

City of Alexandria

Waterfront Committee Meeting – May 18, 2010

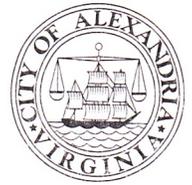
Information

1. Letter from Waterfront Committee to Alexandria Planning Commission – 106 S. Union St.
2. Letter from Waterfront Committee to Director, RPCA – Marina Commercial Uses
3. Letter from Waterfront Committee to T&ES – Snow Removal
4. Letter from Waterfront Committee to Park & Recreation Commission – Speed Limits
5. Letter from Waterfront Committee to City Manager – Parking



City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

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



April 22, 2010

Mr. John Komoroske, Chair
Alexandria Planning Commission
City Hall
301 King Street, Room 2100
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Komoroske:

This letter summarizes the position of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee on the proposed Special Use Permit for 106 South Union Street, scheduled to be considered by the Alexandria Planning Commission at its May 4, 2010 meeting.

The purpose of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee is to study and deal with issues relating to private and commercial uses of the waterfront. Within that scope, the Committee received a presentation on the proposed Special Use Permit for 106 South Union Street from Ms. Barbara Ross of the Department of Planning and Zoning at its April 20, 2010 meeting.

In general, the Waterfront Committee is encouraged by the proposed re-use of this site as an upscale restaurant with outdoor dining. The Committee believes that this is an appropriate use of a historic structure adjacent to the Waterfront, and is consistent with the Committee's vision for the City's Potomac Waterfront that it adopted in 2009 in advance of the City's Waterfront Planning process, which is now underway.

We are encouraged by the creative proposal to apply a short-term, renewable license agreement rather than a permanent encroachment to permit street-side, outdoor dining on Wales Alley, a public right-of-way. We are concerned, however, that the present proposal for the alleyway may impede access to The Strand and the waterfront. We would request that the Planning Commission and its staff in the Department of Planning and Zoning consider methods to ensure the remaining alleyway maximizes access. This may involve reconsidering the dimensions of the proposed dining porch at this site.

The Waterfront Committee would also like to request an update from Department of Planning and Zoning staff on the resolution of access issues before the Special Use Permit is fully adopted by the City. The

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Waterfront Committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. in the Gold Rooms of the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street.

If you should have further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202/365-2927 (mobile) or natemacek@hotmail.com. On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Faroll Hamer, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Richard Baier, PE, Director, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
Barbara Ross, Department of Planning and Zoning
Nancy Williams, Department of Planning and Zoning
Roger Blakeley, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Laura Seidler, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Alexandria Waterfront Committee



City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

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Department of Recreations, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria Virginia 22314



April 22, 2010

James B. Spengler, Director
Alexandria Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs
Lee Center
1108 Lee Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Spengler:

This letter summarizes the current position of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee regarding the facilitation of additional commercial users at the Alexandria City Marina.

At its April 20, 2010 meeting, the Waterfront Committee moved by unanimous vote to recommend that the City decline to serve additional commercial users of the Marina at this time. The Committee notes the following conditions, which prompted this vote:

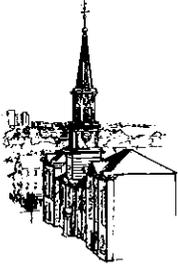
- The Marina cannot presently accommodate additional commercial boats on a full-time basis, as slips are committed through the remainder of the calendar year to existing commercial tenants, pleasure boat lease holders, transient pleasure boats, and non-profit and public service users.
- While additional 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.

If you should have further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202/365-2927 (mobile) or natemacek@hotmail.com. On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Roger Blakeley, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Laura Seidler, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Alexandria Waterfront Committee



City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

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



April 2, 2010

Richard J. Baier, P.E.
Director, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
City of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street, Room 4100
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Baier:

This letter summarizes the position of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee on snow removal from the Alexandria City Marina.

In general, we note that the City has done an excellent job of snow removal at the City Marina during routine snow events (less than 8 inches of snowfall). We also note that the extreme snow events like those experienced during the winter of 2009-2010—during which the City received a cumulative total of more than 50 inches of snow and three separate storms with snowfall of greater than one foot each—are an abnormal occurrence in Alexandria.

As the City plans for future snow emergencies, however, we recommend that the various user groups of the Alexandria City Marina be considered as the City prioritizes snow removal. The Marina and its users are not a monolith, and the snow clearing needs of each of the following user groups should be appropriately prioritized in the following order:

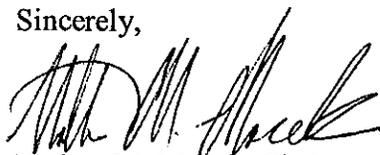
- **Public safety and emergency services**, including emergency access to the general Marina area by firefighters and other first responders and the Alexandria Fire Department's fire boat
- **Commercial and institutional users**, including access to the facilities and vessels of the Potomac River Boat Company, Potomac Belle, and Dandy Restaurant Cruises; the rear entrance of the Torpedo Factory Art Center (the building's only handicapped-accessible entrance); the Alexandria Seaport Center; and the Chart House and Torpedo Factory Food Pavilion.
- **Pleasure boaters**, including access to and along the piers used by lease slip holders
- **Pedestrians and visitors**, including pathways and boardwalks open to the general public

Mr. Richard J. Baier, P.E.
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We trust your discretion in prioritizing the requirements of each of these user groups relative to other snow clearing needs throughout the City.

