

Memorandum

Date: May 20, 2011

To: Jones Point Park Community Liaison Information Group

From: Jennifer Lavin, Community Relations Manager, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project

Subject: **Jones Point Park Community Liaison Information Group Meeting Minutes**

The second meeting of the Jones Point Park Community Liaison Information Group was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Center in Alexandria, VA.

Attendance

The following groups were represented as follows:

- Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission – Judy Noritake
- Fords Landing Homeowners' Association – Michael Reed
- Jones Point Park Community Gardens—Lee Street – Richard Miller
- Jones Point Park Community Gardens—Royal Street – Barbara Lynch
- Old Town/Hunting Creek Civic Association – Maureen Dugan
- Old Town Civic Association – Yvonne Weight Callahan
- Yates Garden Civic Association – Teresa Miller and John Wilson

The following people joined them at the head table:

- Kate Barrett, Landscape Architect, National Park Service (NPS)
- John Lynch, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project (WWB) Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Jonathan Jacobsen, WWB Executive Project Manager, Potomac Crossing Consultants (PCC)
- Jalal Masumi, WWB Deputy Project Manager, VDOT
- Brad Pittsnogle, Project Engineer, Jones Point Park Improvements Project, PCC
- Jennifer Lavin, Community Relations Manager, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, PCC

Ron Kagawa from the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities was also in attendance. In addition, there were approximately eight community members in attendance.

The indicated representatives for the following groups were invited but unable to attend:

- Old Town Village Homeowners' Association – Herve Aitken
- Old Town Civic Association – Tim Elliot

Presentation

Mr. Jacobsen kicked off the meeting with introductions. He then updated the group on the progress that has taken place during the last quarter. He shared construction progress photos of the various features of the park. The full presentation is available online on the City of Alexandria website.

The following topics were discussed as a group:

1. **Fairfax Street fence** -- Residents of Fairfax Street requested a fence at the park boundary at the end of the street. Standard boundary fencing would employ a six-foot tall black vinyl coated chain link fence. Residents expressed a preference for a more attractive barrier than a chain link fence. During the February 3 meeting discussion centered on installing a living fence, such as closely spaced holly. Every homeowner on the 900 block was surveyed and unanimously chose the living fence alternative.
 - a. Status: Employing a design of densely planted hollies, red cedar, and sumac a hedge has been planted this spring at the end of Fairfax St. During the fall planting season, additional trees and shrubs will be planted between the hedge and the park access road. CLOSED
2. **Signage needs** – People were getting turned around at the Lee Street Gardens since trails have been re-routed and access is limited. There was need for additional signage.
 - a. Action Item: Additional signage was placed both at Lee St and at the end of Royal St, south of the bridge, directing visitors to the public access area.
 - b. Status: Teresa Miller requested a map board depicting the park improvements to be placed near the end of Lee Street. The sign was installed on Tuesday, May 17th. CLOSED
3. **Rodent concerns** – Construction activity disturbed the rats in the area.
 - a. Status: Contractor's sub-contractor Orkin has installed several box type rat traps on the project site. CLOSED
4. **Holes near the recycling area** – Representatives reported holes in the ground near the recycling area that pose a safety issue.
 - a. Status: Contractor located and filled the holes. CLOSED
5. **Royal Street Gardens access** – A temporary fence is needed at the south end of the gardens because a permanent fence will not be placed until spring 2012.
 - a. Status: The contractor extended the orange fence so that it is completely across the garden. CLOSED
6. **Drainage pond** – The pond under the temporary foot bridge will be filled in. A resident snapping turtle may need to be relocated.
 - a. Status: The contractor has pumped down and filled the pond. NPS was unable to locate any resident turtles, but did remove and relocate several species of fish that were able to be trapped. Subsequent to the filling of the pond, a large snapping turtle emerged within the work zone in the area near the filled pond. It is believed that this turtle previously inhabited the pond and was safely relocated outside the construction limits. CLOSED
7. **Fairfax Street extra power pole** – A new power pole was placed in front of 924/926, in the median. The adjacent old pole was topped off and remained with phone and cable wires attached to it. Residents would like to see the old pole taken down.
 - a. Status: Comcast and Verizon moved their lines and Verizon removed the pole the week of March 28. CLOSED
8. **Trash clean up** – Concerns about trash in the park were raised.
 - a. Status: The contractor regularly empties the trash cans near the beginning of the Mt. Vernon Trail on Fridays. CLOSED

