

## Bull Street Neighborhood Development Agreement Comments

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Section XVII-H of the revised Development Agreement for the Bull Street Neighborhood addresses the Camp Asylum Civil War prison site. As I said at the last hearing, this is a site of national importance that needs to be included in the planning for the proposed development.

The revised agreement allows no more than 120 days for an archaeological dig, with Mr. Hughes paying “one-half of the costs of the archaeological dig, up to \$25,000.” As we discussed yesterday, there are at least two phases to any archaeological project. The first, Phase One, is the testing phase in which shovel tests and small excavation units that in this case would be used to confirm the presence of the prison remains, to determine the extent of damage from asylum-related construction (the Parker, Parker Annex, and LaBorde buildings, and an existing parking lot, ) and to identify areas worthy of further excavation. Once analysis of the Phase One survey is completed, then work would move on the next phase during which extensive excavations would take place. There would normally be an intervening phase of work in which small excavation blocks would be opened to further study the state of preservation of the prison’s remains, but in the interest of time that phase could be skipped provided there were sufficient funds to move directly to major excavations (Phase Three).

The amount suggested in the Revised Development Agreement is sufficient for Phase One testing, but it would not be sufficient for anything beyond that. The prison camp is bounded by a brick wall enclosing 3.6 acres. Within that area are the remains of several barracks buildings, a hospital, privies sufficient for 1200 men, holes in the ground where many prisoners lived, and

countless artifacts that will tell the story of the men imprisoned there. All of those features need to be investigated.

Just as Mr. Hughes would want to map the topography, investigate ground water and soil conditions, etc., before he began construction of a building, so would an archaeologist need to know what parts of the prison are still preserved, which are buried beneath building rubble that will require machinery to remove, and what parts should be the focus of the investigations. By the same token, Mr. Hughes would not begin construction of said building until he had sufficient funds in hand to complete the building. It is the same with archaeology. The money provided in the revised plan is insufficient for the work needed. With sufficient time, some funds could be raised from private sources, but as the developer who will benefit financially from the ultimate destruction of this very important archaeological site, Mr. Hughes has to bear the primary responsibility for funding the necessary work on the prison camp site as determined by the Phase One testing.