

## Josiah Henson Vision and Issues Public Meeting #1

June 15, 2010

Tilden Middle School, 11211 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville, MD 20852-3201

### Public Input Notes

#### Table #1

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##### Issues

- Old Georgetown Rd. and Tilden Roundabout – Ian Lockwood decom.com – 1 dot
- Parking and Pedestrians: How about parking at Tilden Middle School?
- Make Tilden and OG Rd. safer for Pedestrians – 4 dots
- Share doctor's offices parking on weekends
- WFSP build-out impact on intersections
- Way finding from Trolley Trail and Metro
- Acquisition: Expand the site? – 1 dot
- Security: Lighting that doesn't spill over into neighborhood but makes it safe. Neighborhood watch – 3 dots
- Visibility – do we want people to be able to see the site from old Georgetown Road?
- How big should the program be? Vis-a-vies site size, road access parking – 1 dot
- Look at adjunct interpretive center offsite on public property in early phase of the park (Wall Park, Tilden MS) – 3 dots
- Consider neighbors use of access to the site (could be other than cultural interpretation) (sunrise to sundown): - 3 dots
  - Benches
  - Walking paths
  - Other casual uses

##### Vision

- A living museum, w/ re-enactors or people in character – 3 dots
- Tours with good, accurate telling of the life story – 2 dots
- Connect to interpretive signage at Ken gar
- Relationship of present site to its historical landscape – what features still exist that tells the story? – 9 dots
- Archeological interpretation on the site – use it to tell the story – 8 dots
- Make archeological process available to visitors, as well as historical and architectural process.
- Make website as "rich" with information as possible, so that it provides interpretation of the Josiah Henson story. Keep it current with historic archeological discoveries and attract visitors to the site. – 4 dots
- Tell of the connections/relationships between Jo Henson and other slaves and plantations in the region. – 1 dot

## Table #2

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### Issues

- Parking – parking run-off
- Pedestrian crossing – crossing guards (Old Georgetown) – wire cage elevated crosswalk – 1 dot
- Run-off issues – 1 dot
- Bus access
- Suggestions
  - portable pavers
  - shuttles
  - Bus pull-off on Rozier – 1 dot

### Ideas/Vision

- Kitchen (rain) garden situated to help treat run-off
- Museum exhibits on stages of Henson’s life – 1 dot
- Raised 3-d scale model showing Riley’s plantation in context with Cauty plantation – 2 dots
- Log cabin back to 1850
- Make things hands on for kids – 3 dots
- Living history interpreter in costume – 1 dot
- Life on plantations in Mo Co
- Narrated excerpts from his book – 2 dots
- Website accessibility on site – multi-media access (MP3, I phone) – 1 dot
- Auditory environment to recreate sounds from the times – 3 dots
- Open as often as possible
- Build site into school curriculum – 1 dot
- Ongoing archeology on site – 1 dot
- Hybrid morph of everything
- Tying in other sites in County (Sandy Spring, Oakley)
- Focus on History over archeology – 3 dots

## Table #3

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### Vision

What would you like to see offered at the park to help advance the Josiah Henson Story and create a safe and attractive public park?

- New building with classrooms – multi-use building, visitor’s center – classroom 35-40 kids
- Small museum showing prehistoric as well as historic continuum
- Kids relate better to artifacts than architecture
- Experiential Factor – 1 dot
- Comparison to Uncle Tom’s Cabin in Canada – talk to Canada
- People want to walk where Josiah Henson walked – 1 dot
- Concern – parking needs are addressed so community is not driven out by traffic and parking – 1 dot
- Historic Preservation philosophies – landscape is changing – organic neighborhood
- Shift from “frozen in time” idea to more organic idea – 2 dots
- Do not ignore prehistoric, continuum of history to present – 4 dots
- Interpret house as part of living landscape – 1 dot
- Tie into history of Luxmanor i.e. religious and racial covenants – 2 dots

### Concern

- Pedestrian safety – crossing Old Georgetown Road – 2 dots
- Monitor crossing if parking buses at the swimming pool
- Essential – a connection between Rock Creek Trail (Newport Mill) – significant to Josiah Henson’s life – 1 dot
- Address denial of slavery in Montgomery County, neighborhood – 2 dots

- Slavery is not just in the South
- Isaac Riley never learned to read and write but Josiah Henson did learn
- Slavery has existed for thousands of years. Not just black people – slavery exists today
- Josiah Henson could be a good platform to talk about history of global slavery in the past and present – 2 dots
- Really need to work with County DOT and MD DOT – 1 dot
- An area plan for traffic – vehicles and pedestrian
- Issue - Disconnect between agencies MNCPPC, County DOT and SHA – 1 dot
- One plan: realistic impacts
- Public Private Partnerships
- Issue: Rozier house – vagrancies – security issues – fire – park police
- Transparency in Process – 1 dot
- Meeting log on website so everyone can see who we are meeting with – 1 dot
- Timeline for demolition

