

RESIDENT CURATOR PROGRAM –LAHEY LOST VALLEY

March 3, 2020 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

MEETING SUMMARY

A public meeting was held at the Oakton Public Library in Oakton VA on Tuesday, March 3rd to introduce the community to the proposed use for the historic Lahey Lost Valley property. The meeting convened at 7:00 pm and was facilitated by Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, FCPA. The sign in sheet captured the names of 8 attendees.

Also in attendance were:

- Tim Hackman, Dranesville District, Park Authority Board Member
- David Buchta, FCPA, Heritage Conservation Branch Manager
- Stephanie Langton, FCPA, Resident Curator Program Manager
- Laura Finks, FCPA, Planning & Development, Senior Right of Way Agent
- Aimee Wells, FCPA, Resource Management Division, Archaeology
- Robert Beach, Robert E. Beach Architects, Fairfax County History Commission

OPENING REMARKS & INTRODUCTIONS

Judy Pedersen welcomed all in attendance and outlined the evening's agenda.

Stephanie Langton introduced the evaluation team members and provided a brief powerpoint presentation on the program's background, its application evaluation process and criteria for evaluation. Criteria includes proposed use, public benefit, rehabilitation plan, experience and qualifications, and public response.

APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS

Judy then took the podium to introduce the applicant.

Applicant Mitchell Queener presented his proposed use and rehabilitation plan for the property. He provided some history on the house and described his background including carpenter, construction sales and product development, manufacturing manager, and systems engineer. He outlined his timeline over ten years for the completion of improvements to the house. He proposes to use the house as a family residence. As part of his public benefit, the applicant will offer yearly open house and project videos.

EVALUATION TEAM QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

The Evaluation team then began a question and answer period.

The applicant was asked which improvements to the house pose the most challenges. He responded the mechanical, electric and plumbing, based on age, current impact on the historic fabric of the house, and removing and mitigating previously caused damage.

An evaluation team member indicated that the program requires the work to be completed within a five-year timeframe. The applicant noted the challenges of performing quality work with those time constraints.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public asked how closely the applicant will stick to the property's prescribed Treatment Plan. The applicant responded that his presentation only touched on major costs and priority items and that he will address the concerns outlined in the Treatment Plan.

It was asked whether any changes to the house would occur that would undermine or jeopardize the character defining, historic features of the house. The applicant and Park Authority staff both indicated that preservation standards will be followed to maintain the historic fabric, both exterior and interior.

A member of the audience asked about the financing of the project. Park Authority staff responded that the curator is responsible for all costs associated with the rehabilitation and maintenance work. Lease length is determined by the curators estimated total investment and the property's fair market rental value.

It was asked whether the applicant could take advantage of This Old House or other types of donations. Staff explained that the program does accept donations and volunteers, if they are reviewed and approved.

It was asked if the applicant developed any strategies to integrate sustainability measures into his work. The applicant noted that these efforts are cost intensive, but he can explore opportunities. He plans to use refurbished materials.

CLOSING REMARKS

The next Lahey Lost Valley Evaluation Team meeting will take place on Monday, March 23rd at 10am in the Herrity Building at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA. A following meeting will be held on Monday, March 30th, at 10am. These meetings will take place in the ninth floor Park Authority Board Room. While the meeting is open to the public, no comment will be taken.

Public comments are due in writing to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov by Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

Applications are available for review on the program's website:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program>