Fort Ward Management Plan Implementation

Follow-up from 05/31/16 Monitoring Group meeting

(August 01, 2016)

1. Tree Planting: Staff to develop a plan for locations of tree planting over time. Plan to ensure that planting is not precluding or predetermining interpretation and plantings are consistent with the approved management plan for Fort Ward. Staff to share the plan with the Monitoring Group.

   Staff Update: Attached is a map prepared by the Urban Forestry staff on aerial photographs to identify the areas where trees can be planted. These locations were determined after considering the previous positions of trees which have been removed, the desire to place trees for maximum benefit to park visitors, maintenance of view sheds, and to not conflict with current plans for interpretive programs at the park. The new tree planting will begin in fall, 2016.

2. Ad Hoc Monitoring Group: need to extend the tenure of the group by City Council.

   Staff Update: City Manager will recommend that the City Council extend the tenure of the Monitoring Group by another year – This item expected to be placed on City Council docket in September, 2016

3. Craven Property: staff will investigate ways to protect the Craven property with fencing or other appropriate means, send email to Monitoring Group over the summer with recommendation.

   Staff Update: Access to the Craven area has been roped off with stanchions and a historic area sign. The stakes, rope and sign is the same as that used elsewhere along the Park road to prevent the public from parking in the historic fort. See pictures attached.

4. Restoration of maintenance area: staff to develop a recommendation for this and bring back to the Monitoring Group for discussion at next meeting. Questions raised include: will the fence be coming down? When? What is the process for archaeology? Should the fence remain until the archaeology is completed? Staff's recommendation should include a sequence of events, removal of fence, building, etc.

   Staff Update: OHA staff will present a plan during the September meeting of the Monitoring Group. Plan will also address fencing removal issue.

5. Signs: Can temporary interpretive signage be placed (in maintenance area and/or other areas) instead of waiting for lengthy interpretive planning process?

   Staff Update: OHA will create and place temporary signs, including signs on the existing fence, as appropriate.

6. Interpretive Plan Progress: provide the group with an update on the work of the interpretive committee. Is there anything that can be done to accelerate their work? Be sure that staff is sending notices of the interpretive group meetings to the Monitoring Group.

   Staff Update: OHA expect to finalize the RFP to retain a consultant by August with the concurrence of the interpretive group.

7. Loop Road Closings: Should there be certain times when the loop road is closed to vehicular traffic? Through special programming activities? Staff to come up with some ideas and bring back to the group for discussion. How is this consistent with Plan? With ADA requirements?

   Staff Update: There is no reference in the approved management plan for the closure of the loop road. The loop road needs to stay open for vehicles to access existing facilities in the park and comply with ADA requirements. The loop road can be closed for scheduled and permitted special events. RPCA staff will continue to place cones and signs each weekday morning between 7:30 am – 9:30 am to close the loop road for walkers.

8. Drainage Project Update:

   Project is now completed – efforts will continue to establish a uniform growth of grass in the disturbed areas.

Next Meeting: *Scheduled for September 29, 2016 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. Meeting location will be shared after it is confirmed.*

FORT WARD PARK
SUGGESTED TREE PLANTING LOCATIONS*

* Trees planted in moderate to high protection areas will be monitored by an archaeologist. If significant resources are discovered, they will be documented and left in place. Tree locations in these areas will then be moved. The new locations will be also be monitored by OHA staff to ensure that no significant resources are present in tree-planting locations.

HISTORIC AREA
NO PARKING

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