

Resident Curator Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday, August 27, 2013
Green Spring Gardens Park Horticultural Center
7:00 PM

Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Penny Gross

History Commission

Sallie Lyons

Bob Beach

Department of Planning and Zoning

Fred Selden, Director

Linda Cornish Blank

Laurie Turkawski

Park Authority

Cindy Messinger, Agency Director

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director

Matthew Kaiser

Cindy Walsh

Liz Crowell

Karen Lindquist

David Ochs

Sandy Stallman

Julie Cline

Sandy Rittenhouse-Black

Sam Knapp

John Milner Associates

Ashley Howell

Supervisor Penny Gross Welcoming Remarks.

She emphasized that the study is considering the feasibility of doing this program. The study is to explore the possibility of establishing the resident curator program. Historic buildings; publicly owned, for which the curator would pay little or no rent. Her familiarity with a similar situation was the result of a proposal by Supervisor Frey for Mount Gilead. His proposal was to allow someone to live there and care for it. The property was discussed in closed session. Initially, she was not in favor of the idea until Supervisor Frey took them on a tour of Mount Gilead and environs. Through the tour, she saw the rationale and that has been a very successful effort. She indicated that it is important to understand that this is not infill. It is not affordable housing. If we establish the program, it is for historic preservation; to preserve and maintain something that is historically unique. She cited the parking garage in Arlington where Watergate broke with Deep Throat serving as an informant. Where the resident curator program would not be for historic garages, it would be for historic locations. Staff will be working with the History Commission and Ashley Howell from JMA to bring a recommendation to BOS.

Bob Beach, History Commission, Chair of the History Commission Resident Curator Committee

In March of 2010, Maryland Department of Natural Resources made a presentation to the History Commission about their program. The History Commission established a committee. Local residents, Dottie O'Rourke, Jenee Lindner, Rebecca Marti and Win Meiselman, were instrumental in establishing

the enabling legislation at the state level. The enabling legislation is a tool to establish a program. Fairfax County is the first jurisdiction in the state to take this on.

Matt Kaiser

There will be a facilitated discussion. We can take a few general questions now. We may not have all the answers.

Jacqui Olin of Great Falls, Virginia indicated that marketing is an important component. There was concern that there would be a need to advertise beyond real estate, website or newspapers. In Massachusetts, for example, the Charles River Raceway project, provided an estimate of costs that the curator might have to take on.

Cindy Walsh indicated that it was preliminary at this point.

Fred Selden provided an example of a proffer to rehabilitate a house where DPZ worked with the applicant to market the house. There are publications that people go to for historic preservation. These are publications that target a particular audience.

Linda Blank indicated that some programs have developed RFPs.

Question: Will JMA be continuing as contractors to assist potential curators?

Cindy Walsh replied that at this point we are not considering that. Future recommendations will be made to BOS to staff the program.

The Duvalls asked if there was any inventory of the number of properties being considered. Answer: Staff looked at a number of properties, considering the range of properties available that meet the criteria. JMA will generate the final list in the report.

Properties

Ten properties were identified in the meeting at Frying Pan Farm Park.

Sallie Lyons recommended:

Minnick House on Old Colchester Road

Enyedi (Hannah P. Clark) House on Furnace Road

Orsinger House near Occoquan Regional Park

Criteria

Publicly owned/Historic (per enabling legislation)

Listed in or eligible for the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites

Integrity of materials

What should be in place?

If there was a main structure that did not require restoration (eg. it is already restored or not historic), but outbuildings that did, could the restoration of the outbuildings only be considered? [Mr. Duvall noted that the restoration of outbuildings could cost in excess of \$250,000.]

Might the need to have ADA applications be a constraint?

Would the Grange and Schoolhouse be considered together or separately? [The Grange is listed in the National Register and the Schoolhouse is a contributing element.]

Must consider zoning

Must be transparent
Should listen to the community (have that guide the RFP)
Best match: Curator and Property (Compatibility)
Is the County going tailor the RFP to a potential use?
Define what is permitted in zoning
Define what you want to have
Resident Curator vs. PPEA
Proposal would include a bid

Linda Cornish Blank's Wrap-up

JMA will continue research
Then analysis
Program Implementation
Draft Procedural Manual
Send email address to request document for review and comment
Will send email notifications to all stakeholders when Draft Procedural Manual available for comment
Address comments
Schedule for completion in March.
Series of public presentations April-June
Presentations to (1) BOS (2) Park Authority Board (3) in the community (4) History Commission
Notification by Email Blasts

Over the next few months, JMA will be doing their work.
Provide BOS with information to make an informed decision

Comments, questions and information -- website
Question: Will there be a blog? No. Email Blasts.