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## **Friends of Still Creek Meeting Summary**

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt, MD 20770

### **Meeting attendees:**

Shobha Duncan

Bill Duncan

Michele Touchet

Fred Gasper

Alan Turnbull

Valarie Ragland (National Park Service)

John Galli (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments)

Kate Levendosky (Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments)

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Bill Duncan welcomed the meeting attendees and asked all present to introduce themselves.

### **II. Reading and Approval of 1/08/07 Meeting Summary**

The meeting minutes from the 1/08/07 meeting were unanimously approved

### **III. Anacostia Citizens' Summit Update**

Mr. John Galli (COG) reported that the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee is planning the first ever Anacostia Watershed Citizens' Summit for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The summit will be held at the University of Maryland and will be in the format of a facilitated meeting. The main purpose of the Summit is to bring representatives from all of the subwatershed groups together to strengthen collaboration, cooperation and information sharing between the groups. Additionally, AWCAC hopes that the Summit will attract people who are not currently involved in a subwatershed group, but may be interested in getting involved with an existing group or starting a new group. Due to the size of the venue, attendance is limited to about 75 people. That means that each subwatershed group should invite about four existing group members and should strategically target four other individuals from their subwatershed to attend the Summit. Mr. Galli said that Mr. Tom Dernoga will give the opening remarks and the Chair of the Steering Committee, Mr. Steve Pattison, will speak during lunch. Each of the subwatershed groups will have an opportunity to share their concerns, priorities, recommendations, successes and needs at the Summit. The facilitator, Mr. Phil Favero, will compile all of Summit proceedings into a 'Citizens' Report' after the Summit.

The following is a summary of the discussion about the Summit and FoSCr's needs.

- The group brainstormed the following major needs.
  - 1.) An effective volunteer program
  - 2.) Funding for monitoring, measuring and workable solutions to spend money on
  - 3.) An outreach strategy
- Mr. Bill Duncan asked whether the meeting attendees are interested and able to attend the Summit.
- Ms. Michele Touchet, Mr. Fred Gasper, Mr. Alan Turnbull and Mr. Bill Duncan indicated that they are interested in attending the Summit.
- The group brainstormed the following list of people to potentially invite to the Summit.
  - 1.) Chris Logan (GHI Sustainability Committee)
  - 2.) Matt Berres (GHI)
  - 3.) A representative of the Trinity Assembly of God
  - 4.) A representative of the Lanham Boys and Girls Club
  - 5.) Ingrid Turner (Prince George's County Council)
- Mr. Galli recommended that the group focus on inviting citizens, rather than politicians, to the Summit. He suggested reaching out to civic and homeowners associations in the watershed. The 'Citizens' Report' that comes out of the Summit can be used to reach out to politicians in the watershed.
- The meeting attendees volunteered to invite the following people to the Summit.
  - 1.) Bill Duncan will contact Chris Logan
  - 2.) Alan Turnbull will contact Matt Berres
  - 3.) Fred Gasper will contact the Trinity Assembly of God
  - 4.) Michele Touchet will contact the Lanham Boys and Girls Club

#### **IV. Public Announcement of FoSCr Partnership**

Mr. Alan Turnbull reported that the National Park Service is going to provide technical assistance to the Friends of Still Creek. He said that the standard procedure for announcing a new project involves the local congressman in making the announcement. Mr. Turnbull suggested that by inviting the Honorable Steny Hoyer to make the announcement of the NPS assistance, the Friends of Still Creek can begin to develop a good relationship with the congressman. There would not be an event of any kind, but rather a press release with a quote from Mr. Hoyer. Mr. John Galli said that COG is very supportive of any efforts to bring more attention to the Anacostia.

#### **V. Reports**

##### *Initial Clean-up and Stabilization*

Ms. Michele Touchet reported that the Trinity Assembly of God has not replied to the letter that Mr. Fred Gasper sent. Ms. Touchet asked the group whether they would like to do a cleanup on February 24<sup>th</sup> at a different location or cancel the event. The group

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agreed to hold the cleanup on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Ms. Touchet said that she will contact the group once she decides on an alternate location.

*Outreach/Communication/Advocacy*

Mr. Alan Turnbull reported that he will work with Mr. Fred Gasper on developing a common 'Still Creek' message that can be used for advocacy and outreach.

*Organization*

Mr. Bill Duncan said that the group needs to apply to become an official 501(c)3 non-profit organization. He volunteered to work on the next steps in that process.

**V. Planning for Quarterly Meeting**

Mr. Bill Duncan said that a larger quarterly meeting should be designed to attract the existing Friends of Still Creek members on the listserv as well as new members. He suggested that June might be a good time to hold the quarterly meeting.

**VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Greenbelt Park Ranger Station on March 5th.