



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
Neighborhood Services Division

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DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW
BOARD**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2013
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Lobby Conference Rooms Cherry & Dogwood**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Craig
Darren Hannabass
Gerald Laporte
Joan Lawrence, Chairman
Charles Matta, Vice Chairman
Kevin Vincent
Patricia Weichmann-Morris
Richard Woodruff

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Robert Dudka
Nathan Uldricks
Mark Turnbull
Andy Wenchel

STAFF: Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Acting Preservation Coordinator
Rebecca Ballo, Preservation Planner

ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order and asked for a quorum call at 7:35 pm. Ms. Ballo called the roll and determined there was a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 28th 2013, MEETING

The Chairman asked for any comments or a motion on the March 28th meeting minutes. Mr. Craig moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Hannabass seconded and the motion passed 6-0-1 with Mr. Woodruff abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS (CoAs)

The Chairman stated that there were no CoAs for consideration this month.

The Chairman asked for a brief update on the ACoA. Ms. Ballo stated it was for the removal of a hazardous tree. Pursuant to the HALRB’s request, she sent notice of the removal to everyone via email.

Consent Agenda: None

Administrative CoA (ACoA) ACoA 13-04, 3321 23rd Street North

Discussion Agenda: None

(Mr. Vincent arrived).

Discussion Item: Kit Whitely Memorial Plaque and Bench

Bonnie Flynn, Andrea Walker, and Susan English from the Arlington Ridge Civic Association presented this item. Ms. Flynn stated that this was a request to approve a memorial plaque and bench to commemorate the life of Kit Whitely. They would like to have them installed to commemorate the one year anniversary of her passing in October. Kit was extremely active in the Arlington Ridge community and brought other neighborhoods together to work towards common goals. The bench design was chosen from County specifications. They have met with Diane Probus in DPR. The plaque commemorating Kit would be placed on a stone near the bench. DPR is currently holding the stone for them. They would like to put the stone and bench in Fort Scott Park. They have agreed with DPR staff on a location near the path. The area is well-used and beloved by the neighborhood. Kit was also instrumental in preparing a neighborhood enhancement grant for the park. The view from the bench also looks over to Crystal City where Kit worked. Chris Zimmerman supports the idea and he is quoted noting her activism and the positive impact she had on the Crystal City Sector Plan. The NCAC also voted to approve this project. They are scheduled to meet with the Parks and Recreation Commission next week and are scheduled for the June 15th County Board meeting.

Mr. Hannabass asked where the small plaque would go. Ms. Flynn said it would go on the back of the bench. Mr. Hannabass asked about maintenance concerns with the bench. Ms. Flynn stated that this bench is the one that DPR typically uses and it is highly durable.

There was some discussion as to whether the absence of a central armrest would encourage vagrants to sleep there. Ms. Flynn stated that they were not concerned about that issue, nor had they ever really considered it. The bench they are proposing is rather small, about 6’ wide, so a central armrest would be awkward. Also a middle arm rest would complicate the location of the plaque.

Mr. Vincent asked where the earthworks and historical marker were located in relation to the bench. Ms. Flynn stated the historical marker was closer to Fort Scott Drive, and the earthworks are so far away as to be off the map. The bench will not be visible from the earthworks.

There were no further questions from the HALRB.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the request for the memorial plaque, bench, and stone. Mr. Laporte seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

Discussion Item: Fort Ethan Allen Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Project

Katherine Lenard with FasterKitty made the presentation. This is a Neighborhood Conservation program funded project. It was approved for bond funding in 2011. Because this site is a local historic district, this project will require a CoA. Tonight's presentation will introduce the project in anticipation of a CoA request in June.

Ms. Lenard began by presenting the history of the earthwork fortifications at Fort Ethan Allen. The Fort has some of the most extensive remaining earthworks of any of the Washington Circle Forts. She oriented people to the site, and showed an illustration of the fort during the War superimposed over the site today. A good deal of the site remains, but large portions of it have been demolished for the Madison Center and for houses and the neighborhood that was platted and built up around the Fort during the 1930s to 1950s.

Ms. Lenard explained in detail the proposed interpretive plan, including the 3 new viewing platforms, the bronze model of the Fort, and the new walkways and circulation pattern. They also will be putting up a new fence, but they do not have the specifications for that yet. They are currently at the 50% design submission stage. They have made presentations to the community and expect to receive their feedback this week. Ms. Lenard also presented the specifications for the platform for the parrot gun. This will be made of wood (white oak) and will be of the same design as the platform that was approved by the HALRB for Fort C.F. Smith. Ms. Lenard stated they are also proposing a curb cut because there is no other access to the sidewalk and they will have handicapped parking spaces as close to the new cut as possible. Mr. Vincent encouraged them to think of longevity of materials for this project. They could even consider TREX material. Mr. Hannabass also suggested ironwood.

