

To: Members of the Town Council

From: Maureen McCarthy, Chair,
Fort Williams Advisory Commission (FWAC)

Date: May 21, 2010

Re: Fort Williams Capital Needs

At the request of the Town Council, the FWAC has compiled a list of what we feel are the short and long term capital needs of the park. Over the past four years, the FWAC has been asked to make recommendations on the fate of the remaining fortifications, the Goddard Mansion and the bleachers. We reviewed alternatives for each major project and then developed a long-term vision. Knowing that funding limitations would have a major impact on the fulfillment of each vision, we adopted a “current plan/recommendation” approach in order to provide you with the status, or our short-term recommendation.

The FWAC worked with a team of consultants to assist us in this endeavor, in an effort to provide us better insight on structural conditions and to provide preliminary cost estimates to guide our decision-making process. In addition to the items noted above, we also included recommendations on the care of other distinguishing features in the park, including the arboriculture, recreational facilities, stonewalls, and interpretive signage. Though they are listed, we did not include estimates for the maintenance of the buildings in this document. The Town Manager and Facilities Manager will be making recommendations to you in the near future. We also included projects that are being funded by donors and independent fund raising, such as the feasibility study of improvements to Battery Blair and the Arboretum.

We encourage you to view this document as a work in progress. It is intended to provide you with cost estimates on the most obvious needs in the park, as we see them. We realize that more detail and discussion is needed on many of the items listed. Some projects are conceptual and have not been deliberated or cost estimated sought by the commission at the time of this submission. We do feel, however, that this is the genesis of a plan for the long-term care of the park.

We look forward to reviewing this proposal with you in a future workshop. In closing, I would like to thank commission member Charles Wilson and Public Works Director, Robert Malley for their contributions in the compilation of this document.