

The following is a suggestion for the agenda for the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group Meetings.

In establishing the above group, the resolution adopted by City Council states that the group will work for no more than two years unless extended by the City Council. Therefore, it behooves us (since we have met for 6 months) to develop a plan for the meetings that provides opportunity to discuss all facets of the park in an organized manner that is known to the group members and to the public to maximize public awareness and input.

1) Begin with a large overlay map of the park and museum area that identifies all the known resources.

2) Identify the areas of the park as they now exist within the park, such as the historic earthwork fort, museum, ceremonial entrance, and officers' hut; Oakland Baptist Church cemetery, maintenance yard, parking lots, tot lot, picnic areas, road, restrooms, amphitheatre, etc.

3) Identify resources within the park that are not currently interpreted or designated including grave sites, buildings belonging to the African American community at Fort Ward, the Native American presence, and landscape.

4) Develop a 6 month agenda whereby at each month's meeting one or more resources will be the focus of the discussion to be led by the people whose chapters relate to the resource. As part of this discussion, possible conflicts in management of resources should be explored as a group. We suggest that a member of the group acts as the mediator for the process, to keep it a positive and effective discussion. Obviously there will be areas in which more discussion is anticipated than others, thus the agenda will reflect these differences.

After 6 months we will have an overarching plan and know in which areas we have some consensus and in which more discussion is needed. We have not begun to discuss to date the overall plan for the park; the individual chapters while very helpful, cannot be completed without knowing how the parts will fit into the whole.

This plan will provide structure for the members of the group as well as for the public and for the consultants as they complete their initial draft of the master/management plan.