

Salona Park Task Force

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2012

The meeting convened at 7:40 pm.

Members attending the meeting: Margaret Malone, Whit Field, Mark Turner, Carole Herrick, Ed Pickens, Joel Stillman and Dan DuVal. Fairfax County staff attending the meeting: Cheryl Patten, representing Supervisor John Foust, and Andrew Galusha, representing the Fairfax County Park Authority.

An addition to the minutes of February 28, 2012 was requested. On page 3, question one the following sentence was added: “The Friends organization has and continues to work closely with neighbors and there have not been any serious problems with noise and disturbances that have not been worked out.” The change was agreed to and the minutes were approved.

A draft of a proposed memorandum to Kevin Fay, Park Authority Board Member representing the Dranesville District, was submitted by the chair to the task force. It addressed concerns raised by a communication from Park Authority staff that indicated that the loss of a staff position within the archaeology office could impact the timing and feasibility of the archaeological survey that is to be conducted at Salona. It requested that Mr. Fay work with the Park Authority on its staffing issues to ensure that the archaeological survey of Salona will move forward as it is currently planned. The task force unanimously agreed to send the memorandum to Mr. Fay, and to send a copy to Supervisor Foust.

Mark Turner made a presentation regarding green building, including national and global trends in green building design. He noted that there is a need for sustainable buildings and there is demand around the world. Buildings produce twice as much carbon as automobiles. There are solutions. Technology in green, sustainable building is booming. Fairfax County requires the LEED standard and the paperwork to meet that standard is expensive. Though there are multiple levels of LEED the actual needs of the building may get in the way of receiving LEED certification. Solar is very expensive but there are other cost effective solutions: building with SIP (Structurally Insulated Panel) white, metal or green (planted) roofs, insulation, HVAC and lighting controls. Green water management, i.e. grey water, is not favored in Fairfax County. Landscaping with native or drought tolerant plants reduces water needs.

He observed that Salona has a rich history. The two biggest assets of Salona are its history, and the nature and location of the site. A building at Salona should take account of these assets. A net-zero energy building is not the only option. A building should reflect that the structure is progressive and new but should also embrace the history of Salona. Something simple would be

most successful. Someone should own the story of the site. The story should drive the development. Funding would be readily available for an appropriately designed building since many groups would be enthusiastic about being involved in the project. The project could be done in phases beginning with a smaller, lower impact building that would allow visitors to connect with the middle field, which should remain undeveloped.

A question and answer discussion followed the presentation:

- 1) How many buildings like the proposed have been built in Fairfax County?

Fairfax County is a difficult jurisdiction to build in. There is a Montessori school in Bethesda that could be looked at as an example. There is also a carbon neutral house in the Salona Village neighborhood.

- 2) Why start small when you have the public behind the project?

You want to start slowly in order to keep perspective of the natural and historical aspects of the site. Balance is needed to ensure that the building does not overwhelm the site. SIP panels are load bearing and cost less than a stick built house.

Other items discussed:

- Hidden Oaks – The chair is awaiting a reply from the director of this nature center as to the best time to arrange a visit by task force members.
- Robinson Nature Center, Columbia, MD – This new nature center has a LEED certified building, and although the building is likely too large for Salona it is inspiring to see.
- A presentation by Master Naturalists is being planned for April.
- Efforts are underway to give representatives of nearby residential neighborhoods an opportunity to make a presentation to the task force.
- Copies of *The Future of Salona Park*, a statement by the task force, will be distributed at the McLean Community Center and the Dolley Madison Library.
- A discussion draft with ideas for the upcoming public meeting was distributed and will be discussed at the next meeting. There was agreement that preparation for the public meeting would need to be extensive.
- DPWES storm water staff have been to the Salona site once and will be making a second visit.
- The Park Authority will begin the ground penetrating radar study of the three front fields shortly. The study will take several weeks.
- Reports provided by the staff of the Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services regarding athletic field use were distributed to the task force.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE IS: TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012