

August 9, 2007

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Subject: Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan

Date of Meeting: August 8, 2007 / Meeting #5

Location: Downs Memorial Park Visitors Center

Attendees: **Committee Members:**

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
Jack Keene	Chief Planning & Construction
Deb Yeater	Superintendent, Ft. Smallwood/Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Parks, Dept. of Recreation & Parks

**Consultants:**

John Rohde	Human & Rohde Inc.
Devin Leary	Human & Rohde, Inc.
Sally Malena	Human & Rohde, Inc.

This was the fifth meeting of the Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan Committee. Jack Keene opened the meeting and handed out copies of pages that had been omitted from the report on Boat Ramp Facility at Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Park. He also provided everyone with a copy of a report concerning the water quality of the freshwater pond at Ft. Smallwood prepared by Chris Lockett from MD Department of the Environment.

At this point Jack turned the meeting over to Sally Malena to present a few schematic layouts of the uses suggested by the committee in previous meetings. There were three different schematic plans for Ft. Smallwood Park;

### **Scheme A**

Utilize the existing park road only widen to accommodate 2 way traffic.  
Provides for 3 new picnic pavilions with adjacent parking.

Restore the Barracks for office/educational facility. Provide parking.  
Relocate the maintenance area to Weinberg Park.  
Relocate the ex. parking adjacent to the Hartshorne Battery as that is where the Sykes Battery was located and restore the battery area.  
Expand the playground & provide a beach area.  
Provide parking for the cedar pavilion and play area.  
Provide a boat ramp near the fishing pier with parking for cars and cars/trucks with trailers.  
Restrooms would be provided around the site.  
The area around the freshwater pond would stay natural, with the beach on the Bay side restored. Birding would continue as the primary use.  
A paved hike/bike trail would circle the park with connector trails.

Schemes B and C have the same uses, however the park road has been changed to a spine road up through the middle of the site. The boat ramp is only on scheme A.

### **Scheme B**

The spine road has a loop at the end with parking for the Battery interpretive area and a picnic pavilion and parking open to the playground.  
Two other picnic pavilions are shown along the spine road with adjacent parking.  
Another loop circles to the beach area (on the west side) and the cedar pavilion. A large parking area is provided to accommodate beach goers, the cedar pavilion and playground users.  
A bath house is located adjacent to the parking area.  
A spur road off the loop leads to a parking area adjacent to the fishing pier.  
A kayak/canoe launch area could be provided near the pier.  
Restrooms are provided adjacent to the major use areas.

### **Scheme C**

The spine road has one spur off to parking areas for the fishing pier and the beach area, playground and cedar pavilion.  
A bath house is indicated at a drop-off near the beach area.  
3 additional picnic pavilions are indicated along the spine road with parking areas.

On all the schemes for Fort Smallwood Park, hiking trails, and individual picnic tables and grills are included. The east side of the park remains natural for bird watching etc. and the east beach restored. Kite boarding and a dog beach could be included on the east side. The Barracks in all schemes could be used for office space, a historic interpretation area/ education center.

A paved hike / bike trail is shown continuing along the east side of Fort Smallwood Road in front of the Curtis Bay Athletic Club to their entrance drive where it would cross to the west side of the road and continue to Weinberg Park. Easements would have to be obtained from 3 property owners to make this link.

The trail would continue along the west side of the road to Fairview Beach Road and parallel Fairview Beach Road weaving into the wooded area where topography allows. Primitive hiking trails are indicated through the prime FIDS habitat between Fort Smallwood Road and Honolulu Lane. A maintenance facility is shown in Weinberg Park adjacent to Fort Smallwood Road.

At the end of Honolulu Lane a nature center is shown with parking and picnic tables. A wildlife viewing station is indicated on Yates Pond. Along the west side of Honolulu Lane a group camping area is indicated. The Paved Hike /bike trail follows the lane to the nature center and wildlife viewing station.

Two schemes were shown for Dauses Lane; the first indicates a boat ramp with parking for approximately 60 vehicles with trailers, a restroom and pavilion with additional parking for 40 cars. The second scheme indicates a picnic area and kayak / canoe launch with parking to accommodate those uses. A group camping area is also indicated in the wooded area south of the parking with a pavilion. On both schemes the paved trail was shown as looping up to the beach area and across Fairview Beach Road to the park on the south side.

Two schemes were shown for the piece of the park that abuts Wall Cove. One showed a boat ramp as indicated in the Andrews, Miller & Associates, Inc. "Siting Investigation for the Boat Ramp Facility at Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Park" and the other a kayak / canoe launch area and sailing school with parking to accommodate those uses.

A disc golf course was suggested for the area east of the entrance road to Fairview marina along with a pavilion, parking and restroom facilities. The paved trail would loop through this area of the park and connect back into itself at Honolulu Lane. Primitive trails are indicated through the remaining park land.

Sally stressed that these are only schematics for the committee to start getting a handle on what space requirements are needed for the different uses and possible layouts.

Following the presentation there was much discussion primarily concerning a boat ramp and where it should be located. The group made two decisions:

- 1. The Committee voted to eliminate Wall Cove as a potential location because of community opposition.**
- 2. The committee voted that a boat ramp should be provided.**

Human & Rohde Inc. will do further schematics looking at boat ramp layouts at Honolulu Lane, Dauses Lane and in Fort Smallwood Park. It was also suggested that only pull-through parking layouts for vehicles with trailers should be considered. Because of environmental conditions: steep slopes, prime FIDS habitats, and wetlands it is Human & Rohde Inc. opinion that other areas within Weinberg park would be off limits for such a facility.

Other discussion included

1. How Weinberg Park would be secured. Would there be another gate house for Weinberg Park?
2. Weinberg Park and Fort Smallwood are considered regional parks and all picnic pavilions would be by reservations only.

Comments from the community at large included:

1. Concern about the noise and traffic generated by a boat ramp off Fairview Beach Road.
2. Question why Weinberg Park should get any development.
3. Speed of vehicles on Fairview Beach Road and the narrow width of the road and boat traffic.
4. Concern with water quality and run-off from parking areas. (John Rohde addressed the comment and stated that run-off would be collected in bio-retention areas to have impurities filtered out before allowed to drain into the bay. Any new development would have to adhere to current development standards.)
5. It was suggested that a checklist of pros and cons be developed for the different boat ramp locations to help make a decision on the best location for the use.

**The next meeting will be on September 12th at Downs Memorial Park at 7:00 P.M. Dennis Caldwell from Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks will give the committee some history of Fort Smallwood Park and a member of the Coastal Defense Group will share history concerning the Hartshorne and Sykes Batteries.**

Sincerely,

Sally Malena  
Human & Rohde Inc.

CC. Attendees  
Committee Members