

City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

Alexandria Waterfront Committee
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



June 24, 2011

James Spengler, Director
Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
City of Alexandria
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Spengler:

At its meeting on June 21, 2011, the Alexandria Waterfront Committee voted to wholeheartedly support permanent docking of the historic skipjack *Minnie V* by the Potomac Riverboat Company at the Alexandria City Marina. This letter outlines the basis for the Committee's decision and recommends next steps by your Department.

Historic vessels contribute to the character of Old Town and Alexandria's historic seaport. They attract visitors to the community and serve as an anchor on the Waterfront. The *Minnie V* in particular is an authentic skipjack constructed in 1906 on Maryland's Eastern Shore and used for over 87 years in the oyster dredging business on the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

The draft Waterfront Small Area Plan emphasizes that the Alexandria City Marina should continue to be a working marina served by commercial vessels. The draft Plan recommends facilities to host additional commercial operators, as well as historic vessels. Relocating the *Minnie V* to Alexandria is consistent with these objectives.

The *Minnie V* could be served by construction of a new slip landward of the existing Cherry Blossom berth. The new slip would make joint-use of secured facilities presently used by the Potomac Riverboat Company. The Committee understands that the *Minnie V* would not impact existing Marina users by creating new facilities in this location.

With a length of 45 feet, a beam of 15 feet, and draft of 3 feet, the *Minnie V* is ideally sized to be accommodated within the Alexandria City Marina. Indeed, at present, there is little room for the Marina to permanently house a larger vessel without utilizing facilities currently dedicated to other uses. Thus, the *Minnie V* represents an ideal opportunity to house a historic vessel at the Alexandria City Marina at this time, and it would be the first historic vessel permanently moored at the Alexandria Waterfront in several years.

The *Minnie V* would be operated by the Potomac Riverboat Company, which has a long-standing relationship with the Alexandria City Marina and a track record of collaborating with the City to bring new and innovative marine transportation services to the Alexandria Waterfront.

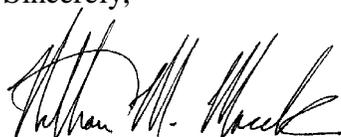
We urge your Department to negotiate a lease agreement for the *Minnie V* with the Potomac Riverboat Company and begin any other preparations necessary for the *Minnie V*'s arrival. We request that your staff keep the Committee apprised of developments and circle back for the Committee's review and endorsement before presenting any agreement to City Council for its approval.

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We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments. If you should have further questions or would like to discuss this matter, please contact me at 202-365-2927 (mobile) or natemacek@hotmail.com.

On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee and the broad Citywide constituencies that we represent, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair, Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission
Jack Browand, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Cheryl Lawrence, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Jim Hixon, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Alexandria Waterfront Committee