

October 19, 2007

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Subject: Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan

Date of Meeting: October 10, 2007 / Meeting #7

Location: Downs Memorial Park Visitors Center

Attendees:     **Committee Members:**

Jerry Ackerman	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
Brenda Hodgson	Master Plan Committee Member
Mike Jacobs	Master Plan Committee Member
Terry Moritz	Master Plan Committee Member
Mike Rafferty	Master Plan Committee Member
Sue Ricciardi	Master Plan Committee Member
Deb Yeater	Superintendent, Ft. Smallwood/Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Parks, Dept. of Recreation & Parks
John Marshall	Chief Park Operations
Joan Viennas	Department of Public Works, Project Manager

**Consultants:**

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

This was the seventh meeting of the Fort Smallwood & Weinberg Park Master Plan Committee. John Marshall opened the meeting with the evening's agenda and introduced Ken Alban, the new Chief of Planning & Construction for Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks and Mark Garrity, the Park Administrator who were sitting in on the meeting. He then turned the meeting over to Deb Yeater to give the committee some background on Fort Smallwood Park since Anne Arundel County took over operations of the park. Deb handed out a sheet giving the 'Up-To Date Information' and talked about how the park is currently being used and the attendance since AA. Co. took over.

Sally Malena wanted it noted that there was a mistake in the minutes for meeting 6.

The pros for a boat ramp facility at Honolulu Lane should read:

1. Allows picnic area for the boaters along the waters edge.
2. Away from any neighbors.

Sally then presented two schematics for a boat ramp facility at Fort Smallwood. Both schemes show the boat ramp located adjacent to the fishing pier with 90 parking spaces for cars/trailers and 20 spaces for cars only with a separate area for fishing pier parking.

One scheme shows a loop road utilizing much of the existing road and the other shows a spine road through the middle of the park with spurs off to the parking areas for the different uses. Uses on the site are as previously discussed: playground, beach area, historical park, picnic pavilions and individual picnic tables, visitors center/offices and nature areas.

The major concerns for a boat ramp facility at Fort Smallwood Park are:

1. The proximity to the fishing pier and potential swimming beach. How would boating use impact the existing pier and potential swimming use?
2. The amount of impervious surface at Fort Smallwood. The park is all within the critical area. There is a 100' buffer from the waters edge, and only 15% of the site can be impervious. Fort Smallwood Park could have up to approximately 10.8 Acres of impervious surface. If all the parking areas needed were impervious and the boat ramp & parking for it were at Ft. Smallwood the amount of impervious surfaces could be over the 10.8 limit.
3. The vehicular congestion that could potentially occur at the entrance to the park.
4. Lack of compatibility with the other uses already existing at the park.

Human & Rohde Inc. will meet with the critical areas reviewers to get a better understanding of the development limits and the Department of Natural Resources Division of boating facilities and access planning to get input .

We again discussed the pros and cons of locating the boat ramp at Dausen Lane and Honolulu drive. You can refer back to the September meeting minutes to review those.

Comments made included:

1. Deb is concerned for the older citizens that enjoy parking close to the water for the view.
2. The need for stacking room for car/trailers as they line-up to enter the parking lot.
3. Where are people coming from that use existing boat ramps?
4. Per Andrews, Miller & Associates, Inc. report for a 'Boat Ramp Facility at Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Park' the recommended minimum design standard for rural locations is 30-50 car/trailer spaces per launching lane versus 20-30 spaces for urban areas. The question was asked whether this is an urban or rural site?
5. Everyone would like to read a copy of the agreement the County has on the Weinberg Property.
6. Joan Viennas will contact Andrews, Miller & Assoc. to see if they have funds left from the initial study to investigate siting a boat ramp at Ft. Smallwood.

It was decided that the next meeting would be devoted to further developing the 'wish list' or uses the committee would like to see in the parks and give the County and Human & Rohde Inc. time to gather additional information on the critical area issues for the following meeting.

The area residents in attendance were invited to express their comments and were generally the same as the previous meeting. Concerns about traffic and noise are the predominate theme.

**The next meeting will be on November 14th at Downs Memorial Park at 7:00 P.M.**  
**There will not be a meeting in December.**

Sincerely,

Sally Malena  
Human & Rohde Inc.

CC. Attendees  
Committee Members