

***Seminary Civic Association
1005 N. Quaker Lane
Alexandria, VA 22302
(703)379-9511***

March 20, 2010

Mr. Tom Fulton, Chair
Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum
Area Stockholder Advisory Group
c/o Laura Durham, Staff Coordinator
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Fulton:

We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to have input into, and voice our concerns, regarding the City's ongoing management at Fort Ward Park. Ft Ward Park, as you are well aware, is and has always been an integral part of our community Post, and in all likelihood, even during the Civic War.

The consensus of my Association is that the Park is currently well managed. We have not over the years seen or heard of any incidents of violence, nor of any disturbances of the peace. It has been a safe, clean place for us to walk and or jog, either in the morning or the early evening hours. We use it often to simply sit quietly alone to enjoy lunch and for reflection. It is one of the favorite places for Oakland Baptist to hold its annual picnics, as well as for individual family reunions. Reservations have been handled smoothly and the events are without incident. While the Park hosts several special events during the year--concerts, civil war re-enactments--which draw large crowds, there is very little disruption to the flow of traffic on Braddock Road. We have also noticed recent improvements such as the renovation of the amphitheater and the entrance gate being secured.

The biggest complaint our community has had with Fort Ward over the decades is that no acknowledgement was given to the African Americans who lived on the land, worked on the land, and were unceremoniously displaced from the land for the establishment of the Park. Additionally, for the convenience of the City, there was a realignment of Oakland's cemetery resulting in some of our ancestral gravesites being left outside of the cemetery's parameters and possibly some being lost forever. We are also concerned about the erosion of these gravesites occurring due to water drainage problems.

We are, however, delighted to see that the City, with the assistance of the History Work Ground and on the advice of the Ad Hoc Ft Ward and Museum Area Stakeholders Advisory Group, will now be incorporating that history into the history of the Park and are actively looking into ways to control the water drainage problem.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to have input into such a major, historic undertaking.

Sincerely,

Signed

Frances C. Terrell
President