

City of Alexandria, Virginia

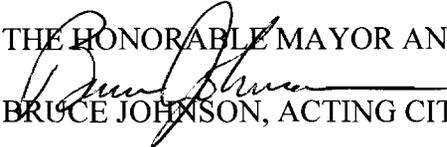
MEMORANDUM

Revised

(See new information – bold & underlined – page 3)

DATE: JUNE 27, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RE-ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC FORT WARD PARK AND MUSEUM AREA STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP

ISSUE: Re-establishing an Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Adopt the resolution to re-establish the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group (Attachment 1) giving consideration to changing the membership from what was originally proposed; and
- (2) Request the Acting City Manager appoint members to this group as detailed in this memorandum.

BACKGROUND: Since its establishment in the 1960s, the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area site has been an important community and Citywide parks and historic resource. In the fall of 2008, significant real community interest became apparent in operation of the park and historical resources. Through a series of public meetings in the winter and early spring of 2009, the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department developed a matrix of community and user issues. In order to respond to the longer-term future of the park, City Council created an Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group to study these issues. The Stakeholder Advisory Group met until the end of 2010 and developed a set of recommendations for the park and museum area. City Council discussed the final Stakeholder report at its work session on March 22, 2011. In the FY 2012 budget, City Council provided resources for further archaeology study, storm water mitigation, and for developing a management plan.

DISCUSSION: A recommendation of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group was to establish a successor committee. In its report, it was stated:

“The Advisory Group urges the City and City Council to form a citizen’s advisory committee to oversee the implementation of these recommendations at the Park as well as to oversee on-going management at the Park. Such a group might include (but not be limited to) members of local citizen groups such as the Seminary Hill Association, the Seminary Civic Association, the Friends of Fort Ward, as well as descendent and church groups with family buried at the Park.”

In order to respond to the discussion points covered at the Council work session on Fort Ward, it is recommended that a successor Stakeholder Advisory Group be established. This Advisory Group would continue to work with, and advise staff on implementation of the recommendations for the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area.

The proposed charge of work for this group would be as follows:

- a. Provide staff of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA), Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), and Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) with recommendations on the appropriate balance of park uses, as well as implementing education and outreach opportunities and implementation of recommendations made in the 2011 Stakeholder Advisory Group report;
- b. Bring community values, knowledge, ideas and advice into the process of creating a management plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum Area in ways that provide lasting benefit to the local community and the City as a whole; and
- c. Act as liaisons for neighborhoods and other interested parties in the development process of a management plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum Area.

Membership of the group is proposed to be comprised of 12 people appointed by the City Manager based on the following categories:

- a. Three members recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission Chair
- b. Three members recommended by the Historic Alexandria Resource Commission Chair
- c. One member recommended by the Environmental Policy Commission Chair
- d. One member recommended by the Oakland Baptist Church
- e. One member recommended by the Descendants Association of Fort Ward
- f. One citizen living within a one-mile radius of the park
- g. Two “at large” citizens who have shown a knowledge and keen interest in Ft. Ward and represent diverse geographic areas of the City

This is the same membership structure as the original Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group, except two designated seats for the Oakland Baptist Church and the Descendants Association have been added. While members of these two groups held two of the At Large seats on the first

Stakeholder Advisory Group, it is recommended that designated seats be established for these two groups on the new Stakeholder Advisory Group.

The two “at large” citizens and the citizen living within a one-mile radius seats would be appointed by the Acting City Manager after an open call soliciting citizen applications. This is how appointments were handled for the original Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Subsequent to the preparation of the original June 22 docket item on this subject, additional feedback about the proposed membership of the Ad Hoc Group was received by the Mayor. It has been proposed by some of the stakeholders that the membership be changed to include more stakeholders who live geographically closer to the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area.

Specifically, the request is to:

- a) **Delete: one citizen living within a one-mile radius of the park,**
- b) **Add: one member recommended by the Seminary Civic Association, and**
- c) **Add: one member recommended by the Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

The policy issue for Council to determine is the appropriate membership balance between specialized/geographic interests and Citywide interests. The original Ad Hoc Fort Ward Stakeholders group represents a particular balance. The proposed structure detailed in the June 22 docket mirrored that of the original Ad Hoc Stakeholder membership and added Oakland Baptist and the Descendants Society as members. The new proposal would add two nearby civic associations and strike a different balance.

The group would meet for a 24-month period starting with the month of appointment. Their function would be to participate with and advise staff of RPCA, OHA, and T&ES on the implementation of recommendations from the 2011 report. Specifically, the focus of work is those items funded with the 2012 budget for Fort Ward Park and Museum Area.

