



## **McLean Citizens Association Resolution**

### **CLAUDE MOORE COLONIAL FARM PARK**

**September 5, 2018**

**Whereas**, Claude Moore Colonial Farm (Colonial Farm) located at 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101 is a living history museum, that portrays a small family farm prior to the Revolutionary War; and

**Whereas**, the Colonial Farm covers an area of approximately 77 acres and is within Turkey Run Park, owned by the National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway; and

**Whereas**, the Colonial Farm is managed by the Friends of the Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run, Inc. (Friends of Claude Moore) as a nonprofit organization, 501 (c)(3) under a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service; and

**Whereas**, the Friends of Claude Moore mission statement for the Colonial Farm is to educate the public about early American daily life and agriculture through participation and involvement in an 18<sup>th</sup> century Virginia tenant family farm; and

**Whereas**, with over 2 million visitors since 1973, the Colonial Farm is the only living history museum for colonial period tenant farming in the region, including within Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia; and

**Whereas**, educational programming for youth and adults at the Colonial Farm includes an 18<sup>th</sup> century Market Fair in May, July, and October, with over 250 volunteers as colonial period craftsmen, entertainers, and merchants; and

**Whereas**, programming also includes activities such as, gathering and binding of wheat in June, tobacco cutting and hanging in August, completion of harvest tasks in November, and dancing and caroling for the Winter Solstice in December; and

**Whereas**, according to the Friends of Claude Moore, since its founding, more than \$8 million dollars has been privately raised for operations at the Colonial Farm; and

**Whereas**, the National Park Service reports to have provided over \$1.3 million dollars in funding since 2001 to the Colonial Farm; and

**Whereas**, as of this date, the Friends of Claude Moore and the National Park Service have not reached a new cooperative agreement for operation of the Colonial Park, either for short or long term operations; and

**Whereas**, in a letter dated March 30, 2018, the National Park Service stated the Colonial Park will be closed to operations and the public by December 21, 2018, and the Friends of Claude Moore will be required to remove from the property all temporary, moveable improvements and personal property, including livestock.

**Now, therefore be it resolved that**, provided the long history of successful programming at the Colonial Farm, the value of this unique park to McLean and the broader community, and the outpouring of public support, the McLean Citizens Association strongly encourages all parties to engage in a mediation process in order to facilitate a resolution so that this valuable facility continues to be enjoyed by the community.

*Approved by the MCA Board of Directors  
September 5, 2018*

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McLean Citizens Association, PO Box 273, McLean, Virginia 22101