

MEMORANDUM

TO: Friends of Fort Fremont
FROM: Stefanie M. Nagid, Passive Parks Manager
DATE: February 1, 2020
RE: Friends of Fort Fremont Annual Meeting

Congratulations on another year of outreach, education and conservation! Now that ground breaking has occurred for the Interpretive Center construction project, you should see some pretty drastic changes occurring at the Preserve. To understand how we got where we are today, here is a construction timeline from the past few years.

- October 2017: Bids received for construction of interpretive center, picnic pavilion, sidewalks and landscaping
- February 2018: Funding and contract approval from the County Natural Resource Committee and County Council for construction
- April 2018: Contract with Savannah Construction & Preservation executed and notice to proceed provided to contractor
- June 2018: Friends of Fort Fremont requested the preservation of the latrine structure located within the footprint of the interpretive center construction site
- July 2018 – July 2019: Staff and contractor investigated most suitable scenario for latrine structure preservation; engineering and architecture plan revisions completed; plan revisions submitted for State and County approvals and permits
- May 2019: Contractor mobilized on site and park closed to the public
- May 2019 – December 2019: Contractor began limited construction and finalized latrine structure relocation plan
- December 2019: Contractor relocated latrine structure
- January 2020: Construction continuing

At this time, the construction footprint areas have been cleared of vegetation, the picnic pavilion foundation has been poured, some of the sidewalks have been poured, the latrine has been relocated and the ground work for the interpretive center foundation is being prepared. Construction will begin to move at a more rapid pace over the next 6 months, however a completion date has not yet been established.

Although the State Historic Preservation Office previously provided approval for the County to document and then demo the latrine structure, at the request of the Friends of Fort Fremont, the County agreed to preserve the structure to the best extent possible. The County has incurred a great cost to the timeline and budget of the project due to this effort. A full year was dedicated to the investigation of the structure, hiring engineers to develop a plan that could be permitted by the County building department and acceptable to the contractor, revising the contract scope of the contractor to implement the plan and the various approval processes necessary for County Departments and Council.

The latrine relocation addition to the contractor's scope of work cost the County almost \$70,000 in additional archaeology investigations, engineer planning and contractor fees. Additionally, due to the time delay, the contractor lost subcontractors and had to rebid all the subcontract efforts. That rebid process created a \$206,000 increase to the contract, which will be brought to the Natural Resource Committee and County Council in February for approval. In total, the relocation of the latrine structure has cost the county over \$275,000 and 12 months of time. The total project cost is now estimated to be close to \$1.5 million once completed.

In April 2019, the County and Friends of Fort Fremont finalized and executed a Memorandum of Understanding, which details some basic points of understanding regarding the Friends and County responsibilities pertaining to the property and the interpretive center. County staff and the Friends President are currently coordinating the drafting of a Facility Use Agreement (FUA). Initial feedback from the Friends for this FUA indicates that the Friends will only be able to staff the interpretive center on Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm, which totals 8 hours a week. This is a concern for County staff given the time, cost and effort in constructing a facility primarily for the Friends use. I would like to request the Friends reconsider their staffing efforts at the facility to include more days and hours that would accommodate peak visitor use at the Preserve.

I would like to thank Rod Kesting for all his efforts these past two years working with me and establishing a great foundational relationship between the County and the Friends. I look forward to working with the new Friends of Fort Fremont President, Kathryn Mixon, and continuing these efforts. As always, I'm happy to answer any questions or receive feedback.