



To: Jack Browand/Alex@Alex,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Fort Ward Stakeholders Group Meeting May 13, 2010
From: Laura Durham/Alex - Friday 07/09/2010 12:43 PM

History: This message has been replied to.

From: Dave Cavanaugh <dacavalx@gmail.com>
To: Laura Durham <laura.durham@alexandriava.gov>
Date: 05/12/2010 11:27 AM
Subject: Fort Ward Stakeholders Group Meeting May 13, 2010

I will not be able to attend the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting on Thursday, May 13.

However, I would like send the following comments for consideration by the Advisory Group. These are my personal comments and do reflect necessarily the views of others.

I appreciate the work of the Advisory Group, working with staff and soliciting comments from interested groups to improve management of the park. Fort Ward is an important natural, cultural, historic and recreation resource. The recent attention by City staff and members of the community has started a process that hopefully will reverse some of the deleterious impacts caused by bad judgement.

There are a few things I personally would like to see.

1. The City should identify all known grave site areas and appropriately commemorate and protect those areas from active recreational uses, including those within the maintenance yard. Completion of the inventory would help assure our best efforts to locate grave sites.
2. The maintenance yard should be removed, the chain link fence taken down and the land as well as the natural drainage from the maintenance yard restored to its natural condition.
3. Known burial sites should be maintained and not included in the no-mow areas. The grave sites should be appropriately identified and marked and cared for as a burial site. Some of the grave sites look unkept.
4. The Burr and Harriet Shorts home site should be protected and considered for field examination by archaeologist.
5. The school site area should be evaluated for further archaeological investigation and possibly as a site for interpretation.
6. Continue the no mow policy on the slopes of drainages.
7. The location of old outlet roads, along with trees that mark the roads should be protected until

they can be appropriately mapped and evaluated for historic interpretation. The association of land, buildings, grave sites and outlet roads provide an insight into early settlement after the Civil War.

8. Since this is a historic park, proposed plans dating back to 2008 should be rescinded. Any future plans to increase use of the park impacting the historical character of the park, e.g., expand parking areas, provide walking paths along the circular drive, construct buildings, enlarge picnic areas, should be subject to a collaborative public participation process and approval by the City Council.

Thank you

Dave Cavanaugh