

Public Comments Special Events Policy Updates

P&RC Meeting January 15, 2015

Date Received	Name	Comment
1.15.15	Eric Walner, CEO Torpedo Factory Art Center, Advocacy Chair, Alexandria Arts Forum, by email	<p>From: Eric Wallner <ewallner@torpedofactory.org> Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 3:56 PM To: Jack Browand Subject: Comment on Proposed Special Events Policy</p> <p>To the Members of the Park and Recreation Commission: I am writing today in support of the proposed policy change to repeal the alternating weekend restriction on Waterfront special events. An Alexandria landmark for more than 40 years, the Torpedo Factory Art Center is a highlight of the Potomac Riverfront and home to 82 artists studios, six galleries, the Art League School, Alexandria Archaeology Museum, a gift store and café, attracting approximately 500,000 visitors annually. We generate \$16.2 million annually in direct visitor spending for the City of Alexandria.</p> <p>Programming on the Waterfront is of vital importance to creating a vibrant destination. Attracting cultural tourists and local residents alike, high quality programming requires venue access and flexibility. Our local arts groups have had difficulties securing dates for performances and other events due to the current restrictions. Besides losing opportunities for our groups to perform and present their work, the loss of income from visitor spending is significant.</p> <p>We value positive relationships with our residential and business neighbors and believe these changes can be implemented in a sensible manner that respects their needs.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our great community.</p> <p>Sincerely, Eric Wallner CEO, Torpedo Factory Art Center Advocacy Chair, Alexandria Arts Forum 105 N. Union St., Alexandria, VA 22314 703-838-4565 x 307 www.torpedofactory.org</p>
1.15.15	Kathy Dalby by email	<p>From: Kathy Dalby <kathy@runpacers.com> Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 3:26 PM To: Jack Browand Subject: Public Comments: Special Events Policy Attachments: Alexandria Special Events Comments.pdf</p> <p>Hi Jack</p> <p>I hope you had a nice holiday and your new year is going well. Attached are Pacers Running comments on the proposed policies. As you can see we are very much in support of the work of the City but do have concerns mainly with any requirements for release of what we believe to be business proprietary and confidential information for our private company, specifically financial and marketing plans. If you have any questions please let me know- appreciate the opportunity to submit comments and Lisa will beat the meeting.</p> <p>Cheers- Kathy</p>

1.15.15	Bill Colosimo by email	<p>From: Bill Colosimo <billcatps@aol.com> Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 1:55 PM To: Jack Browand Cc: WPC Cel Subject: Comment on Proposed Special Events Policy for Commission Hearing Tonight</p> <p>Mr. Browand,</p> <p>Thank you for extending an opportunity to have my comments on the proposed policy to be considered at tonight's Parks and Recreation Commission hearing delivered to you by email, as I am unable to attend the meeting due to a previous rehearsal commitment.</p> <p>I am writing as Music Director of The Alexandria Singers, widely acknowledged as one of the City's top performing organizations which regularly supports the City and our community with pops vocal music performances. We have been associated with the City of Alexandria since our founding 40 years ago...and do all we can to provide quality entertainment at the request of City departments, including Special Events and the Office of the Arts. And we're delighted to do so!</p> <p>I am also Vice President of the Alexandria Arts Forum, which represents individual artists and arts organizations, including major performance groups like The Alexandria Singers, the Alexandria Symphony, Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association, and the Alexandria Harmonizers (of which my son is Associate Director).</p> <p>In both capacities, I write to express my profound support of the proposed policy changes relating to performance activity in the Waterfront area which would lift restrictions on weekend performances. Such change would open up countless possibilities for a waterfront made more vibrant by increasing the arts (and other) events that bring the community together and enrich the cultural experience of our citizens.</p> <p>In addition, I would strongly urge the Commission to revisit the policy prohibiting amplified sound in currently restricted areas. Performing artists and arts groups are severely constrained by the inability to provide appropriate, but very necessary, amplification of their performances.</p> <p>Thank you, again, for your assurance that my comments will be included in the information provided to the Commission. On behalf of all our groups, I want you to know that this kind of cooperation in sharing views toward a positive outcome for all is precisely what makes us proud to represent Alexandria!</p> <p>—Bill Colosimo Bill Colosimo Choral Foundation of Northern Virginia <i>Educating and Empowering Young People through the Choral Arts</i> Founder and Artistic Director 5730 N. 22nd Street Arlington, Virginia 22205</p>
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1.15.15	Joan Singer, by email	<p>From: Joan Singer <joan.quintango@gmail.com> Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 4:55 PM To: Jack Browand Subject: Comment on Proposed Special Events Policy for Commission Hearing Tonight</p> <p>Mr. Browand, Unfortunately tonight's hearing coincides with a regularly scheduled Thursday rehearsal, so I am unable to attend. However, I would like to voice my support for the goals of the Waterfront Plan - to increase activity and vibrancy of the City's waterfront - and to support the proposal to do away with the current restrictions for alternating weekend activities exceeding 500. Allowing arts activities, especially live performance, to occur with greater frequency would encourage the public to look to the waterfront for weekend entertainment, to make it a go-to place for fun in "extraordinary Alexandria" -- with all the resulting economic activity that comes from people going out. To accomplish this, there has to be frequency of activity.</p> <p>thank you for including my views in your presentation. As an Arts Forum board member, volunteer for music in ACPS, and director of QuinTango (and StringTango - a group you know well), I strongly believe that the arts can bring the Waterfront to life. this is a necessary step in the process. have a good meeting. Joan</p>
1.15.15	Jody Manor, Bittersweet catering.	<p>From: Jody Manor <jody@bittersweetcatering.com> Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 5:02 PM To: Jack Browand Subject: Park hearing tonight</p> <p>Writing this in less than 5 minutes! Did everyone see the Washington Business Journal article today by local economist Stephen Fuller? He outlines trouble ahead for our local economy. Yes, at a time when we face a \$30M budget deficit and when RPCPA budgets are constantly under duress we are tonight considering changing a policy which restricts economic activity on our waterfront. Quite a luxury, isn't it? We need a vibrant, active waterfront that can be an attractor to our city. The economic spillover of more events along with our new waterfront parks – both active and passive - should clearly illustrate the need to change the current policy. I hope you will endorse this change as another important step in the redevelopment of our waterfront – truly a waterfront for all. Jody Manor</p>
	<u>Public Hearing Comments</u> PRC 1.15.15	See Park and Recreation Minutes of January 15, 2015 for public hearing comments.