

MEMORANDUM

September 11, 2015

TO: George Leventhal, Council President

FROM: Marlene Michaelson, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Confederate Statue

The Council and Executive requested that comments on potential sites to relocate the Confederate statue be submitted by September 9. The Council received comments from close to 250 individuals and groups by early morning on September 10 in response to its requests for comments. (Additional comments received after the morning of September 10 are not included in this summary.) The five sites identified in the press release issued by the Council and Executive included the following:

1. Beall-Dawson Historical Park in Rockville.
2. Callithea Farm Special Park in Potomac.
3. Darnestown Square Heritage Park in Darnestown.
4. Jesup Blair Local Park in Silver Spring.
5. The Edgewood Farm (privately owned) in Gaithersburg/Unity.

Of those who commented on the 5 sites:

- 85 specifically objected to locating it in Jesup Blair Local Park in Silver Spring, while 4 individuals supported moving it there.
- 68 supported moving it to the Beall-Dawson Historical Park; an additional 20 suggested moving it to a museum, but did not specifically identify the Beall-Dawson Historical Park, which contains a museum.
- 6 supported moving it to Darnestown Square Heritage Park, while the local civic organization opposed it.
- 22 supported giving it back to the United Daughters of the Confederacy and/or moving it to Edgemoor Farm.
- No one endorsed moving it to Callithea Farm (see Planning Board comments below).

Although the press release asked for comments on the 5 sites identified for relocation, 36 individuals preferred that the statue be destroyed or put in storage, rather than moved to another location. An additional 24 individuals indicated that it should be moved out of the County or that it should not be located in a County park. Seventy-seven individuals supported keeping it where it is. Of those 77 who supported keeping it in its current location, 12 said if the County decided to move it, it should go to the Beall-Dawson Park and 5 indicated they supported keeping it in its current location because it was preferable to moving it to Silver Spring. Comments received from the historical groups in the County were split between moving it to the Beall-Dawson Historical Park and keeping it where it is (e.g., half the members of Montgomery Preservation's Board supported relocation to Beall-Dawson, while half supported keeping it where it is).

The Council also received a letter from the Planning Board Chair supporting relocating the statue to the Beall-Dawson Historical Park or a private property. The Board recommends eliminating Jesup Blair Park from consideration. It believes that Calithea Farm should only be considered if the County funds a new Civil War Visitors Center at this location and that Darnestown Square Heritage Park should only be considered if all other options are unworkable, due to the many constraints associated with this site.