

June 19, 2007

## MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan

Date of Meeting: June 13, 2007 / Meeting #3

Location: Downs Memorial Park Visitors Center

Attendees:	<b>Committee Members:</b>	
	Mr. Jerry Ackerman	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mr. Jay Albright	Master Plan Committee Member
	Ms. Denise Caldwell	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mr. Richard Brown	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mr. Bill Cyford	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. Bill Burton	Master Plan Committee Member
	Ms. Terry Moritz	Master Plan Committee Member
	K. Mike Rafferty	Master Plan Committee Member
	John Marshall	Chief of Parks Operations
	Deb Yeater	Superintendent, Ft. Smallwood/Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Parks, Dept. of Recreation & Parks
	Joan Viennas	Department of Public Works
	<b>Consultants:</b>	
	John Rohde	Human & Rohde Inc.
	Devin Leary	Human & Rohde, Inc.
	Sally Malena	Human & Rohde, Inc.

This was the third meeting of the Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan Committee. John Marshall opened the meeting with the evening agenda and gave everyone a print out from the Anne Arundel County Health Department concerning the water quality of the area beaches. The report lists the bacteria levels in the water during the months of May and June of this year. According to this report the bacteria level at Fort Smallwood is low enough to make swimming feasible however it doesn't address the issue of debris in the water. According to Deb, Wall Cove has been unsafe for swimming since 1982.

Sue Ricciardi then gave a power point presentation of birdlife in the parks. She showed several photos of birds that can be found on site and said Ft. Smallwood is one of the best places along the East Coast to observe migrating raptors in the Spring. She also stated that Fort Smallwood has been named a state Important Bird Area by Audubon MD-DC in conjunction with Birdlife International. Eight species of Forest Interior Dwelling Birds have been noted to live in Weinberg Park with 146 species seen migrating through. Sue also made mention of some of the other wildlife that lives in the parks as well pink lady slippers.

At this point in the meeting John Marshall asked the committee to suggest uses that they would like to have in the park. The list includes:

- Swimming
- Boat Ramps
- Kayak/canoe launch area
- Sailing school / DNR police station
- Park open 7 days a week and longer hours
- Overnight camping for RV's in Fort Smallwood Park
- Birding station
- Nature Museum
- Nature walks
- Hiking/biking trails of various lengths (there are 6 miles of trails in the park now)
- Restore the historic buildings on site i.e. the barracks, concession buildings
- Restore the Hartshorne Battery and the earth embankment as well as mark the location of the Sykes Battery. Add replicas of the guns.
- Provide a "history walking tour" with storyboards
- Activities for children....bigger play area...tell the bird story
- Group supervised camping
- Concessions
- Bring back the atmosphere of the old park...maybe a merry go round
- Education Center...history, environment
- Tourism information center
- Overlook tower
- Improve existing maintenance area (either relocate or screen existing)
- A water spray
- Label tree species
- Keep Weinberg Park natural
- Clean out the freshwater pond at Ft. Smallwood
- Storage and raised area for the hawk watch
- Reforestation
- History exhibit
- Link with the existing water trails
- Friends group
- Restore the east beach naturally
- Picnic Pavilions and tables
- Parking area closer to the fishing pier for the elderly and located restrooms near the pier.

Connector trail between the 2 parks  
Disc golf (Frisbees)  
Equestrian trail  
Wildlife rescue center  
Plastic bags for dog walkers  
Wildlife view ports

Concerns about park development were also discussed and they include:

1. Traffic. Fort Smallwood road is only a 2 lane roadway. Can it handle additional traffic. The committee would like someone from State Highway Administration to talk with the group.
2. Where should a boat ramp be constructed that would be cost efficient and not cause havoc to the environment. (large parking area)

It was requested that copies of the small area plan should be handed out as well as a list of the committee members and their contact information. The committee also requested additional copies of the Site Analysis. Sally Malena from Human & Rohde Inc. stated that she would have a Land Bay Map for the next meeting. It was requested that information concerning water depths be included on maps.

Mr. Rafferty of the Curtis Bay Athletic Club requested that an alignment for a trail through their property to connect the parks be determined as soon as possible. The club would prefer the alignment is close to Fort Smallwood Road. He was also concerned about an existing fence that is partially down between the properties and the liability involved to the Club if park users entered their property.

After the committee ended their discussion John Marshall asked the community members in attendance for their ideas. The comments included:

1. Traffic is a major issue. Because of the additional traffic that a boat ramp would generate on Fort Smallwood Road they are opposed to that idea as well as an RV campground.
2. A group campground for scouts is okay
3. Beaches need to be cleaned up.
4. Erosion at the end of Dauses Lane needs to be addressed.
5. Weinberg Park should stay natural with some nature trails.
6. They are concerned about security in the parks.
7. If a boat ramp is provided it should be at Ft. Smallwood
8. Parking areas and hard surfaces should be pervious....no asphalt.
9. What happened to a proposed connector road from Mountain Road to Ft. Smallwood Rd.?

**The next meeting will be July 11, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Visitors Center at Downs Memorial Park.** The agenda will include a guest speaker, Bill Malachowski, a kite boarder who will make a presentation about the sport.

Sincerely

Sally Malena  
Human & Rohde Inc.

CC. Attendees  
Committee Members