

## Summary Minutes

### Alexandria Waterfront Committee Meeting April 20, 2010

#### Lee Center Gold Rooms

**Members:** Engin Artemel  
Christine Bernstein  
Henry Brooks  
Doug Gosnell  
Linda Hafer  
Nathan Macek  
Peter Pennington  
Pete Peterson  
John Renner  
Van Van Fleet

**City Staff:** Richard Baier, Transportation & Environmental Services  
Sgt. Courtney Ballantine, Police Department  
Roger Blakeley, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA)  
Jim Hixon, RPCA  
Yon Lambert, TES  
Craig Perl, TES  
Barbara Ross, Department of Planning and Zoning  
James Spengler, RPCA  
Nancy Williams, P&Z

**Guests:** Brian Buzzell  
Susan Cohen  
Charlotte Hall  
Harry Harrington  
Willem Polak  
Joanne Platt

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Macek noted that the February meeting minutes that had been approved at the March meeting had omitted the Committee's approval of the FY 2009 Annual Report. Moved by Bernstein, second by Brooks to approve the corrected February minutes and approve the March minutes as drafted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

**Report from Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities**

Blakeley distributed a City-wide calendar of special events for 2010 and a draft of the letter distributed to area boat clubs regarding use of the Marina by transient boaters.

Blakeley thanked groups that had volunteered to clean-up the Potomac River shoreline and other waterways in April, including the Old Dominion Boat Club and the Founders Park Community Association.

**Report from Department of Planning and Zoning*****Update on Waterfront Plan***

Williams reported that the Waterfront Plan concept plan meeting scheduled for April 22 could be rescheduled. Members of the Committee expressed their frustration with the repeated delays in the roll-out of the concept plan. Williams said that regardless of when released, the City would provide the public 30 days to comment on the concept plan, and would provide presentations in May to the Planning Commission, City Council, and Waterfront Committee, as well as other groups.

Williams reported that P&Z planned to release a draft master plan at the end of June, providing the public an opportunity to comment through early September. There would be a subsequent draft plan and comment period, with the final draft scheduled to be submitted to City Council in early fall. Macek noted that the Waterfront Plan schedule could require an additional Waterfront Committee meeting during the summer.

***Special Use Permit Request for 106 South Union Street***

Ross provided an overview and answered questions regarding the Special Use Permit requested by a restaurant proposed for 106 South Union Street. The request would be considered at the May 4 Planning Commission meeting and the May 15 City Council meeting.

Moved by Pennington, second by Bernstein, that the Committee express its encouragement of the project as it is developing, and request to be updated on access issues at the site before final consent is given by the City. Van Fleet voiced disagreement with the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. Macek said that he would draft a letter regarding this issue to the Chair of the Planning Commission on the Committee's behalf.

**Report from Department of Transportation and Environmental Services*****Old Town Parking Study***

Lambert provided an overview and answered questions regarding the Old Town Parking Study. Lambert noted that City Council has asked the City Manager to appoint a task force or work group to review the report's findings and provide

recommendations by the end of September.

Moved by Artemel, second by Gosnell, to request Waterfront Committee membership on the Old Town Parking Study working group. Motion carried on a voice vote. Macek said that he would draft a letter regarding this issue to the City Manager on the Committee's behalf.

### ***Potomac Waterfront Flood Mitigation Study***

Perl provided a presentation and answered questions on the Potomac Waterfront Flood Mitigation Study. One recommendation of the study is to construct a pedestrian walkway that would act as a floodwall, which would require elevation of about 2-3 feet above grade to protect against a 10-year flood event. He said the study's recommendations would prevent nuisance flooding, but would not limit impact of a 100-year flood event or flood insurance rates. He said the findings of the study would be incorporated into the Waterfront Plan.

### **Report from Marina Subcommittee**

#### ***Facilitation of Additional Commercial Users of Alexandria City Marina***

Macek reported that the Marina Subcommittee met April 8 and voted to recommend to the Committee that it recommend to the City that it decline to serve additional commercial users at this time. The Subcommittee noted the following conditions:

- The Marina cannot presently accommodate additional commercial boats on a full-time basis, as slips are committed through the remainder of the calendar year to existing commercial tenants, pleasure boat lease holders, transient pleasure boats, and non-profit and public service users.
- While additional services may not presently be accommodated on a permanent basis, commercial boats may dock at the Alexandria City Marina up to four times per month without a lease. All commercial boats are encouraged to exercise that option.
- The Waterfront Plan process is presently ongoing, which may result in additional commercial opportunities in the future. Commercial firms are welcome to contribute to the City's planning process, where their suggestions may best be incorporated at this time. Following adoption and implementation of Waterfront Plan, the City may engage in a competitive process to select additional commercial services.

Move by Artemel, second by Van Fleet, to adopt the recommendations of the Marina Subcommittee. Motion carried on voice vote. Macek said that he would draft a letter regarding this issue to the Director of RPCA on the Committee's behalf.

***Endorsement of removing speed limits for high-speed commuter vessels on the Potomac River***

Macek and Polak provided a brief overview of the issue. Macek summarized the recommendations of the Marina Subcommittee, which were subsequently drafted into a motion.

Moved by Pennington, second by Gosnell, to urge the City to support the amendment of District of Columbia Municipal Regulation, Title 19, Chapter 10 to allow for all commercial vessels engaged in water transportation, regardless of hull design, to be allowed to transit the Alexandria waterfront at speeds greater than 10 knots, so long as those vessels are responsible for their wake and remain at a minimum of 100 yards east of the pier head line—and as close to the navigational buoys as possible—between Jones Point and First Street, and to further urge that this policy change be coupled with education and enforcement campaigns for commercial and pleasure craft users if and when regular high-speed service begins on the rivers. Motion carried on voice vote. Macek said that he would draft a letter regarding this issue to the Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission on the Committee's behalf.

**Announcements**

Macek reported that the Alexandria Chapter of the American Red Cross had decided not to hold a Waterfront Festival in 2010.

Pennington announced that the City's Earth Day celebration would be held at Ben Brenman Park on April 24.

Bernstein invited participation in the Potomac River clean-up scheduled for Founders Park on April 24.

**Adjournment**

Brooks moved to adjourn, Peterson seconded. Motion carried on a voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.