

Public Meeting Memorandum #1

March 7, 2011

Meeting Date: February 22, 2011 / 6:30pm

The first Public Meeting was held on February 22, 2011 at 6:30pm. The meeting started with a general introduction of the consultant team and the master planning process. Following the introduction, a power point presentation highlighted the existing and historical conditions along with the many uses on site. In conclusion to an open discussion, many valuable questions were raised from the approximately 60 attendees. The group was then arranged in three separate discussion groups. The focus for each group was to determine goals and uses that must, may or not occur on the island. They are summarized as follows:

General Notes/Comments:

1. Concerns were expressed for federal land rights and existing deeds will impact the future use of the island and funding
2. Road to remain a public way
3. Consider the relocation of the harbor master to the Salem Pier/Wharf
4. Are traffic studies being conducted?
5. In regards to Article 97, can the city set restrictions for use on the island?
6. Smith Pool shoreline owned by the state
7. Is the Plummer home held in a trust? No!
8. It was mentioned that approximately 1,000 cars could be parked on the city owned land off of Fort Avenue. To be verified with the city.
9. Can some out buildings be removed from the site?

Group Discussions

Note: some goals may overlap, but will be refined during the design process.

Goals:

1. Make Salem more friendly
2. Keep the island as a park
3. Revenue to remain consistent with use as a park
4. Incorporate sustainable / low impact initiatives
5. Retain the 'character'
6. Improve what is there and maintain it
7. Minimize and/or lower traffic use
8. Enhance public safety
9. Incorporate safe access for pedestrian and vehicles
10. Prevent over use
11. Improve maintenance (invasive, landscape and beach)
12. Create safe camping atmosphere
13. Less is more concept

14. Serve all age groups
15. Celebrate the water and related uses (viewing, accessing, enjoying, learning and history)
16. Expand upon use with no car access
17. Determine best uses for buildings
18. Analyze and determine *loading?* of park (maximum capacity)
19. Make the park a quality place for residents and not campers
20. Make the park a more cohesive place
21. Avoid too many overlapping uses
22. Resolve clear direction for Barracks and Hangar
23. Maintain historic heritage
24. Establish uses that will enhance and establish year round use

Must Occur:

1. Boat access / programs (kayak, sailing, trailers)
2. Pavilion uses
3. Beach use / activities
4. Fishing
5. Function hall, dining, concession (location?)
6. History and interpretation
7. Restoration of Fort Pickering
8. Maintain lighthouse
9. Reuse Hangar (i.e. conference center, multi use, public ice rink)
10. Maintain and enhance views
11. Enhance welcoming (relocate guard shack)
12. Paths
13. Playground
14. Income generating uses (concerts, boat ramp fees)
15. Performing arts venues (Rebel Shakespeare, etc.)
16. Bathhouse improvements
17. Balance of uses
18. Alternate parking for boat use (Fort Ave on both sides)
19. Uses appropriate to seaside setting
20. Better traffic access / regulate volume
21. Theatre
22. Park management
23. Preserve open space
24. Rehab lighthouse
25. Park protection/vandalism
26. Increase open park space at perimeters of parking lot (ocean edge)

May Occur:

1. Satellite parking (at Fort Ave.)
2. Amphitheatre (With traffic management)

Salem Winter Island Park Master Plan

3. Theatre for Rebel Shakespeare
4. Additional moorings and dinghy's
5. Trolley access
6. Cross country skiing (site maybe too small-link to the Willows?)
7. Wind Energy
8. Maximize tent sites
9. Increase safety at the moat's steep edges (could be a 'must')
10. Boat storage
11. Smaller B&B
12. Good seasonal restaurant

Must Not Occur:

1. Firing Range
2. Vandalism
3. Boat maintenance
4. No deterioration of the buildings (remove or rehab)
5. Camping/picnicking at Fort Pickering
6. Over building

Building Uses:

Hangar:

1. Community Center for Salem
2. Year round use – ice skating rink
3. Small boat building or boat storage
4. Aquarium
5. Art Studios
6. Museum
7. Multilevel use
8. Theatre concepts
9. Pavilion and function hall

Barracks

1. Bed n' Breakfast
2. Sailing program
3. Veterans organization
4. Conference center (or at Hangar)

Salem Winter Island Park Master Plan

Other Uses/Notes:

1. Consider long term lease
2. Lockers needed at beach
3. Tent site – some Salem citizens
4. RV's (limit to save views)
5. Note: Boat ramp fee reviewed and potentially use as a destination point
6. RV's to be relocated should go....
7. RV's that don't expand into large estates at key locations
8. Eliminate 10 RV spaces at function hall
9. Add dinghy docs for transient boat use
10. Accessible walk/trails around the entire park – improved and maintained
11. Host competitive regattas and boating, fishing tournaments
12. Link exercise paths with historic paths
13. No bike paths, but bike racks (maybe at front entrance)
14. X-County skiing
15. Change market rates for parking
16. Potentially have NO fees for Salem residents
17. Create better shore access at Cat Cove

The various consultants and committee members will continue to research and review all related items that impact the island's current and long term uses. There will be two more additional public meetings that will be held in April and May, which will be posted through the town as soon as possible. We invite your comments and questions and you may do so by emailing the City or The Cecil Group at ebednarek@cecilgroup.com.

Thank you for your input and concern toward a valuable part of Salem's past history and future outlook.

The Cecil Group Team