Ms. Lenard then went through the proposed text and images for each of the interpretive panels. Mr. Matta suggested that for the 3rd panel, they should move the image over to the edge, similar to the first two panels. Mr. Laporte asked if the kind of cannon being proposed was used at the Fort during the War. Ms. Lenard stated they are using a 20-lb. parrot rifle. Wally Owen and David Farner both said this was appropriate.

Mr. Vincent asked if there would be access to the cannon. Ms. Lenard stated that there will be signs asking people to stay off the earthworks. They will not encourage access to the cannon. Mr. Vincent asked if the location of the new platform was the actual historic location of a gun platform during the War. Ms. Lenard replied that this specifically was the site of gun platform #21. Mr. Vincent asked if the parrot rifle was a replica and Ms. Lenard replied yes. Ms. Lenard stated they will also update the armament list to include the 20 lb. parrot rifle, or make clear the inventory used was from a certain time period. They will also explain the terminology so it is clear what is a gun versus a rifle versus a cannon.

Mr. Vincent asked about the relationship of Military Road to the Fort. Ms. Lenard stated she was not entirely sure, but they could incorporate it into the maps. They will also include the trenches.

Mr. Woodruff asked where the playground equipment was in relation to the map. Ms. Lenard stated it is further off to the right. Mr. Woodruff asked what was on the site now. Ms. Lenard stated it was mostly open, grassy space where little kids play soccer.

Mr. Matta stated he would like to emphasize Mr. Vincent’s point about highlighting the importance of Military Road.

Mr. Vincent stated that he would like to thank the Old Glebe Civic Association for initiating this project. This new interpretation will make this a premiere fort in the local Circle Forts. The civic association did a fabulous job pushing this through. It is also very exciting to provide this interpretation during the Sesquicentennial. The Chairman echoed those comments.

Ms. Jill Yutan, landscape architect with the County’s Neighborhood Conservation program, presented the proposed landscape plan for the project. The County has done some general clearing to better see the earthworks. The Urban Forester also evaluated dead trees for removal. The County agreed to do some limited screening and restore the buffer for a few homeowners whose backyards are adjacent to the Fort. The County has also provided a list of recommended native plants. All new plantings will avoid the earthworks.

Mr. Vincent stated that any trees in this area are not historic and that any added trees detract from the interpretation of the Fort. Preserving the historic site is the first priority, so he would ask that new trees and plantings really be kept to a minimum if they must be planted at all. Any trees detract from the historic setting. Ms. Yutan noted that DPR is also working to remove invasive species from the earthworks.

The HALRB thanked Ms. Lenard and Ms. Yutan for the presentation. The Chairman stated they would look forward to further review by the HALRB in May.

REPORTS OF CHAIRMAN, STAFF AND STANDING COMMITTEES

- A) Chairman’s Report: The Chairman gave an update on the Columbia Pike meetings. There was a meeting last week on the Architectural Standards and Conservation Area Standards. There was not much objection to the standards for the Conservation Areas. They will be extended up to Columbia Pike adjacent to Barcroft. Staff will still be accepting comments through this weekend.

The Chairman then gave an update on the Affordable Housing Study. There is one meeting scheduled per month for the next three years. The Chairman would really like to have a backup HALRB representative. She cannot attend the upcoming May meeting on May 23rd.

She also reported that Eleanor Harvey, a Maywood resident who just recently completed a renovation, would like to say thank you to the HALRB for helping with the project and for approving it. Mr. Woodruff noted that Ms. Harvey is curating an exhibit at the Smithsonian on the Civil War and American Art. It runs for about one more week.

The Chairman also reported that she and Ms. Liccese-Torres went to the Planning Commission earlier in the month to discuss the Fraber House designation as in Information Item. It will also need to go to the Planning Commission before the Request to Advertise goes to the County Board. Most members of the Planning Commission expressed support for retaining the garage.

Mr. Vincent added that he has heard many good comments about how the value of the house is enhanced by keeping the garage with the property. The HALRB will need to stay engaged in order to make these points at all the public hearings. Ms. Liccese-Torres stated the next Planning Commission meeting will be either May 6th or May 8th.

- B) Survey Report: Ms. Liccese-Torres gave the Survey Report. Staff is planning to initiate the work later this year on the Broadview local designation and possible National Register listing.
- C) Site Plan Review Reports: Ms. Ballo stated that the Shreve Apartments Site Plan will come to the HALRB during the SPRC process in May.
- D) Staff and other Reports: Ms. Ballo gave an update on the Millennium Project. She stated that there were Section 106 meetings and 95% drawing meetings scheduled for this week. She listed all of the proposed mitigations in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). It is likely that the MOA will be signed in the Spring or early Summer, allowing for the release of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The County is committed to keeping staff engaged and commenting on the project. Ms. Ballo also noted other upcoming Federal projects, including the rehabilitation of the Arlington Memorial Bridge. She will present more information as it becomes available.

Ms. Weichmann-Morris reported that the name “Blue Goose” used for the 1000 North Glebe Road building came from the Bluebird Bus that the employees used to ride.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.