

## **Attachment 7: Letters of Endorsement**

November 24, 2014

The Honorable Mayor William D. Euille  
Members of the Alexandria City Council  
City Hall, 301 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

During the past year, the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) has reviewed the draft Fort Ward Park Management Plan and discussed the associated issues at Fort Ward Park. The Commission also viewed two presentations on the draft Management Plan provided by members of the Fort Ward Park and Museum Ad Hoc Stakeholders' Advisory Group and the Office of Historic Alexandria.

On May 20, 2014, HARC met at Fort Ward to inspect the physical area and discuss the goals and objectives of the Management Plan. After thorough review, HARC members voted unanimously to endorse the principles of the Fort Ward Park Management Plan. HARC believes that it is especially important to respect and preserve, to the extent reasonably possible, the cultural and historic resources of the Fort, including those of the people who once lived on the property. HARC also wants to emphasize that this is a management plan and will need to be revised over time to deal with changing circumstances.

Sincerely,

Bill Hendrickson, Chairman  
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission  
(HARC)



**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS  
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

1108 Jefferson Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
Phone: (703) 746-4343  
Fax: (703) 746-5585  
James B. Spengler, Director

**Park and Recreation Commission**

November 25, 2014

Mayor William Euille  
Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg  
Councilman John Taylor Chapman  
Councilman Timothy B. Lovain  
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper  
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg  
Councilman Justin M. Wilson

Re: Fort Ward Management Plan

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members:

The Park and Recreation Commission urges you to adopt the Fort Ward Management Plan put forth by the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group. As you know, the Advisory Group worked from 2011 through October 2014 to review and consider the many current and desired uses of the park and to provide a framework for balancing the management of the natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources of the park. The result of their three years of work is contained in the Management Plan.

In addition to being represented in the Advisory Group and discussing the work of the group during regular meetings, the PRC participated in a joint public hearing on the draft Management Plan in September 2014. The PRC further reviewed the plan and discussed it at our regular September meeting, voting unanimously in support of it.

The Management Plan lays out the overall goals for the park and clearly defines the management roles of the various city departments in reaching those goals. This kind of strategic thinking and coordinated planning should result in a park of which the entire city can be proud. We commend the Advisory Group, which has now ended, for their dedication and hard work in creating this plan. With this clear direction, the city departments can now move forward to implement the plan and the existing citizen Commissions, including PRC, can provide the appropriate oversight.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Jennifer Atkins

DocuSigned by:

Judy Coleman

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Jennifer Atkins and Judy Coleman, Co-Chairs  
Park and Recreation Commission