

TESTIMONY OF STEVE DRYDEN
Program Manager
Friends of Peirce Mill
Before the Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Libraries, Parks, Recreation and Planning
Thursday February 9, 2012

Good Morning, Chairman Wells, and members of the Committee. I welcome the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Office of Planning's Historic Preservation Office and their support of the DC Community Heritage Project through the Humanities Council of Washington DC. I am the Program Manager for Friends of Peirce Mill, the non-profit group that worked with the National Park Service to restore and re-open the Rock Creek Park mill last October. The mill broke down in 1993, and it took almost twenty years and a \$3 million to get this wonderful educational destination operating again. The Friends group raised \$1 million from private donors, which leveraged another \$2 million from the Obama stimulus program. Starting this spring we will be bringing elementary school classes to the mill for lessons in technology, nutrition, creek ecology, and DC history.

Friends of Peirce Mill recently received a \$2,000 grant from the Humanities Council in support of our creation of a wall panel display that tells the history of the mill and advertises its re-opening. Already, we have displayed the exhibit at the Politics and Prose café on Connecticut Avenue, and at a small restaurant in Mt Pleasant. We will continue to mount the exhibit in neighborhoods around the park over the next year.

Funding from the Office of Planning to the Humanities Council enables organizations such as the Friends of Peirce Mill to tell the stories and relate the history of their communities, allowing future generations to know, understand, and benefit from these projects.

As a Humanities Council grantee, I strongly support the Office of Planning Historic Preservation Office's efforts. I urge the Council to recognize the essential role that the Office of Planning's community historic preservation projects play in the life of the District of Columbia and its residents. Thank you, and I will be willing to answer any questions you may have.