If you should have further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202/365-2927 (mobile) or natemacek@hotmail.com. On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Macek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
James B. Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Roger Blakeley, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Laura Seidler, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities



City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

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



April 22, 2010

Judy R. Guse-Noritake, Chair
Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission
Lee Center
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. Guse-Noritake:

This letter summarizes the position of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee regarding a proposal to permit watercraft engaged in water transportation to transit the Alexandria Waterfront at speeds greater than 10 knots.

At its April 20, 2010 meeting, the Committee received a presentation on this proposal from Mr. Willem Polak of the Potomac Riverboat Company. Mr. Polak has been requested by the City Manager to solicit feedback from relevant City bodies on this issue.

The Committee understands that current regulations governing the operation of vessels along the Potomac River at Alexandria permit hovercrafts and hydrofoils the ability to travel at speeds greater than 10 knots. However, existing regulations do not extend to modern high-speed watercraft such as catamarans, which are designed to minimize wake at high speeds. In recent years such vessels have been considered to provide a commuter service to Washington, D.C. from Prince William County, Va., as well to facilitate evacuation from the District in the event of an emergency. As the Potomac River waters beyond Alexandria's pierhead line are in the District of Columbia, this policy change would be effected by a regulatory change to existing D.C. Municipal Regulation.

By unanimous vote, the Waterfront Committee moved 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 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. We further urge that this policy change be coupled with education and enforcement

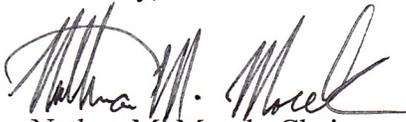
Ms. Judy Guse-Noritake
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campaigns for commercial and pleasure craft users if and when regular high-speed service begins on the rivers.

We urge the Park and Recreation Commission to join the Waterfront Committee in supporting this proposal, and voicing its support to the City Manager and City Council.

If you should have further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202/365-2927 (mobile) or natemacek@hotmail.com. On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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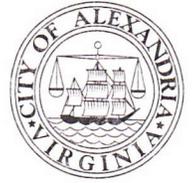
Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
James B. Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Roger Blakeley, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Laura Seidler, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Alexandria Waterfront Committee
Willem Polak, Potomac Riverboat Company



City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia

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Department of Recreations, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria Virginia 22314



April 22, 2010

James K. Hartmann
City Manager
City of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street, Room 3500
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Hartmann:

This message is to request inclusion of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee on the membership of the proposed Old Town Parking Task Force.

At its April 20, 2010 meeting, the Waterfront Committee received a presentation from Mr. Yon Lambert of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services regarding the Old Town Area Parking Study. This study included a comprehensive inventory of existing public parking, its utilization, and recommendations for further action by the City.

The study area is roughly bounded by Princess Street to the north, Wolfe Street to the south, the railroad tracks to the west, and the Potomac Waterfront to the east. Notably, this area includes approximately seven blocks along the city's Potomac River frontage, including such marquee Waterfront attractions as the City Marina, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, the water taxi and other commercial boat services, several restaurants and retailers, Founder's Park, and Waterfront Park. The study area also includes The Strand, certain to be a locus of change along the waterfront following adoption of the City's forthcoming Waterfront Plan.

The Waterfront Committee understands that the next steps for the Old Town Parking Study include implementation of a City Manager-appointed stakeholders group or task force to review such issues as on-street parking rates, extended meter hours, added meters, wayfinding signage, and implementation of an "all may park, all must pay" policy.

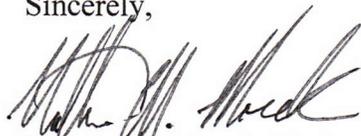
By unanimous vote, the Waterfront Committee moved to request inclusion of a member of the Waterfront Committee on the proposed Old Town Parking Stakeholders Group/Task Force.

Mr. James K. Hartmann
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The purpose of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee is to study and deal with issues relating to private and commercial uses of the waterfront. The Committee believes that advising the City on its management of parking in areas adjacent to the waterfront is squarely within the scope of the Waterfront Committee, and we are eager to provide the perspective of waterfront stakeholders as new parking policies are deliberated. Furthermore, the Waterfront Committee may serve as a representative liaison between the Old Town Parking Stakeholders Group/Task Force and the simultaneous development of the Waterfront Plan, which is being developed with direct citizen input instead of an advisory body.

If you should have further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 202/365-2927 (mobile) or natemacek@hotmail.com. On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Macek, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: Richard Baier, PE, Director, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
Faroll Hamer, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
James B. Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Abi Lerner, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
Yon Lambert, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
Barbara Ross, Department of Planning and Zoning
Nancy Williams, Department of Planning and Zoning
Roger Blakeley, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Laura Seidler, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities
Alexandria Waterfront Committee