

MINUTES OF MEETING

TO: Suzanne Copping, Project Manager,
National Park Service

FROM: Shannon Kettering/ Faye Goolrick Ecos Environmental Design, Inc./ Goolrick
Interpretive Group (Consultant Team)

DATE COMPLETED: January 18, 2010

PROJECT: Star-Spangled Banner National
Historic Trail Interpretive Plan **PROJECT #:** 0929

SUBJECT: Interpretive Plan Stakeholder
Workshop
December 9, 2009
Baltimore County/ North Point
Peninsula, Maryland; North Point
State Park

Meeting Agenda and Outcomes: The following are agenda items with corresponding feedback from attendees. ALL TEXT IN *BLUE ITALICS* WAS PRESENTED AT THE WORKSHOP BY THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO DEFINE DISCUSSION TOPICS AND GENERATE DIALOGUE AMONG THE ATTENDEES.

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Interpretive Plan Stakeholder Workshop #7

Welcome, Introductions, and Purpose

It was expressed to attendees that the purpose of the Interpretive Plan is to initiate a long-range vision for the interpretive programming of this trail, and to identify a number of actions necessary for implementing that interpretive vision. The purpose of this stakeholder workshop is to initiate the interpretive plan by gathering information from stakeholders regarding the stories, places (or resources) and potential visitor experiences. The meeting was interactive with the consultant team asking a series of questions to the attendees and then recording feedback on flip charts. To facilitate in the understanding of the trail's significance and past initiatives, project overview boards hung around the room providing answers to the following questions:

- A. *What is the purpose and significance of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail?*
- B. *Where is the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail?*
- C. *Who is involved in the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and what other initiatives are occurring?*
- D. *Why an interpretive plan, and how will it be used?*
- E. *How is this workshop incorporated into the Interpretive Planning process?*

Attendees were provided handouts: 1) The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Information Sheet; 2) A copy of two of the project overview boards (A and D/E); 3) the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail NPS Unigrid Brochure; and 4) the Star-Spangled Banner Trail War of 1812 Chesapeake Campaign Driving Map. The attendees were asked to introduce themselves and answer the following question:

1. What challenges and opportunities do you foresee associated with interpreting the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail in the Baltimore County/ North Point Peninsula, Maryland area?

Challenges

- Safety and efficiency/ "green"
- Accessibility at Fort Howard/ VA property
- Accessibility of the 28 sites/ monuments to visitors
- Illustrate the significance of the Battle of North Point and its outcomes
- Resources/ cohesive communication/ marketing to the broader public

- Connections along existing routes/ existing infrastructure
- Identifying the best answer (programming/ services) for: “why does this matter to me? So what?”
- Management challenges, especially private
- Teaching the significance of these events for our nation
- Getting people to the disparate sites
- Time frame

Opportunities

- Restore/ interpret battlefields and Battle of North Point
- Trail for North Point Heritage Greenway to correlate with other events/ facilitate restoration
- To tell the story of the Battle of Baltimore
- Compatibility with the community vs. an adverse effect
- To include the North Point Heritage Greenway Trail
- Utilize existing waterfront parks and to initiate water trail/ Battle of North Point
- To utilize NPS Park facility
- Re-establishing the Battle of North Point monuments and accessibility / visibility of the 28 sites
- Stories about local families
- Connect to the local parks and their stories
- Connect people to culture and nature
- Integrate national history into local history to highlight the uniqueness of the community
- To connect community to resources
- Safe route for all ages in the community
- Stewardship
- Raise the profile of this community/ resource/ raise awareness
- Increase visitation and learn the history and events
- To tell the local story and connect to the larger story
- To continue the preservation of our heritage

Additional Group Comments:

- “The Battle of North Point was extremely important in saving Baltimore – but the truth is, Ft. McHenry takes all the credit!”

Group Discussion: A Visitor Perspective

The Consultant team asked the workshop attendees the following questions:

2. While visiting the Baltimore County/ North Point Peninsula, Maryland area, what should a visitor learn about the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail? What significant stories, messages, or perspectives should be presented?