PROGRESS SINCE THE MARCH 22 COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON FORT WARD:

Fort Ward Stage I Archaeology investigations are complete. Both the Ground Penetrating Radar study and the Field Verification study have demonstrated that many unmarked graves, significant historical artifacts and structures are still preserved in the park. Given artifact dates, documents and oral history, the graves and most other finds can be associated with the African American community “The Fort,” (ca. 1860s-1960s). The status of the reports is as follows: Ground Penetrating Radar Report- complete and approved; Archaeological Field Report-draft submitted and staff comments provided to the consultant, The Ottery Group; Cultural Resource Inventory- awaiting draft inventory report from The Ottery Group.

Fort Ward Stage II Archaeology is funded in FY 2012 in two parts. Stage II A has three main products: 1) a report chronicling the history and significance of the park’s previous occupants and uses; 2) a second phase of fieldwork to find graves in the known burial grounds, identify the boundaries of these cemeteries, and to conduct test excavations in park areas where there is a likelihood that cultural resources still are preserved; and 3) a revised Cultural Resource

Inventory based upon the Stage II findings. Planning has begun to define the scope of work for the historical research and report. Stage IIB provides funding for archaeological work associated with the storm water management project in the eastern part of the park. A scope of work has been written for the Interim Drainage Project, and the archaeological investigation will begin in July. Additional plans for storm water improvements will also be reviewed through archaeological fieldwork in order to protect all graves and cultural resources.

The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services has held a stakeholder meeting at which an Interim Drainage Project on the eastern side of Fort Ward Park was discussed. The interim project would project collection of stormwater run-off around the Oakland Baptist Cemetery and along the eastern park edge itself. The drainage project is one that collects and conveys run-off while respecting cemetery gravesites and other archaeological resources, park topography, aesthetics and forested areas. The timeframe for such project construction is summer/fall 2011.

A draft of a proposed work plan is attached (Attachment 2). The draft work plan and schedule related to management plan development would be discussed with the Stakeholder Advisory Group before it is finalized. A draft work plan and resolution creating the new Stakeholder Advisory Group was circulated among interested parties for comment before it was finalized into this memorandum.

FISCAL IMPACT: All staff and consultant activities will be limited to those that can be accomplished with budgeted funds for FY 2012 for Fort Ward Park and Museum Area. Funds budgeted by Council for these efforts in FY 2012 include \$110,000 designated in Council's contingent Reserve for development of a management plan, \$150,000 for the next two phases of archaeological work and \$85,000 in the CIP for stormwater mitigation design and engineering plans. In addition, the FY 2013 CIP has a planned \$500,000 in stormwater funding identified for implementing those plans.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: Draft Management Plan Work Schedule

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation & Environmental Services

Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria

Jim Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

REVISED
(See #2 Below)

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to establish a successor ad hoc stakeholder advisory group to advise staff on recommendations for management of Fort Ward Park and Museum Area dated January, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area are valuable City resources for use and enjoyment by residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area includes significant historic, environmental, cultural, park and recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, a management plan needs to be developed for the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area; and

WHEREAS, a diverse group of City residents with a wide-variety of interests can assist in making recommendations for this plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

1. That there is hereby established an ad hoc stakeholder advisory group known as the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group;
2. That the Advisory Group shall consist of twelve members, as follows: 3 members recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission, 3 members recommended by the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, 1 member recommended by the Environmental Policy Commission, 1 member recommended by the **Fort Ward and Seminary African American** Descendants Society ~~of Fort Ward~~, and 1 member recommended by the Oakland Baptist Church, and 2 citizens at large, and 1 citizen living within a one-mile radius of Fort Ward Park;
3. That the City Manager shall appoint the twelve members for the Advisory Group for a two-year term;
4. That the Chairpersons of the Park and Recreation, Historic Alexandria Resource and Environmental Policy Commissions, and the leadership of the Descendants Society of Fort Ward and the Oakland Baptist Church shall recommend to the City Manager its members for the Advisory Group;

5. That, in making their appointments, the City Manager and Commission chairs shall endeavor to ensure that in aggregate, Advisory Group members provide:
 - a. A commitment to a balanced, multi-use park and historic site in the City; and
 - b. Are representative of the diversity of interests and uses of the park and museum site;

6. That the functions of the Advisory Group shall be:
 - a. Provide staff of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA), Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), and Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) with recommendations on the appropriate balance of park uses, as well as implementing education and outreach opportunities and implementation of recommendations made in the 2011 Stakeholder Advisory Group report;
 - b. Bring community values, knowledge, ideas and advice into the process of creating a management plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum Area in ways that provide lasting benefit to the local community and the City as a whole; and
 - c. Act as liaisons for neighborhoods and other interested parties in the development process of a management plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum Area.

