that it is completely across the area.] **CLOSED**
- **Drainage pond** – The pond under the temporary foot bridge will be filled in. A resident snapping turtle may need to be relocated.
 - **Action item:** NPS will make efforts to locate and in turn relocate the turtle. **OPEN**
- **Fairfax Street extra power pole** – A new power pole was placed in front of 924/926, in the median. The adjacent old pole was topped off and remains with phone and cable wires attached to it. Residents would like to see the old pole taken down.
 - **Action item:** WWB will work with the utility companies to relocate the services and remove the old pole. **OPEN**
- **Trash clean up** – Concerns about trash in the park were raised.
 - **Action item:** John Wilson and Kate Barrett will coordinate a springtime cleanup of water borne trash washing up at the park. **OPEN**
 - **Action item:** WWB will ensure the contractor keeps the trash cans near the beginning of the Mt. Vernon Trail emptied regularly. **CLOSED**

For more information, meeting attendees were advised to visit the following websites:

- www.wilsonbridge.com – Jones Point Park Information section on home page; links directly to City of Alexandria Jones Point Park Web Page
- <http://alexandria.gov/recreation> -- Scroll down for Jones Point Park section

Mr. Jacobsen wrapped up the meeting by asking folks to please relay the following message to their neighbors: Access to the park has been limited during construction for safety. Signs and temporary fences are in place to create boundaries for keeping people safe. It is very important that this limited access is taken seriously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the same location.

As soon as the weather and soil conditions allow, a park walk through will be scheduled for members of the community liaison information group. WWB will coordinate this with NPS.