

**Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board
And
Boulevard Manor Civic Association**

May 3, 2010

Jay Fisetto, Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: REEVESLAND HISTORIC PROPERTY

Dear Mr. Fisetto,

This letter is written as a follow-up to Boulevard Manor Civic Association's (BMCA) meeting with you and Mary Hughes Hynes on April 6 regarding the historic Reevesland buildings.¹ Previously we also met with Barbara Favola. BMCA would like to thank you and the members of the Board for these meetings.

As we have previously expressed, both of the undersigned are concerned about this unutilized, County-owned Historic property within Bluemont Park, purchased from private owners in 2001 for \$1.8 million. We are troubled about the lack of active planning and the inevitable deterioration that will affect older buildings that are not occupied or used in any way. After more than 8 years of County ownership, there is yet no plan for the use of the Reevesland buildings, which remain shuttered.

Our goal in meeting with you was to encourage the County to authorize and begin a planning process for the use of the Reevesland historic district, without waiting for a long-term re-master planning effort for Bluemont Park. In light of various competing demands on the Parks Department and the County as a whole, a different approach was suggested. You invited us to partner with HALRB to initiate a joint planning project, with the hope that we could be creative in exploring a variety of acceptable uses, which could be realistically pursued by the County with minimal impact on its resources.

Given this, our respective organizations will be discussing Reevesland at the upcoming HALRB meeting, on May 19, 2010, to collaboratively compile and weigh a range of re-use scenarios. Members of the local historic preservation community will be invited to this forum. We plan to invite various County staff, including subject matter experts in areas including, but not necessarily limited to, affordable housing, sustainability, and parks. It is anticipated that sometime following this forum, HALRB will prepare, in collaboration with BMCA, a joint report providing a basic evaluation of possible re-use strategies and a recommended course of action. This report may then be disseminated to the Board and County offices for further review and action.

Each of our respective organizations would like to thank you for your attention to our concerns and your desire to find a solution. We would also like to thank you in advance for facilitating the cooperation of the Parks Department, as we will likely need access to the property and related documentation to assess its condition in order to press forward.

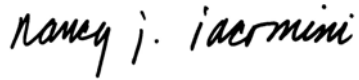
We are optimistic that the collective efforts of volunteer and governmental entities, including the County Board, will bring this important County-owned historic property back to life in a way that befits both its park surroundings and its status as an historic Arlington County asset.

¹ This is also in follow-up to letters sent to the County Board from BMCA (November 2009 and February 2010) and the Arlington County Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB)(September 2009).

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Finally, we look forward to soon providing you with additional information that will help successfully realize this outcome for historic Reevesland.

Sincerely,



Nancy Iacomini
Chairman, HALRB



Philip T. Klingelhofer
President, Boulevard Manor Civic Association

CC:

County Board

BMCA Board of Directors

HALRB

County Manager

Planning Commission

Arlington Heritage Alliance

Arlington Historical Society

Parks

Sustainability

Affordable Housing