

# **RESIDENT CURATOR PROGRAM – MOUNT GILEAD HOUSE**

## **August 15, 2023 - PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

A public meeting was held at the Centreville Regional Library on August 15, 2023 to continue advertisement of the curatorship opportunity at the Mount Gilead house through the Resident Curator Program. The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. and was facilitated by Ben Boxer with the Public Information Office, Fairfax County Park Authority. The names of 5 attendees were captured on the sign-in sheets. Also in attendance were:

- Ben Boxer, FCPA, Public Information Officer
- Stephanie Langton, FCPA, Resident Curator Program Manager
- David Buchta, FCPA, Heritage Conservation Branch Manager
- Jenna Gilbert, FCPA, Heritage Conservation Technician

### **OPENING REMARKS & INTRODUCTIONS**

Ben Boxer welcomed all in attendance and introduced the meeting's purpose - to review the Resident Curator Program process and its curatorship opportunity for the Mount Gilead house.

Ben introduced Stephanie Langton to provide a PowerPoint presentation.

### **PRESENTATION**

Stephanie's PowerPoint presentation began with a brief overview of the timeline of the property's advertisement thus far. She continued with a background on the program, including the curator selection process, curator responsibilities, and the status of the properties involved in the program currently. Stephanie then focused specifically on the historic Mount Gilead property. She discussed the history of the site and the opportunity for its use as a Resident Curator property. She highlighted that the program will only be accepting residential applications for the house. Approximately .5- 1 acre of land will be leased as well, and the remaining parkland will stay under the care and management of the FCPA. To conclude, Stephanie encouraged all to visit the Resident Curator Program website for additional information, including the application package.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

At the end of the presentation, Ben opened the floor for questions from the audience.

The questions and answers included the following:

What is the estimated investment for the curator? - The treatment plan for the Mount Gilead house estimates about \$200,000. The program's formula to determine lease length, as outlined in the application package, estimates a 13-year lease.

What happens if additional architectural plans or structural assessments are needed? - If the property's Historic Structure Report and Treatment Plan does not contain the needed architectural plans or structural assessments, the curator is responsible for obtaining any additional plans or reports.

What type of improvements can the curator expect to do, using the Hannah P. Clark house as an example? - The curator began with a focus on mechanical, electrical and plumbing improvements, before moving onto cosmetic and light structural repairs.

What modern upgrades and features could the curator add to the property? - The resident curator program is more of a rehabilitation program than a strict preservation program in that it recognizes the need for modern features especially in bathrooms and kitchens. RCP staff will review any proposed changes and ensure that the historic integrity and character defining features of the property are protected.

Would a potential applicant be able to schedule a site visit? - Absolutely! Please email or call Stephanie Langton, [stephanie.langton@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:stephanie.langton@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-8791.

Could potential applicants review previous successful applications as an example? - Yes, staff can provide redacted applications.

How many applications is the Park Authority expecting for Mount Gilead? - In the past, the program has received anywhere from one to four applications, depending on the property.

Does the new roof replacement that is being carried out by the Park Authority in advance of a curatorship also include chimney work? - It does not.

Should people within an organization apply individually or as the organization? - While other potential curator sites may accept other proposed uses, staff will only accept residential use applications for the Mount Gilead house. As of this date, staff is reviewing the proposal for an organization to apply as curator for a residential use.

How long after the application period closes will a curator be selected? - Typically, it takes about four to six months for the selection process to occur. This includes a financial review with the County Department of Finance, and a series of public meetings, including public hearing and 30-day public comment period, with scoring and selection carried out by the resident curator program's Mount Gilead evaluation team.

Without any additional questions, the meeting was concluded before 8pm.