

Shorter, David

From: Carolyn Mitchell [CMitchell@cg.WRTdesign.com]
Sent: Friday, December 13, 2002 2:29 PM
: Shorter, David
Subject: RE: Virginia Key Beach Park

Yes indeed. That place is a real jack pot of historical records. They have many plans - the carousel building, the mini train tunnel and layout, and various other structures, mostly from the fifties. I am not sure if they have everything, but they have alot. Also, they have lots more original photos. I was able to copy photocopies of the pier and other boat realated images but was not given acces to the originals. I had put in a call to Kevin Asher, who was heavily scheduled that week and could only give me a little while to fish around in their files, so I only had a short time to spend over there. I could not copy everything I wanted and just pulled a couple of old plans...the planting plan for the concession area, the original grading plan of the lake and mini-train tracks. I couldn't make a copy of the original plan, which is not in good condition. I would like to go back and copy more things but if Viki Cole is going to need those records it might be nice to coordinate our efforts. It might be worth having their entire archive copied.

Reportedly, DERM has access to an archive of aerial photographs made for military purposes that goes back to the thirties and they are highly legible. I suspect that these are associated with the "Virginia Key Harbor Project." These would be very interesting to see, since in the thirties, the facilities and use of the beach would reflect what the black community had assembled for themselves and would be a very interesting contrast with the public amenities provided after the county improved the beach for their use. We are very keen to see these since we are curious about the original character of the site, reportedly a mangrove swamp but also reportedly a swimming beach even in the 20s. Also, the Miami Dade County Historic Preservation Division Virginia Key file would be interesting to look into.

I believe that a request from the Trust for these resources would produce results. Let me know if you are going to ask for them, otherwise I will continue trying to gain access to them.

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Shorter, David [SMTP:DShorter@ci.miami.fl.us]
> Sent: Friday, December 13, 2002 1:23 PM
> To: 'Carolyn Mitchell'
> Subject: RE: Virginia Key Beach Park

> Carolyn,

> Are you aware of the Miami Dade County Parks having architectural records of buildings as constructed at Virginia Key?

> David Shorter

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Carolyn Mitchell [mailto:CMitchell@cg.WRTdesign.com]
> Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2002 4:58 PM
> To: 'vickicole'
> Cc: Shorter, David
> Subject: RE: Virginia Key Beach Park

> Hi Viki (and David)

> I wonder how broad your definition of "historic resources" is. Does it include the landscape or just the structures? I didn't realize that a preservation plan was being prepared for inclusion in the general plan. I was assuming that the General Plan was, in a sense, a Preservation Plan for the landscape, and that a separate Preservation Plan for the structures was

> to be developed by the historic preservation architect. Maybe that is
> what
> you are doing...
>
> I am attaching an introduction and outline of our Site Assessment
> Memorandum. This is the first part of the General Plan and we have
> presented most of this information in summary form to the Trust board
> and public. I have highlighted in red the areas that I am guessing
> might be part of a Preservation Plan for the site but I am interested
> to sit down with you once
> you get started to make sure that my approach meshes with yours and that
> we
> aren't duplicating efforts.
>
> We have not yet delved deep into the preparation of the Site
> Development Chronology, which is part of our scope, though we have
> done a little work to identify the most significant character defining
> features of the site. This
> is an area where your scope and ours may overlap. If not, we would like
> to
> carry on with collection of historical source material and preparation of
> period plans, since these are both part of our scope and of interest to us
> in evaluating the natural resources as well. If this is an area of
> overlap,
> let's by all means coordinate.
>
> The description of the preservation plan that I have includes the
> following, Things in bold are things that are definitely not in our
> scope. The rest is
> part of our scope.
> a comprehensive history (we are including a description of the park
> development)
> site plan showing existing and proposed uses
> review of zoning restrictions
> architectural history of each building or resource, including review of
> historic maps (we are preparing period plans as part of our site
> assessment,
> though)
> review of architectural and engineering analysis and cost estimates for
> restoration (we are looking at general condition and observed
> deficiencies)
> a review of proposed uses including previous proposed uses and why they
> failed
> analysis of proposed uses and their impact on the historic structures
> resources and the site as a whole
> proposals for alternative new uses
> a publication to be included in the Master Plan including all of the above
> as well as proposed ordinance language
> preservation recommendations and detailed instructions
>
> Look forward to meeting you.
>
> Carolyn Mitchell
> Wallace, Roberts & Todd, LLC
> 191 Giralda Avenue
> Coral Gables, Florida 33134
> phone: 305 448 0788 ext. 17
> fax: 305 443 8431
>
>
> <<Site Assessment Memorandum.doc>>
>
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: vickicole [SMTP:vickicole@msn.com]
> > Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2002 4:19 PM
> > To: Carolyn Mitchell
> > Subject: Re: Virginia Key Beach Park

> >
> > Yes, I'd be very happy to. In fact, my historic preservation plan
> > is supposed to be incorporated into the master plan for the site. I
> > have been waiting for the Trust to get my contract signed so that I
> > can come and meet
> > with your firm.
>
> > My contract is to view the historic resources and best use of these
> > sites
> > and what is the worst use. Unfortunately, that may not be exactly
> > what some members of the Trust or general public would like to hear
> > but it will
> > all
> > mesh at some point.
> >
> > As soon as Lynette gets me going, I will get in touch to arrange a
> > meeting.
> >
> > I would, however, like to know how far along your firm has come, and
> > what
> > exactly has taken place so far.
> >
> > Thank you
> > Vicki Cole
> > HERS
> > 850-656-9098
> > cell: 850-570-3611
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: "Carolyn Mitchell" <CMitchell@cg.WRTdesign.com>
> > To: <Vickicole@msn.com>
> > Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2002 2:06 PM
> > Subject: Virginia Key Beach Park
> >
> >
> > Dear Viki,
> >
> > > David Shorter of the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust has referred me
> > > to
> > > you
> > > for information on the Preservation Plan you are preparing for the
> > > Trust.
> > > My
> > > firm, Wallace, Roberts & Todd, is preparing a site master plan for
> > > the
> > > beach
> > > park. Our scope of service includes elements that are similar in
> > > scope
> > > to
> > > the work you are doing and certainly should reflect your plan. Can
> > > you
> > > let
> > > me know the status of your work and chat with me about how we can
> > > coordinate
> > > our efforts?
> > >
> > >
> > > Carolyn Mitchell
> > > Wallace, Roberts & Todd, LLC
> > > 191 Giralda Avenue
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