

E&R-2012-05

Resolution on Grist Mill Park Barn

1. WHEREAS the July 31, 2002 Fairfax County Park Authority Master Plan Revision for Grist Mill Park identifies the Dairy Barn located on the property has having been built in the 1920s and historic significance, (ref. V. C, VI B., and VII A.1.g. of said plan), and
2. WHEREAS dairy farming was a prominent feature of life in the Mount Vernon area in the early part of the 20th century, and
3. WHEREAS Master Plan states that the “barn will be retained as a visual element with no proposed uses” and
4. WHEREAS the Park Authority Master Plan for Grist Mill identifies the barn as worth keeping albeit historic structures notoriously decline when left unused and require maintenance and upkeep, and
5. WHEREAS according to the Master Plan barns from any period in time are rare in the County, and are considered significant structures in the County Heritage Resource Plan.
6. WHEREAS Mount Vernon District Supervisor recently challenged the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) to recommend a productive use for the dairy barn at Grist Mill Park, and
7. WHEREAS the barn is a large structure with a second story loft with high ceilings, a silo and a main floor with respectable ceiling height, that can be made taller by lowering the floor to a flat surface, and
8. WHEREAS the barn at Grist Mill Park could be used as a form of income to the Park Authority from a variety of uses provided such uses comply with Park rules and regulations, including such things as:
 - all-weather indoor rental storage facility for area citizen recreational equipment such as canoes and kayaks, or athletic support equipment used by the sports groups who use the park, as well as for tools and equipment used by persons renting adjacent garden plots;
 - quarterly events like antique auto or model railway exhibits;
 - antique and vintage furniture sales;
 - dinner theater or music venue or meeting space or banquet space.
9. WHEREAS there is a possibility of obtaining sponsorships from businesses, the dairy industry and others to help fund the restoration and adaptive reuse of the historic structure;
10. WHEREAS representatives of the MVCCA have been having conversations with the National Barn Alliance regarding this Barn and it is possible that they may be interested in helping preserve it;
 - A. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations encourages the Fairfax County Park Authority to move forward to determine how this facility can be used for the benefit of the citizens within the Mount Vernon District and the County and;

- B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MVCCA encourages the Park Authority to have conversations with the National Barn Alliance to see what they can do to be helpful; and
- C. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MVCCA agrees with Supervisor Hyland that this barn should be put to good use and that it should be restored in order to keep it as a viable “Historic Significant Structure.”