

**Minutes: Meeting of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group
October 10, 2012, 7:00 PM Minnie Howard School**

Members Present:

Tom Fulton
Frances Terrell
Adrienne Washington

Ripley Forbes
Janice Magnuson

Chuck Ziegler
Bob Moir

City Staff Present:

OHA

Lance Mallamo
Susan Cumbey
Fran Bromberg

RPCA;

Jim Spengler

T&ES:

Rashad Friday

Guests:

Glenn Eugster

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Fulton at 7:10 PM although a quorum was not established until 7:20 PM.

Approval of Minutes: By resolution it was decided that the September minutes would be changed and approved following the circulation to members if a majority approve of the following addition by Adrienne Washington at the end of the paragraph; "Pam Cressey noted..." the following additional text:

"Her [Lena Rainey] comments were made to raise concerns, also expressed by Adrienne Washington, about the need for investigation and clarification from OHA about the disparities and misunderstandings which were created by the OHA press release and media statements stating that they had "completed" searching for graves in the park."

Old Business:

Fort Ward Park Archaeological Investigations: Lance Mallamo

Lance Mallamo reading from a memo (refer to Memo dated October 10, 2012) stated that the archaeological work to determine the number of graves at Fort Ward has not ended. He said that a work plan for a stage 3 phase may be requested by OHA in the FY 2014 budget and/or future years based on current findings, development of new research or new technologies.

Tom Fulton asked what had happened regarding the 23 people who indicated they have additional information regarding graves at Fort Ward and Dr. Cressey's statement at the last meeting that she would like to interview them? Mr. Mallamo said OHA was still waiting for the names. Fran Bromberg stated she had contacted Elizabeth Davis for a meeting but because of a death in the family that meeting had not yet occurred.

When a quorum was achieved and Mr. Mallamo departed, Fran Bromberg reviewed the contents of the memo a second time. After some discussion about when certain aspects of the archaeological work would be made available to the Committee a resolution was made by the Chair and

seconded by Chuck Ziegler and Janice Magnuson and then passed by the Committee that asked the Office of Archaeology to prepare a detailed timeline of the expected completion of various documents necessary to the committee to do its work. Fran Bromberg responded that the Office could and would comply.

Status of RFP: Jim Spengler

When asked by the Chair of the status of the RFP for a consultant to help guide the Committee in its effort to prepare a management plan for the Park, Mr. Spengler replied that it was still in the City's Procurement Office and had no additional information as to when it might be released.

New Business:

Fort Ward ADA Walkway: Susan Cumbey and Rashad Friday

Susan Cumbey (OHA) and Rashad Friday (T&ES) made a short presentation on a new ADA compliant walkway being proposed for inside the historic fort. The walkway will stretch from the Fort's front entrance to the reconstructed northwest battery. The cost is expected to be about \$100,000 and will be cost shared between the city and a grant from Save America's Treasures. If approved by the City's Procurement Office the project may be completed by spring.

Draft Chapter 3: African American Cemeteries and Burial Sites: Frances Terrell

Frances Terrell presented an overview of the draft chapter on the graves at Fort Ward she is co-authoring with Lena Rainey (refer to attachment). The draft makes several recommendations which were noted by Fran Bromberg of the City. Chuck Ziegler made the point that the draft made a significant contribution to the work of the committee but that compromise in all the chapters was an important consideration in working toward a meaningful end point in the process.

Tom Fulton asked about the current status of the interpretive signs and was told that placement of the signs had not yet occurred. Mr. Fulton reminded the group that final placement of the interpretive signs would be made by the Committee.

Next Meeting:

It was decided that Ripley Forbes and Bob Moir would make their draft chapter presentation at the next meeting which will occur on Wednesday November 14, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Minnie Howard School Library.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:35 PM.

Submitted,

Tom Fulton on behalf of
Ellen Stanton, Secretary