

Memo of Public Use working group to VHB, 2 July 02

From: Brian Rehrig [mailto:brehrig@fieldspond.org]

Sent: Monday, July 01, 2002 5:27 PM

To: Ken Schwartz

Cc: Charlie Foskett; Suzi Lubar; Ann LeRoy; Brian Rehrig; Deborah O'Donnell; Denis Sullivan; Elisabeth Carr-Jones; Ellen Kushner; Greg Blass; Harris Band; Jay Verspyck; Jim Marzilli; Linda Fisher Privitera; Steve Frigand; Sue Sheffler

Subject: Symmes Advisory Committee; Public Use working group

Dear Ken:

Belatedly, congratulations to you and the VHB team on joining this journey!

I'm sorry that I had to miss Thursday's kickoff event which I've heard was excellent. Along with acting as vice-chair of the SAC I have the pleasure of chairing the public use working group. This great group of people has met actively over the past 12 months, and I think the group's work can be summarized as centering around four objectives:

-- Establishing baseline principles that describe desirable public use.
This was accomplished in October 2001 when the SAC adopted the set of principles attached.

-- Identifying and reaching out to Arlington groups and individuals with interest or expertise in potential public uses.
We have assembled a contact list of such interested parties and shared it with the Outreach group. We've discussed the need for multi-directional information flow: to learn about needs and possibilities from those interested parties, to educate them with respect to the dictates of the site and the constraints of the overall project, and to help build support for eventual proposals.

-- Developing a set of criteria and a method of applying them to proposed ideas, as a tool to increase the objectivity and transparency of our evaluation of possible public uses.
Attached is a memo dated May 1 to the SAC that explains the evolution of criteria and an evaluation matrix that we propose to use in the process ahead.

-- Increasing the potential for success of specific public uses by ensuring that creative financing methods, subsidies and other public and private funding opportunities are exhaustively explored.

Here's what I'd say we're looking for initially from VHB:

We expect that the criteria and evaluation matrix will be a useful tool, but we need to have a common understanding with you of the public process with which it would be incorporated, so we can begin to plan just how it would be used.

Second, as advocates for public uses the group members are willing to play a meaningful role in investigating funding ideas as mentioned above, augmenting your team's expertise. We need guidance on how to most effectively use this volunteer capacity.

We look forward to talking with you on Tuesday and getting started together.

Best regards,
~Brian Rehrig

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