## Table #4

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### Vision

- Promote greater history of Mo Co not just west Mo Co trails – 1 dot
- Tie to Underground Railroad
- Story is interesting to students
- Everyone’s history – rules of different groups = Mo Co story
- Connect to other antebellum sites in Mo Co - 1 dot
- Consistent county way finding - ex. UDC walking tours - 1 dot
- Context of whole historic history of county
- Centrality of Henson/celebrate the man and person (not just novel story) – 3 dots
- Influence on inside – more input in context of his/HBS story/abolition/civil war – need timeline start to finish what happened after – 2 dots
- Site is a trickle in his life
- Kids will ask why important (moral, ethic, spiritual issues)
- Need access to Autobiography, not just on internet (maybe in H.S. curriculum)
- Who is Henson – make connection to UTC
- Need to make connection to other Mo Co sites
- Context – size county, Quakers, Unique mid Atlantic, only free community in Sandy Spring; freedom to hire out
- Georgia Avenue/Rt. 28 Escape on Pearl – captured corn field, minor school, Edmonston Sister
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### Concerns

- Old Georgetown crossing
- Neighborhood traffic /congestion – 1 dot
- Establish clear timeframes for visiting - start outside rush hours – 10 – 3, consider reverse commuters arrive earlier
- ID students in preservation programs for internships
- Security and Policing (how) especially when closed – night attracts kids
- Ask synagogue to help with parking – 1 dot
- How much African American community input has Parks sought? Still living residents available to obtain authentic experiences. Senior Citizens oral history. Go into churches to inform. MoCo Channel 21 – watch this channel for city information. Go where black people are. Seven Locks Church. Scotland Area, Travilah Area, Cabin John. Kid volunteers to pass out information. Get word out about project. Mine rich history of existing residents, esp. African American community – 11 dots
- County Executive Community Partnerships – Bruce Adams director
- Schools, esp. elementary – information on meetings – 1 dot

- Authenticity of house to Henson period at farm, examples of other houses shown original style – 1 dot

## Table #5

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### Issues

- African American community involvement – 7 dots
- How to separate the myth of Uncle Tom from the man Josiah Henson – 2 dots
- Pedestrian Crossing of Old Georgetown Road (ped overpass) – alternatives – 3 dots
- Acquisition of alternative land for parking – 1 dot
- Security at night etc. (visibility) – 1 dot
- Traffic control in neighborhood
- Noise control
- Read part of the “Uncle Tom” Book – 1 dot

### Vision

- Crops grown on plantation – 1 dot
- Family life
- Livestock – issue – 2 dots
- Operation of site (cost sharing?)
- Movement through site
- Restrooms – 4 dots
- Involvement of African American Community – 5 dots
- Interpretive signs thru signs – 1 dot
- Communicate “Man (as a heroic figure) vs. Myth – 3 dots
- (Tilden M.S., Luxmanor Elem. S., Greenacre School) Adopt “Uncle Tom” site
- Illustration of Slavery extended to “Uncle Tom”
- Teacher pre-visit info packet – 2 dots
- Underground Railroad connection – 1 dot
- Connection to other African American sites (Brookeville, Oakley Cabin, Sandy Spring...) with Map (available at tourist info centers and website) – 4 dots
- Community feel ownership of site – care taking/value property (improve security)

## Table #6

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### Vision

- Both outside and inside activities and interpretations
- Maybe a chicken (joke)
- A lot more space around it
- Wayside signage at Metro especially about site. How to get there
- A long walk signal at OGR at Tilden – 1 dot
- Rehab little garden next to house so it looks more representative of period, just outside back of screened porch want period gardens /landscape for interpretation – 1 dot
- Comprehensive transportation plan
- Like people to know boundaries of plantation as exhibit
- Early Maryland life as thematic material – 1 dot
- Show how properties – all big tracts interact – trading of help/how were goods moved. Commerce over time and slavery
- Exhibits of what was produced
- Number of people who worked there

## Issues

- Parking – where are you going to park?
- Traffic flow – coming into Luxmanor community
- What will be high usage times?
- How do you actually drive onto site?
- What is vision for property next door, “Rozier: parking?
- Staging for events? Gathering?
- Is there plan for separate buildings to house restrooms/ticketing?
- How is entire project going to be marketed? How do you ensure its success? – 3 dots
- Will there be a fee or free of charge?
- Where are you going to get the operations budget?
- Is property envisioned as being fenced?
- Safety and ability to walk to site as pedestrian
- Safety of school children

## Table #7

### Vision

- Will you have historical landscapes, actual gardens with things growing? – 1 dot
- Perimeter security system
- Establishment and use of volunteers

### Issues

- Adverse impact on environment and surrounding area – 1 dot
- Lighting
- Security – 1 dot
- Stormwater run-off
- Traffic
- Hours of operation – what are they?
- What are Park’s ideas for programming? – 1 dot
- What about public –private partnerships – funding? – 1 dot
- Timeline – when do you see public coming through on a regular basis
- Concern about vacant house – what is timeline for potential demo of Rozier?
- Can we rent Rozier out and generate revenue?

## Comment Cards

1. See Canon Prairie in Indiana [www.canonprairie.org](http://www.canonprairie.org)
2. How can this be put into MCPS curriculum – 8<sup>th</sup> grades?
3. HS Blair in great need of Maintenance

\*Note: 1 dot = 1 vote