

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 17, 2013

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER /s/

DOCKET TITLE:

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Consideration of a request to authorize the release of contingent reserve funds for the Fort Ward Park Management Plan

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ISSUE: City Council consideration of a request to authorize the Office of Management and Budget to release \$110,000 from Contingent Reserves for the completion of a management plan for the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Authorize the release of \$110,000 in contingent reserves to fund the completion of a management plan for the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area.

BACKGROUND: In June 2011, City Council resolved to re-establish the Advisory Group, charging the members with providing guidance to staff related to implementation of the 2011 Recommendations, including the management plan. In response to recommendations submitted by the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group, the approved operating budget for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 included \$110,000 for the completion of a management plan for Fort Ward. The current advisory group worked with staff to develop a scope of work for that plan in June 2012. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was then issued to receive bids for professional services to complete a management plan.

DISCUSSION: In response to the RFP, the firm of Lardner/Klein, including Heritage Strategies, Inc. and John Milner Associates on their team, was selected through a competitive RFP process based on the team's experience with similar work. Lardner/Klein Architects is located in Alexandria and has 31 years of experience in working with communities to develop innovative and cost effective management plans for parks and open spaces throughout the eastern United States. The team developed similarly scaled management plans addressing natural, cultural and recreational resource opportunities, including:

- Rappahannock Station Civil War Battlefield Interpretive Master Plan, Remington, VA;

- Appomattox Court House General Management Plan, VA;
- Old Colchester Park natural Resource Management Plan, Fairfax Co., VA; and
- Journey Through Hallowed Ground Corridor Management Plan, VA, MD, PA.

Heritage Strategies is experienced in preservation and interpretive planning strategies and John Milner Associates is known on the national level for expertise in managing and preserving archaeological resources (including work at Freedmen’s Cemetery Memorial and the Virginia Theological Seminary). This local firm has been selected and is prepared to initiate a public planning process, working with the advisory group, and pending authorization of the funding from City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT: Operating funds in the total of \$110,000 from FY2013 Contingent Reserves.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1. June 28, 2011 City Council Docket Item #27 “Consideration of a Resolution Re-establishing an Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group.”

STAFF:

Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager

Laura Triggs, Chief Financial Officer and Director, Finance

James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Christopher Bever, Management Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities