

RESIDENT CURATOR PROGRAM – Mount Gilead

January 23, 2024 PUBLIC MEETING

MEETING SUMMARY

A public meeting was held on Tuesday, January 23rd to introduce the community to the proposed curatorship of the Mount Gilead house. The meeting convened at 7:00 pm at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville, and was facilitated by Ben Boxer, Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority.

Also in attendance were:

- Stephanie Langton, FCPA, Resident Curator Program Manager
- David Buchta, FCPA, Heritage Conservation Branch Manager
- Liz Crowell, FCPA, Archaeology and Collections Branch Manager
- Michelle Meadows, FCPA, Real Estate Services Branch Manager
- Joseph Imamura, Ph.D., AIA, Commissioner, Fairfax County History Commission
- Mike Coyle, Chief of Staff, Board of Supervisors Office, Sully District

OPENING REMARKS & INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Boxer welcomed all in attendance, introduced evaluation team members and applicants, and outlined the evening's agenda.

Ms. Langton provided a brief powerpoint presentation on the program's scope and parameters, including the criteria for evaluating proposals. She reviewed the application process and timeline for the Mount Gilead house. The presentation concluded with an overview of Historic Centreville Park and a brief history of the Mount Gilead house.

APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Boxer invited the applicants, Kristyn and Spencer Marrott, to share their proposal.

They discussed Ms. Marrott's background in education and marketing, and Mr. Marrot's experience in the construction industry. Currently they own Five Star Manasses. They described their experience working with historic properties and their network of home service providers.

The proposal includes a variety of thematic community events, with some to be paid events in support of the curatorship work. Other events will be in coordination with Centreville Day and Historic Centreville Society. A proposed social media and web presence will allow for virtual accessibility.

Mr. and Ms. Marrott shared their five-year timeline, outlining their priority to make the house safe and comfortable for their family. With a total estimated cost of \$221,138, additional projects include an energy audit, laundry install, converting sitting room to primary suite, and possible solar panels.

EVALUATION TEAM QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

1. What work will be performed by the applicants and what will be performed by a third-party specialist? A specialist will be consulted for the laundry, chimney, building enclosure and structural, solar panels, and windows. Applicants will carry out fixtures and doors.
2. How did the applicants prioritize their tasks over their 5-year timeline?
The timeline is subject to change as needed. A top priority is making the house livable for a family with small children. FCPA will complete the roof replacement.
3. Will the applicants accept donations directly from the community?
If selected, the applicants will prepare a 501(c)(3).
4. For the paid events outlined in the proposal, how will the curators ensure access and equity for all members of the public?
Only some of the proposed events hosted at the site will be paid. The house will be made accessible to the public through events as well as virtually. Applicants will coordinate with Historic Centreville Society and are open to coordinating with other groups who are interested.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. With planned upgrades to appliances and fixtures, how will the curators maintain the historic nature of the house?
The Resident Curator Program is a rehabilitation program, which acknowledges the need to make the historic structure compatible with modern use. The Secretary of the Interior's website provides additional information on different approaches to treat historic properties, including preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. FCPA will ensure protection of the historic integrity and character defining features.
2. How do the applicants feel about members of the community using the parkland nearby the Mount Gilead house.
The boundary of the curator's leased property is determined during lease negotiations. The applicant's curatorship will not prevent people from using the public parkland. They wish for mutual respect among neighbors.
3. Where will the proposed solar panels be placed?
Applicants are not looking to put solar panels on the house, but on the ground. The feasibility of solar panels, and their location will require additional research and review. Consideration by the Architectural Review Board will be needed.
4. What will happen to the carriage house?
The condition of the carriage house poses safety and health hazards. Fairfax County's Architectural Review Board will review the scope of work for demolition.

5. Will the original “front” of the house be returned to its original form?
This is not required by the Resident Curator Program. A change like this would require Architectural Review Board consideration.
6. How long will it be before the applicant’s can move into the house if they are selected?
It takes approximately 3-4 months from the selection of the curator to finalize a lease and present it before the Board of Supervisor’s for approval at a public hearing.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Boxer invited all to attend the virtual livestream work sessions of the evaluation team. The meeting scheduled for Monday, January 29th will be as needed. The website will be updated accordingly. The final virtual livestream work session will be held Thursday, February 8th where the evaluation team will score the application and make a determination. While the work sessions are open to the public, no comment will be taken then.

Public comments are due by Monday, February 5th, 2024.

With no additional discussion, the meeting adjourned.