

May 22, 2007

MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan

Date of Meeting: May 19, 2007 / Meeting #2

Purpose: Site Visit.

Location: Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park

Attendees:	Committee Members:	
	Mr. Jerry Ackerman	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mr. Jay Albright	Master Plan Committee Member
	Ms. Eleanor Bentz	Master Plan Committee Member
	Ms. Denise Caldwell	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mr. Richard Brown	Master Plan Committee Member
	Ms. Brenda Hodgson	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mr. Mike Jacobs	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mr. Bob Jones	Master Plan Committee Member
	Ms. Sue Ricciardi	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mr. Jack Keene,	Chief, Planning & Construction
		Dept. of Recreation & Parks
	John Marshall	Chief of Parks Operations
	Deb Yeater	Superintendent, Ft. Smallwood/Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Parks, Dept. of Recreation & Parks
		Department of Public Works
	Joan Viennas	
	Consultants:	
	John Rohde	Human & Rohde Inc.
	Devin Leary	Human & Rohde, Inc.
	Sally Malena	Human & Rohde, Inc.
	Community Members:	
	George Bentz	Community Member
	Jon Bevan	Community Member
	Fred Rose Jr.	Community Member

The Master Plan Committee met at Fort Smallwood Park on Saturday, May 19 2007 to tour the park as well as Weinberg Park. The group met at the Cedar Pavilion at 9:00 AM. Human & Rohde Inc. handed out 11" x 17" copies of the Site Analysis. Jack Keene, Deb Yeater, and John Marshall lead the discussion and talked about the history, site features and constraints of the parks. The group toured the site via van and cars and stopped at various points along the way to investigate facilities more closely. Below is a list of some of the observations, and comments made.

Fort Smallwood Park **First stop: Fishing Pier.**

1. The original pier into Rock Creek was over 1300 feet long. The new pier is about 300'. (It is in the same location)
2. The new pier is for fishing and perhaps launching kayaks and canoes. If canoes and kayaks can be launched from the pier should parking be provided closer to the pier?
3. The old concession building adjacent to the pier dates to between 1927 and 1931. It is architecturally interesting and worth saving.
4. It was suggested that it might be interesting to have some type of a marker showing the height water gets to in a storm event.
5. Piles from the old pier are still in the creek channel. Should they be removed?
6. The County may acquire the 2 acres adjacent to the park from the city. (An existing vacant house is on the property currently.)
7. Adjacent to the pier was the original swimming beach. The bathhouses that were there have been removed and 1 restroom building remains only not in use.

Second stop: The Barracks

1. The barracks is currently unused and needs extensive restoration.
2. Possible uses are visitor's center or park offices.
3. The building may have tin ceilings throughout
4. The existing well for the site is behind the barracks. It is not being used currently and research will have to be done to determine if the well and existing infrastructure are usable or would it be better to start from scratch.

Third stop: Nontidal Pond

1. The wastewater from the original and new water treatment facilities empty into this pond. (The new water treatment facilities has never been used) The permit is current.
2. The second swimming beach was along this side of the park (east). This is the primary location for bird watching in the Park.
3. The beach on the bay side is eroded.

Forth stop: Maintenance area and Battery

1. The existing buildings include a block maintenance facility and old restrooms (not in

use), an old concession building that is worth saving. The new wastewater treatment facility is located here. It has never been used.

2. Battery Hartshorne was begun in 1899 and completed in 1900. It was built for the Spanish American War. The north face of the battery was hidden by an earth berm that has been removed.
3. The battery could be restored and opened for historical interpretation.
4. It was suggested that storyboards should be provided along a 'historic walk'.
5. This is the prime fishing area in the park.

Fifth stop: The new playground

1. Anne Arundel County constructed a new playground on the west side of the park close to the cedar pavilion. They also refurbished the basketball court and are working on the existing stone restroom building.

Weinberg Park

Jack Keene pointed out the boundaries of the Weinberg Park along Fort Smallwood Road. Several existing houses were removed providing an open area that may be appropriate for a new maintenance facility to accommodate both parks. Devin Leary suggested it also might be a good trailhead as an existing path leads to some good scenic areas.

Sixth stop: Honolulu Lane

1. Honolulu Drive ends at Rock Creek. This was one of 3 areas looked at for a public boat launch (a study that was prepared for Anne Arundel County in early 2006).
2. A cleared area (where houses used to be) exists at the end of the drive. It is located between White Pond and Yates Pond.
3. There are sandy beaches along Rock Creek that are littered with debris, lots of scenic value to Yates Pond.

Seventh stop: Dauses Road

1. Dauses Lane also ends at the Rock Creek in a clearing where homes used to be. This is another of the sites considered for a boat launch. There is a beach area, but steep slopes to access the beach.

Eighth stop: Maryland Yacht Club

1. We were able to look at the piece of the park between the Maryland Yacht Club and Fairview Marina from a pier at the yacht club. This area is on Wall Cove and is the 3rd area considered for a public boat launch. There are a few old buildings on the site.

Ninth stop: Curtis Bay Athletic Club

1. This was our last stop. The county has asked the Curtis Bay Athletic Club for an easement along the front of their property along Fort Smallwood Road to allow for a trail that would connect Fort Smallwood Park to Weinberg Park. The area along the road is wooded and may have some wetland issues.

Once back at the Cedar Pavilion, Debbie Yeater and John Marshall handed out info on the history of Fort Smallwood.

Thanks to Jerry Ackerman for making the arrangements for the group to see the Weinberg site from the Maryland Yacht Club and the invite to have lunch at the club.

Bill Hubick a birder that the group met has a web site that you all may be interested in. He has photographed many birds at the site so you should take a look at his web page. The web page is <http://www.billhubick.com>

The next meeting will be June 13th at 7:00 P.M. in the Chesapeake Room at Downs Park.

Sincerely

Sally Malena
Human & Rohde Inc.

CC. Attendees
Committee Members