- To know more about the Battle of North Point and Battle of Baltimore
- Experience the beauty of the geography of the area; to experience the natural, cultural and historic environment and significance (i.e. Todd’s Inheritance)
- More physical connections between sites
- The use of Todd’s for military strategy/ the Todd Family role and story
- Stories along Bear Creek and the families (Stansbury)
- Story of the woman jumping out of the Shaw House window, who killed General Ross?, etc.
- Campaign for Baltimore stories
- “The Peninsula is the story of Baltimore”
- The Peninsula occupied by the British for four days
- Local community as the militia
- Self-reliance (no militia/ government guidance)
- Telling the larger context
- “Why were they here?”
- To tell the story of preservation of our natural and cultural resources (challenges/ benefits)
- History of Baltimore and Privateers
- Relationship between the Bay and the war strategy

✓= indicates # of responses from attendees

Additional Group Comments:

- Discussion of British bodies buried under landfill; pauper's cemetery; some bodies moved and reburied in Oak Lawn cemetery
- This area was an agrarian society in 1812, and it was still that way for another 100 years

4. How many different types of visitors should we expect? How can these different types of visitors best learn about the stories of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail? What types of activities, programs, media, etc., can enhance visitors' experiences at these places and reinforce visitors' understanding of the many stories of these places?

- Organized Groups (clubs, interest groups, community organizations)
 - Military staff rides
 - "Ghost Hunters"
 - Sail/ boating special event
 - Operation Sail
 - Boy Scout "hunt"/ event
 - Star-Spangled Triathlon
 - Bicycle "Special/ Themed Race"
 - Athletic events – "themed"
 - Boy Scout "Patch" activities
 - Biking/ hiking guide
 - Organized tours – "by theme/ location"
 - War of 1812 boat tour
- Educational Groups (i.e. Baltimore County/ 5th grade/ home school)
 - Living history "demonstrations"
 - Video game
 - Trail map
 - Scavenger hunt – geo-cache and earth-cache
 - "Facebook/ social media"
- Virtual visitors (internet)
 - Podcasts/ downloadable self-guided tour
 - Star-Spangled Banner cell phone "application", such as a video game
 - Digital "landscape evolutions" of how the region has transformed over time (especially the Chesapeake Bay)
- Trail Neighbors/ Local Residents
 - Annual Defenders Day event
 - Multi-use trail signage
 - War of 1812 music/ orchestral/ "period music"
 - Fort Howard can provide public access and parking, and has an auditorium (for use for special events)
- Special Audiences (special needs)
- General Visitor/ Tourist ("Accidental")
 - Oral histories – audio/ video
 - Museum with exhibits (at Todd's Inheritance)
 - Bicycle tour
 - Guided-tour
 - Self-guided tour with audio tour
 - Linking events with Fort McHenry/ water shuttle
 - Water trail (to Fort McHenry)
- Boaters/ Recreational Visitor
 - Fishing contest/ weekend event
 - Need Access – "Ross landing"
- History "Bufs"
 - Re-enactments event/ living history events
 - Weeklong "series" of re-enactments to all different sites
 - 8-day parade/ celebration

Additional Group Comments:

- Defenders Day celebration is held once a year and attracts 1,400 people
- Need to link this sight with the Ft. McHenry experience, maybe even with a ferry or shuttle

Wrap Up and Next Steps:

The Consultant team asked the workshop attendees one final question, while reiterating the planning schedule (identified on the Project Overview Board *E*) and asked all attendees to stay informed in this process by visiting www.nps.gov/stsp.

5. It takes many partners to interpret the resources along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail effectively. Who else should be involved in developing and implementing the interpretive plan? (Responses provided to consultant team via post-it/ sticky notes upon attendees departure)

- Dundalk Patapsco Neck Historical Society
- Baltimore County Department of Tourism
- Balleston Mansion (Essex)
- American Flag Foundation
- Boy Scouts of America/ Girl Scouts
- Chamber of Commerce
- Maryland State Department of Education
- Maryland State Higher Education Commission
- Living Classrooms
- Watermark (boat and land tour company)
- Washington DC Tourism Corporation
- Defenders Day Committee
- Stansbury Park Improvement Committee
- Baltimore United Volunteers War of 1812 Re-enactment Unit
- James C. Dugent Captain, Commanding (410-522-4929)
- "BaltimoreUnitedVolunteers.org"
- Todd's Inheritance Historic Site, Inc.
- Maryland Park Service
- Maryland National Guard
- Dundalk Eagle Newspaper
- Edgemere Millers Island Businessmen Association
- Sons of the American Revolution
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Re-enactors/ Historians
- North Point Heritage Greenway Trail
- Delegate John Olszewski
- Geography-based computer 3-D animation experts at UMBC
- University of Maryland – Baltimore County, Department of History and/ or Anthropology
- Smithsonian Institute
- Jeverstal Steel Corp. – Sparrows Point
- LaFarge Cement Co. – Sparrows Point
- Dap Corporation

These minutes constitute the author's understanding of the items discussed and conclusions reached. If there are any errors or omissions, please notify this author in writing within four (4) working days of receipt.

END OF MINUTES