

Memorandum

Date: April 8, 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 Site Tour Recap**

The Jones Point Park Community Liaison Information Group participated in a Jones Point Park Site Tour on Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. The tour lasted approximately two hours.

Attendance -- The following groups were represented as indicated:

Jones Point Park Community Information Liaison Information Group:

- Henry Brooks on behalf of Judy Noritake, Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission
- Michael Reed, Fords Landing Homeowners' Association
- Barbara Lynch, Jones Point Park Community Gardens–Royal Street
- Teresa Miller, Jones Point Park Community Gardens–Lee Street
- Herve Aitken, Old Town Village Homeowners' Association
- Yvonne Weight Callahan, Old Town Civic Association
- John Wilson, Yates Garden Civic Association
(Old Town/Hunting Creek Civic Association representative, Maureen Dugan, unable to attend)

Project Officials:

- Kate Barrett, Landscape Architect, National Park Service (NPS)
- Ron Kagawa, Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, City of Alexandria
- Jonathan Jacobsen, WWB Executive Project Manager, Potomac Crossing Consultants (PCC)
- Brad Pittsnogle, Project Engineer, Jones Point Park Improvements Project, PCC
- Jennifer Lavin, Community Relations Manager, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, PCC

Tour -- The group visited the following locations in this order:

- Lighthouse
- South field where drainage project is being done
- Comfort station site
- Crushed concrete path at old craneway
- Finishing pier
- Jones Point Drive
- Lee Street
- Hunting Tower gate and re-routed access path

Update on Action Items from February 3 Meeting:

The following topics were discussed as a group at the end of the tour:

- **Fairfax Street fence** -- Residents of Fairfax Street requested a fence at the park boundary at the end of the street due to safety concerns. Six-foot tall black vinyl coated chain link is standard VDOT fencing. Residents would prefer a more attractive barrier. It was suggested that an impenetrable tree or shrub line, such as closely spaced holly, be planted in the area where there was once bamboo. (The bamboo is an invasive species and was removed from the park property.)
 - **Action item:** WWB, NPS and the Community Liaison Group will work together to identify an acceptable option for the end of Fairfax Street.
 - **Status:** The designer prepared a proposed plan for dense planting at the end of Fairfax Street. The plan, with an explanation of sequencing, was sent out to the home owners of the 900 Block of Fairfax Street. on April 4. All responses (representing 9 of 11 homes) approve the dense planting plan and elimination of the chain link fence. Installation of the planting material should begin the week of April 11. **OPEN**
- **Signage needs** – People are getting turned around at the Lee Street Gardens now that trails have been re-routed and access is limited. There is need for additional signage.
 - **Action item:** WWB is replacing the some orange trail detour signs with green signs and adding additional direction signs at Lee Street and the end of S. Royal Street. The project team will consult with Teresa Miller for additional sign improvements at the end of Lee Street.
 - **Status:** Orange trail signs have been replaced with green signs and additional directional signs at Lee and S. Royal streets have been installed. **CLOSED**
Teresa Miller requests a map board depicting the park improvements be placed near the end of Lee Street. Graphic design is in progress. **OPEN**
- **Rodent concerns** – Rats are being displaced by the construction, specifically the pile driving.
 - **Action item:** The contractor will hire a pest control specialist to provide rat control services.
 - **Status:** Contractor is in the process of obtaining a contract with Orkin to provide pest control to the project. **CLOSED**
Residents requested an update on timing. The Orkin contract should be let by late April.
- **Bridge lighting** – Residents feel lighting under the bridge is inadequate and this is a safety concern.
 - **Action item:** When complete, WWB will provide two foundations along S. Royal Street and under the bridge for the City to add poles and lights as part of the S. Royal Street lighting. Until then, Jack Browand will talk with City Transportation and Engineering Services (TES) in regard to the possibility of creating temporary lighting under the bridge. [Note: subsequent to the meeting, Jacobsen agreed WWB project would support TES with a potential design for the temporary lighting.]
 - **Status:** The contractor is investigating if they can install the two planned pole foundations and electrical conduit early, without interfering with other planned work under the WWB. If there is no interference with any future work they will advance the installation of the pole foundations and electrical conduit. The City of Alexandria (via DVP) then can install the light poles and finish the electrical installation. **OPEN**
- **Holes near the recycling area** – Representatives reported holes in the ground near the recycling area that pose a safety issue.
 - **Action item:** WWB will ask their contractor to locate and fill the holes. [Note: subsequent to the meeting three holes were filled.] **CLOSED**

- **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.
 - **Action item:** WWB will ask their contractor to connect the orange safety fence completely across this area. [Note: subsequent to the meeting, the contractor extended the orange fence so that it is completely across the area.] **CLOSED**
- **Drainage pond** – The pond under the temporary foot bridge will be filled in. A resident snapping turtle may need to be relocated.
 - **Action item:** NPS will make efforts to locate and in turn relocate the turtle.
 - **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. **CLOSED**
- **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 remains with phone and cable wires attached to it. Residents would like to see the old pole taken down.
 - **Action item:** WWB will work with the utility companies to relocate the services and remove the old pole.
 - **Status:** Comcast and Verizon moved their lines and Verizon removed the pole the week of March 28. **CLOSED**
- **Trash clean up** – Concerns about trash in the park were raised.
 - **Action item:** John Wilson and Kate Barrett will coordinate a springtime cleanup of water borne trash washing up at the park.
 - **Status:** Kate Barrett and John Wilson have had discussion concerning a springtime cleanup of the water borne trash washing up at the park. Currently access to a great portion of the area wishing to be cleaned up is only practical by water. **CLOSED**
 - **Action item:** WWB will ensure the contractor keeps the trash cans near the beginning of the Mt. Vernon Trail emptied regularly. **CLOSED**

New Action Items from Tour:

- **Access road and public parking lot surface** – Concerns were raised regarding the planned impervious pavement planned for this surface. There was also discussion regarding a ‘more aesthetic’ surface, e.g. cobblestones.
 - **Response:** The need for the road and parking lot was driven by the post 9-11 security response to restrict open vehicular access within 80 feet north or south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge structure. The final Environmental Assessment Preferred Alternative, which included this road and parking lot layout, was approved by all agencies and the City. Best management practices for the runoff from the road will be attained by the use of vegetated swales for storm water conveyance to existing wetlands. Pervious pavements were considered during design, but the low-lying land and high water table made this option infeasible. Cobblestones, or similar semi-pervious paving systems, were never considered due to high initial and future maintenance costs. Since “open” pavement section (with vegetated swales) is being used with minimum pavement width (no paved shoulders), the installation of pervious pavement material was considered to bring little or no additional water quality benefit to the project.
 - **Status:** No change to construction plans. **CLOSED**
- **Speeding on the park access road** – Residents expressed concern that motorists would speed on this road and requested consideration of traffic calming devices such as speed bumps or tables.
 - **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.

- **Status:** Project officials will monitor vehicle behavior closely upon opening. If speeding presents as a problem, further measures will be considered. **CLOSED**
- **Surface design from the end of Lee Street to the park access road** – Group representatives requested an asphalt (impervious) 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.
 - **Action:** The project will re-design the path for a 12-foot wide paved asphalt path, similar in section to the Mount 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.
 - **Status:** New construction drawings are being created to create this change. **OPEN**

The tour wrapped up at approximately 11:00 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the group will be held on Tuesday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lee Center.