

SALONA PARK TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2013

The meeting convened at 7:34 pm. Members present: Margaret Malone, Ed Pickens, Mark Turner, Joel Stillman, Dan DuVal, Carole Herrick and Richard Bliss (replacing Whit Field and representing the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust). Also present: Cheryl Patten representing Supervisor John Foust and Andy Galusha representing the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2013 meeting passed unanimously.

The chair distributed a handout that included a brief summary of the recommendations for the development of Salona Park that have been submitted by individual task force members. Not all reports have been submitted.

The chair noted that the Fairfax County report on a revised delineation of the RPA (Resource Protection Area) for Salona is moving through the appropriate staff at DPWES and notice has been given to the Board of Supervisors. Appreciation was expressed for Supervisor Foust's efforts to move the process along. The RPA report will identify the new boundaries of the Salona RPA as determined by County staff. A task force member commented that it would be beneficial for the task force to receive a briefing regarding the details of the revised RPA delineation.

It was announced that progress is being made toward beginning the Fairfax County archaeological study of Salona. The study is projected to occur over six months, from March to September 2013. It will include the meadow and trail portions, and a possible Civil War cemetery site will be examined with ground penetrating radar. It was observed that as it moves forward the task force should keep in mind the information provided by the RPA delineation and the archaeological study.

The chair directed member's attention to the handout previously distributed and suggested that it be used as a starting point for discussion. Members are invited to elaborate on reports which have already been submitted. The handout covers the major points of the submitted reports with the majority suggested uses addressed first.

It was acknowledged that the final report will include more detail than is included in the handout. A suggestion was made that the task force produce a comprehensive report with specific details regarding trail design, building use and park administration.

Another task force member stated that the task force report should suggest only the bigger concepts and leave it to the County staff/experts to administer the details, in that the level of expertise on the task force is better suited to the broad topics such as how to use the land, while the issues of administration and design should be managed by others. The view was also expressed that, depending on the use, some specificity is needed; trail design does not require details but design and use of a learning center needs to be more spelled out. There was discussion of the need to find some common ground among the task force members.

There was also discussion as to the time line for the task force to make decisions and produce a final report. Also discussed was whether it needed to wait for the RPA and archaeology studies before the final report could be completed. It was noted that the greater Salona neighborhood is very interested in the archaeology report. A member suggested that the task force should suspend meeting until the completion of the archaeology report at which time the task force would reconvene. Another suggestion was to continue to work towards a final task force report while awaiting the archaeological results.

An opinion was offered that the potential development of athletic fields is what underlies the question regarding the use of the Salona Park and that an inventory of the fields that exist and are planned for McLean is an issue in determining the decision at Salona. Another member offered the opinion that athletic fields at Langley Fork Park and/or at Salona will not alleviate the McLean field concerns. It was noted that the size of the parking lots required for fields is a concern to Salona neighbors.

There was discussion regarding the task force deliberative process with the suggestion that individual positions be offered as well as the reasoning behind the positions.

Discussion returned to the possible limits imposed by the RPA delineation; what use can occur in/near the RPA and what the stormwater implications are for the site. One suggestion was that the task force make a recommendation regarding what use was desired on the site and let the experts decide whether or where the use could be put. Other task force members expressed the view that they would prefer to have more complete information (RPA delineation and archaeological study results) before coming to a decision.

It was suggested that the task force develop a set of core principles and values that reflect the vision of Salona. Further, that it identify agreed upon uses such as trails, and historical interpretive signage, and build with a consensus and acknowledgement that the issue of fields is the most difficult.

There was discussion regarding the parking requirements for various uses. They include:

- Learning building = 30-50 individual spaces and 5 bus spaces
- Soccer fields = 50 individual spaces for each field
- Gardens = 1 individual space for every 2 garden plots

The task force was told that current County policy is that you cannot have overlapping use of parking spaces. A suggestion was made to look at the language of the easement to ascertain if putting the parking lot in a different location from that specified in the Draft Plan would be beneficial.

The chair suggested that Charles Smith of the Park Authority be invited to speak at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for: **Tuesday, February 26 at 7:30 pm.** The meeting will be at the office of Supervisor Foust.