

MEETING SUMMARY

The Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee (PYDAC)

January 9, 2008

7:30 – 9:30 pm

Room 1101, Sister Cities Conference Room, City Hall

Committee Members in Attendance:

Bill Hendrickson, Chair

Susanne Carnell

Joe Hart

Stephen Koenig

Sandy Modell

Sylvia Sibrover

Teri Webster

City Staff:

Jeff Farner, P&Z

Raka Choudhury, P&Z

Matthew North, P&Z

Patti Haefeli, P&Z

Ron Kagawa, RP&CA

Bethany Carton, RP&CA

Ted Pullian, Alexandria Archaeology

Excused Absences:

Catherine Moore

Maria Wasowski

Applicant Representatives:

Nathan Imm, EDAW

Duncan Blair, LLCM&B

Other:

Mariella Posey, NorthEast Citizens
Association

Janie Rhoads Reed Smith

AGENDA ITEMS

- Landbay K Preliminary Plan
 - a. Overview and Updates by Applicant
 - b. Route 1 Pedestrian Bridge
 - c. Discussion
 - d. PYDAC Letter of Support
- Approval of *revisions* to PYDAC Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2007.
- Approval of PYDAC Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2007.

CALL TO ORDER

Bill Hendrickson opened the meeting discussed the meeting agenda.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Nathan Imm from EDAW gave a presentation outlining the major components of the linear park, known as Landbay K. Following the presentation, a roundtable discussion commenced pertaining to the presentation and the issues raised by the PYDAC members.

DISCUSSION

Landbay K:

1. Members questioned where the train spotting locations will be in the park. These locations include the canal line between the rail yard and the park, the belvedere next to the north pond and the pedestrian path on the Route 1 Bridge.
2. Some members asked about the applicability of the slope areas within the park. Nathan responded by noting that these areas were created to help transition the park spaces/uses.
3. Interdepartmental cooperation within the City was applauded as being a primary reason the park has been a success to date.
4. EDAW representatives noted that the interpretative design elements will continue to evolve over time.
5. Staff presented two pedestrian bridge options for the Monroe Avenue Bridge. Significant discussion involved the purpose of the bridge, routes pedestrians would take to access the bridge and how much time it would take pedestrians to access Landbay K. The Committee agreed that the bridge across the stormwater pond was the most desirable location. The Committee commented the bridge should be integrated with the design of Landbay K.
6. Potomac Avenue safety and pedestrian concerns for accessing the park were discussed. Committee members agreed that City Staff had ensured that adequate safety measures were taken into consideration in designing Potomac Avenue, and were aware that other issues may need to be addressed after the park was in use.
7. Overall the Committee agreed the pedestrian flow, signalization, and other related pedestrian related issues should be monitored by the City.
8. The Committee was in agreement that the park will be an attractive addition to Alexandria and applauded the efforts of the applicant and the City and complied with the intent of design guidelines. The members agreed unanimously to recommend approval of Landbay K to the Planning Commission.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On a motion made by Sandy Modell and seconded by Joe Hart, the Committee reviewed and approved the revised meeting minutes from November 14, 2007, approved 6-0.

On a motion by Sandy Modell and seconded by Stephen Koenig, the Committee reviewed and approved meeting minutes with amendments from the December 12, 2008 meeting, approved 5-1.