

July 12, 2007

## MEETING MINUTES

Subject: Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan

Date of Meeting: July 11, 2007 / Meeting #4

Location: Downs Memorial Park Visitors Center

Attendees:	<b>Committee Members:</b>	
	Jerry Ackerman	Master Plan Committee Member
	Jay Albright	Master Plan Committee Member
	Eleanor Bentz	Master Plan Committee Member
	Richard Brown	Master Plan Committee Member
	Bill Burton	Master Plan Committee Member
	Bill Cyford	Master Plan Committee Member
	Mike Jacobs	Master Plan Committee Member
	Sue Ricciardi	Master Plan Committee Member
	Jack Keene	Chief Planning & Construction
	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 fourth meeting of the Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan Committee. Deb Yeater handed out copies of a map that defines the 'Dividing Lines of the Chesapeake Bay, Sounds and Straits' that shows Fort Smallwood Park is on the Patapsco River and not the Chesapeake Bay. Jack Keene opened the meeting and introduced Bill Malachowski who gave a presentation on Kite boarding. Bill is a certified Kite board instructor and would like the Master Planning Committee to consider allowing some beach area at Ft. Smallwood for kite boarders to launch from. The main seasons for the sport are spring, winter and fall because of the wind conditions. He identified areas on the east and west sides of Fort Smallwood Park that would be suitable for kite boards. If you missed the presentation you can learn more about the sport from his web site: [ospreykitesports.com](http://ospreykitesports.com) or [pasakiteboarding.com](http://pasakiteboarding.com).

After Bill's presentation, Jack told the committee about a study that is being done by Andrews Miller and Associates concerning the shoreline conditions at Ft. Smallwood Park and best means to protect the site from erosion. Some of the preliminary findings suggest removing some of the groins extending from the beach on the east side of the park and providing breakwaters off shore, creating a wider beach area and planting with native shoreline plants to stabilize. The point near the Hartshorne Battery has a concrete and stone revetment that needs some repair. Because this area is a prime fishing and pedestrian area suggestions for improvements will be for a system that retains/stabilizes the shoreline, yet allows pedestrian traffic. The west shoreline has some unstable slopes and rubble fill. Preliminary findings suggest off shore revetments and naturalized plantings to help stabilize the shoreline.

At this point in the meeting, Sally Malena from Human & Rohde Inc., explained the Land Bay Map. The Land Bay Map is prepared to graphically delineate areas of the site according to development potential and suggest suitable activities, whether appropriate for active or passive recreation due to environmental conditions. Most active recreational uses such as tennis courts, playgrounds, ball fields etc. require unwooded areas with relatively flat grades. Passive uses such as trails, nature study areas and picnic facilities are preferably sited within wooded areas and on land with more scenic character. Environmental regulations require that sensitive areas such as wetlands, streams, critical areas, FIDS habitats, and steep slopes be buffered from development and protected. Human & Rohde Inc. delineated 18 land bays that were characterized as active or moderately active recreation areas and passive or moderately passive recreation areas depending on the grades, forest cover, existing use, and size of the land bay. Appropriate uses were suggested for each land bay. 11" x 17" copies of the Land Bay Map were handed out to each of the members. Jack will also post it on the web page. The Land Bay Map is a tool that we will use to help locate the uses and facilities desired on the site in the most logical and environmentally sound manner.

Committee comments generated after the Land Bay Map presentation included:

1. An overlook could be provided on land bay 16 to allow views to Wall Cove and also a turn around as Fairview Road Dead Ends at the limits of the park property.
2. The suggestion was made that a jetty might be a good idea at land bay 10 to help protect the existing beach area from eroding.
3. A question was raised concerning parking and if there are standards for calculating how much parking is required per use? Jack and Sally responded that some standards have been developed over the years for certain uses such as picnic pavilions and ball fields, but uses such as trails are still pretty subjective.
4. A dog beach was suggested as a use.
5. Over-flow parking areas should be eco-friendly - pervious surfaces.

Community comments generated include:

1. Any structures in the park should be 'green buildings'. Preserve the environment.
2. Water access is desirable. The areas around the shoreline should be dredged to remove debris so one could safely enter the water.

Jack acknowledged that at the last meeting comments there were a lot of concerns about Fort Smallwood Road. Fort Smallwood Road is a state highway and the County has no immediate plans concerning improvements to the roadway to request of the state.

The last item to be addressed was the "'Final Draft' Siting Investigation for a Boat Ramp Facility at Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Park' prepared by Andrews, Miller & Associates, Inc. The study looks at 3 locations in Weinberg Park for a potential County owned boat ramp facility. Jack handed out copies to the committee so that it could be discussed at the next meeting.

**The next meeting will be held on August 8, at 7:00 PM at Downs Memorial Park Visitors Center.**

Sincerely

Sally Malena  
Human & Rohde Inc.

CC. Attendees  
Committee Members