7. That staff assistance to the Advisory Group shall be managed jointly by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and the Office of Historic Alexandria, with support as needed from the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Planning and Zoning, General Services, and the City Manager's Office; and

8. That the Advisory Group shall meet on an ad hoc basis and will be formed for a limited duration of no more than two years unless otherwise extended by City Council.

ADOPTED:

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2460

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to establish a successor ad hoc stakeholder advisory group to advise staff on recommendations for management of Fort Ward Park and Museum Area dated January, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area are valuable City resources for use and enjoyment by residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area includes significant historic, environmental, cultural, park and recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, a management plan needs to be developed for the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area; and

WHEREAS, a diverse group of City residents with a wide-variety of interests can assist in making recommendations for this plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

1. That there is hereby established an ad hoc stakeholder advisory group known as the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group;
2. That the Advisory Group shall consist of twelve members, as follows: 3 members recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission, 3 members recommended by the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, 1 member recommended by the Environmental Policy Commission, 1 member recommended by the **Fort Ward and Seminary African American** Descendants Society, and 1 member recommended by the Oakland Baptist Church, and 2 citizens at large, and 1 citizen living within a one-mile radius of Fort Ward Park, 1 member recommended by the Seminary Civic Association, and 1 member recommended by the Seminary Hill Association, Inc;
3. That the City Manager shall appoint the twelve members for the Advisory Group for a two-year term;
4. That the Chairpersons of the Park and Recreation, Historic Alexandria Resource and Environmental Policy Commissions, and the leadership of the Descendants Society of Fort Ward and the Oakland Baptist Church shall recommend to the City Manager its members for the Advisory Group;
5. That, in making their appointments, the City Manager and Commission chairs shall endeavor to ensure that in aggregate, Advisory Group members provide:
 - a. A commitment to a balanced, multi-use park and historic site in the City; and
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7. That staff assistance to the Advisory Group shall be managed jointly by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and the Office of Historic Alexandria, with support as needed from the

Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, Planning and Zoning, General Services, and the City Manager's Office; and

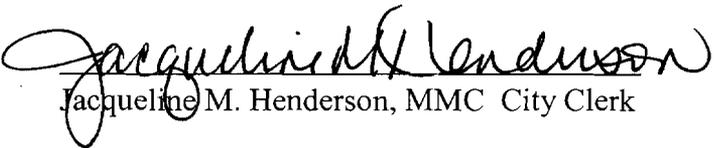
8. That the Advisory Group shall meet on an ad hoc basis and will be formed for a limited duration of no more than two years unless otherwise extended by City Council.

ADOPTED: June 28, 2011



WILLIAM D. EULLE MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk

Jackie Henderson

From: John Sprinkle <John.Sprinkle@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 1:30 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: Re-Establishment of Ad Hoc Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group
Attachments: ATT00001..txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 24, 2011 13:30:12] Message ID: [31358]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members**First Name:** John**Last Name:** Sprinkle**Street Address:** 603 Johnston Place**City:** Alexandria**State:** Virginia**Zip:** 22301**Phone:** 703-519-6112**Email Address:** John.Sprinkle@verizon.net**Subject:** Re-Establishment of Ad Hoc Fort Ward Stakeholder Advisory Group
To the Mayor and Members of City Council:

On June 21, 2011, the

membership of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC)

unanimously endorsed the recommendation to re-establish the Ad Hoc
FortWard Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group as proposed
for**Comments:**

consideration by Council on June 28th.

Sincerely,

John H.

Sprinkle, Jr., Chair
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

Jackie Henderson

From: John Sprinkle <John.Sprinkle@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 1:24 PM
To: William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Elaine Scott; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones
Subject: COA Contact Us: HARC representative on Waterfront Working Group
Attachments: ATT00001..txt

COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 24, 2011 13:23:47] Message ID: [31357]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: John
Last Name: Sprinkle
Street Address: 603 Johnston Place
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22301
Phone: 703-519-6112
Email Address: John.Sprinkle@verizon.net
Subject: HARC representative on Waterfront Working Group
To the Mayor and Members of City Council:

At its Tuesday June 21, 2011

meeting the membership of the Historic Alexandria Resources
Commission

(HARC) unanimously voted to recommend S. Kathleen Pepper as our
designated

representative to the proposed Waterfront Working Group, should Council
Comments: establish such a group during HARC's summer recess.

Thank you for your

consideration of this recommendation.

Regards,

John H. Sprinkle,

Jr.
Chair, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission