Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
July 10, 2013

Present:

Bob Moir	Ellen Stanton
Lena Rainey	Frances Terrell
Sharon Annear	Linda Ries
Jim Walpole	Janice Magnuson
Chuck Ziegler	Janet Barnett

Steve Walz (for Ryan Wojtanowski, Environmental Policy Commission)
Rick Brune

Staff Present:

Office of Historic Alexandria:	**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs:**
Lance Mallamo	Laura Durham
Susan Cumbey	
Fran Bromberg	

Transportation and Environmental Services:
Brian Rahal

Guest:
Jim Bradshaw

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Ries at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June 12, 2013 meeting were approved as submitted.

Items:

1) Election of new secretary:

Ellen Stanton stated that she can no longer continue as secretary, a position she has held for 2 years. Since no other member is willing to assume the position, Chuck Ziegler suggested that a secretary be assigned on a rotating basis. At the beginning of each meeting a member will be asked to take the minutes, rotating the responsibility among all the SAG members.

2) Welcome to new members:

All positions on the SAG have been filled. The group welcomes Sharon Annear, Rick Brune, Janet Barnett and Ryan Wojtanowski.

3) Report on storm water:

Brian Rahal reports that 2 weeks ago he met with the field consultant for 3.5 hours. They went through the park and documented by note and photo all issues. Brian noted that the consultant found old, blocked inlets. The consultant will attend the next meeting to present on existing conditions. The

latest changes have had a positive effect on drainage in the park; however one neighbor is still experiencing some storm water problems. The department will follow up.

4) Recommendations exercise

Linda Ries suggested that the SAG go through a list of recommendations from the chapters and determine whether there is “no conflict,” “possible conflict,” “conflict” with other recommendations. The members expressed confusion with this process and held a lengthy discussion of how to proceed. Are there locations that are out of consideration for alternate or additional uses? The historic fort and grave locations were noted to be removed from consideration. The suggestion was made to proceed by being site specific. It was noted that there are trade-offs and that the SAG needs to weigh maximum desirable usage for sites within the park.

Discussion continued around specific sites and issues. Susan Cumbey noted the importance of the northwest view shed and the importance of it remaining open. The amphitheater needs to be upgraded if it is retained. Visitors to the park stated that they enjoyed public programs in the amphitheater. The picnic area near the amphitheater elicited comments about the public parking on the grass. Additional concern was expressed about storm runoff from Episcopal High School and parking for tour buses.

Linda Ries will send the matrix to members for further comment prior to the next meeting.

5) Commemorative stones at Freedmen’s Cemetery

The graves at Freedmen’s Cemetery are being marked with flat sandstone markers. They have a dignified appearance and do not impede mowing. Lena Rainey visited Freedmen’s Cemetery and took photos. She will forward the photos to members for consideration for use at Ft. Ward. Concern was raised about the durability of sandstone and whether the stone been treated to improve longevity.

5) Next meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at Minnie Howard School. This will be a 2 hours meeting due to the lengthy agenda. The updates will be sent to members prior to the meeting for their review.

6) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted,

Ellen Stanton, Secretary