

PUBLIC HEARING: 9/13/04
Ox Hill Battlefield/Confederate Fortifications Master Plan
MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance:

FCPA BOARD MEMBERS: Winifred Shapiro, Braddock District; Harold Strickland, Sully District; Ken Feng, Springfield District; Frank Vajda, Mason District.

FCPA STAFF: Mike Kane, Director Park Authority; Judy Pedersen - Public Information Officer, Lynn Tadlock – Director, Planning & Development Division; Kirk Holley, Manager, Planning Branch; Irish Grandfield, Project Manager, Planning Branch; Liz Crowell, RMD; Charles Smith, RMD; Diane Probus, Planning Branch; Manjula Nandiraju, Planning Branch; Jesse Rounds, Planning Branch; Shelley Shah, Admin;

CITIZENS: Approximately 120 estimated

The meeting started at 7:00 p.m. and was facilitated by Judy Pedersen. Following introductions of Park Authority Board Members and Staff, Kirk Holley gave an overview of the park planning process. Ms. Pedersen then introduced Mr. Irish Grandfield to present the General Master Plan for both sites. After the presentation, Ms. Pedersen explained the process for public comment and then the floor was opened to citizens to speak.

1. Kay Porter – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- Wants to protect the resources on the site. Is concerned about the earthworks ability to survive public use without onsite staff.
- Opposes:
 - Demonstration areas
 - Restrooms
 - Multiple parking areas
 - Advertising this site to attract tourists

2. John Weed – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- Wants no parking within the “boundaries” of Balmoral Greens ;
- Expressed concern regarding nearby school bus stop.
- Parking lots can be safety hazard, especially if they are large.

3. Richard Nathan – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- Cites mistrust by the Balmoral Community based on misconceptions of both the Park Authority and local residents.
- The GMP is not considerate of public comment.
- Homes were not given a high enough importance in the planning process.
- Safety was not discussed in the GMP.

- Parking is not mentioned as an aesthetics concern in the GMP.
- Traffic will have a direct effect on residents. The park's visitors will impact the neighborhood through traffic, safety concerns, and aesthetic values.
- The County must work with residents to respond to concerns and protect the community.
- The plan should be modified to ensure resident safety.
- There should be no parking zones within Balmoral Greens.

4. William Nicholson – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- Appreciates preservation of the historic resources.
- Have concerns over the mention of trails in GMP. Trails used as connections will attract wrong element to the neighborhood.

5. David Welker – Author of Tempest at Ox Hill

- Wants to offer guidance/caution
- Don't consider this a park with recreational opportunities. This is an historic site. First and foremost protect and represent the past.
- The new monuments should be designed to connect with the landscape.
- He wants to help if help is needed.

6. Mary Ahrens – Member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table

- Applauds integration of the Civil War sites.
- Archaeological investigation is needed at BOTH sites.
- Wants monuments recognizing units involved at Ox Hill.
- Please preserve the resources with a goal of no disturbance.

7. Jerry Hogge – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- Concerned with the aspects of the plan that will have an effect on the appearance and character of the Balmoral community.
- Automobile elements are in "stark contrast" to community's current aesthetics.
- The two parking lots closest to the community with 6 spaces and 2 bus spaces do not fit with the community.
- All future plans should recognize the impact of park development on the private community.
- Balmoral Greens is already in a secluded area which attracts kids on weekends. Providing parking will only increase the attraction.
- Parking lots will become magnets for non-park users as well as their trash.
- Bathrooms will not be compatible with the site.
- There ARE parking alternatives:
 - A parking agreement with the golf course.

- A parking agreement with the middle school.

8. Ed Wenzel – Chantilly Battlefield Association

- Strongly supports the Ox Hill plan.
- Any future monuments must be of similar design and scale with existing Kearney and Steven monuments.

9. Mark Terbovich – Citizen

- Supports both park plans and further interpretative opportunities all along Bull Run.

10. Ken Huntsman – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- Supports the parks but has concerns since he lives between Redan and Redoubt.
- Parking on Lot F trail connects to park through his property.
- Recommended that the plan be altered to locate the trail on the west of the road.

11. Tim Duskin – Chantilly/Centreville Resident

- History is what makes the community of Centreville.
- Applauds FCPA for preserving all this.
- Centreville and all areas need this history to make the place what it is.

12. Bill White – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- Applauds protection and preservation efforts.
- The promotion of tourism may be out of step with the neighborhood.
- Parcel F traffic and parking may be a problem.
- Planners should consider not providing a bus turn around since the public road provides a usable loop.

13. Mary Flowers – Clifton Horse Society

- CHS has 350 members. CHS promotes public use to protect wildlife habitat. She said that CHS does so by using and protecting horse trails in natural areas.
- CHS helped with the integration of other trails and the Blue trail.
- Concerns about potential negative impacts of Confederate Fortifications site use on the horse trail connecting the golf course to the Blue Trail.
- CHS wants to work with FCPA to make this work.

14. Harriet Condon – Private Citizen

- Commends the Ox Hill plan.

15. Gary Jones – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision, Task Force Member

- Worked with the task force that helped create the GMP.

- This site is very valuable for its history.
- However, there cannot be parking in residential areas.
- Parking sites must be able to provide for visitors while protecting the right to privacy for the property owners.

16. Mike Buckley – County Citizen

- Works with Scouts, feels that the context of the Civil War is very important.
- Ox Hill is an important history lesson.

17. Barbara (Last Name Not Recorded) – Resident of Fairfax House Condos

- Lives near Ox Hill, She wanted to clarify that the housing units are Condos, NOT APARTMENTS.
- Thrilled about park development.
- Concerned about increased helicopter presence and drug use in park.
- Parking in residential areas is already limited. What can be done to insure the park users will not utilize residential parking.

18. Ajay Bhatra – HOA representative near Ox Hill Park

- Likes the park and supports the planning effort.

19. Ed Vaudry – Centreville Citizen

- Suggested that concerned Balmoral residents visit other similar parks, to see how they work. (Balls Bluff in Leesburg as an example).
- History should be available to everyone.

20. David (Last Name Not Recorded) – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- Traffic management, wants pedestrian access only at Confederate Fortifications.

21. Name Not Recorded – Resident of Balmoral Subdivision

- This was a great process.
- 2 major concerns
 - parking facilities – paving areas of the park is no way to preserve them. 12 normal spaces and 2 bus spaces is too much parking.
 - Safety is a concern. Parking will attract hooligans.

END OF MINUTES