9. **Speeding on the park access road** – Some expressed concern that motorists would speed on this road and requested consideration of traffic calming devices such as speed bumps or tables.
 - a. Response: The NPS generally prefers to not use raised structures on roads due to the maintenance issues they present, especially for snow removal. A 20 mph speed limit sign will be posted at the entrance and pedestrian crossing signs and markings will be posted at each crossing.
 - b. Status: Project officials will monitor vehicle behavior closely upon opening. If speeding presents as a problem, further measures will be considered. CLOSED
10. **Surface design of path from the end of Lee Street to the park access road** – Group representatives requested an asphalt paved surface for most of this path, replacing the planned six-foot wide crushed concrete material footpath, wide enough to accommodate their mulch delivery truck. They also requested that the end of the path, where it joins the Park Access Road, be sufficiently narrow to prevent vehicles from turning from the road to the path.
 - a. Action: The project will re-design the path for a 12-foot wide paved asphalt path, similar in section to the Mt. Vernon Trail, up to a point about 40 feet from the Access Road. At that point the planned six-foot crushed concrete material path, with landscaping on either side, will be built.
 - b. Status: New construction drawings are being created to create this change. OPEN
11. **Bridge lighting** – Residents expressed concern that the lighting under the bridge is inadequate, creating a safety concern.
 - a. Status: Rather than install temporary lighting, the project will expedite installation of the two street lights planned for this area. The detailed design for the street lights has not yet been finalized, but is progressing. The design involves coordination with both Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) and the City. Once the design details are sorted out, the contractor will install the power conduits and DVP will install the poles. OPEN

New Business

The following topics were brought up by members of the group:

- Park benches for South Field area – Both NPS and the City agreed to check their maintenance storage sites for benches and/or picnic tables.
- Parking lot and access road surface – Mr. Jacobsen explained that the park is not a good place for permeable surfacing because it is low lying and the benefits of pervious surfacing will be met with drainage swales adjacent to the new impervious surfaces.
- Security – Signs are up and any holes in the fence are being addressed as they arise.
- Mount Vernon Trail drainage issues near Ford's Landing – NPS will address this, as this part of the trail is outside of the scope of the Jones Point Park Improvements Project.
- Debris in the river just south of Ford's Landing – There is not much the project can do to prevent the river-borne debris from accumulating here. The project will add some shoreline stabilization adjacent to the Mount Vernon Trail at this point, including seeking a permit modification if required.
- Pedestrian/Bike Trail concrete traffic barriers (under the bridge at end of S. Royal St) – The traffic barriers are a temporary security measure during construction. The permanent trail here will have bollards.
- Wheel chair test for crushed concrete material trail surface – The equipment to perform the test is scheduled to arrive next week. The project will insure the contractor installs the material to comply with the specified requirements, which are designed to ensure wheel chairs will readily navigate the trail surfaces.

- Exercise equipment – Workout stations, such as a parcourse, were requested. Such equipment had not been considered as part of the plan and is very costly. It was suggested that community members write to the NPS George Washington Memorial Parkway Superintendent to express a desire for this equipment in the park. Such stations exist elsewhere in the George Washington Memorial Parkway park system.
- Dust – Fairfax Street residents requested water spraying to alleviate the dust impact they are experiencing as a result of construction. The project continually monitors the contractor's compliance with dust control requirements.
- Under bridge parking – Residents are concerned about the number of events that will be held at the park that will necessitate under bridge parking. NPS has provided information about rules and regulations pertaining to park events available at the following link: <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/parkmgmt/documents.htm>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the same location.