

## **Alexandria Waterfront Walk Participant Survey Responses**

This survey was distributed to participants in the Waterfront Committee's annual Waterfront Walk on Wednesday, June 24, 2009. Six survey responses were received online. The unedited survey responses are provided below.

### **1. What do you enjoy most about the Alexandria waterfront?**

- The vistas as I walk along the trail from near my home -- either south to Old Town or north to Daingerfield Island. The water is the great view expander, cools the air, gives us a sense of place. It is good for the soul.
- The view and beauty of the parks, and for me - boating.
- The parts that are most accessible to the river.
- Variety of spaces and buildings adjacent to the water. Foundry Park provides "breathing room" from the density of Old Town
- The combination of parks, trail and restaurants and shops close by.
- Access to the Potomac River

### **2. What would like to see changed about Alexandria's waterfront?**

- Would like continuous access through Old Town, with the ugly buildings that block us from the water removed, and/or at least fences removed to give access to a path. I'd like to see more historical information on signs, and acknowledgement of our past as a real port.
- A more organized and connected system, with historic signs, and more paths and activity.
- More accessibility/views on foot; accessibility for kayaking; more connection to the City's history.
- Continuous access. More wayfinding/informational signage. Redesign of Torpedo Factory food court, preferably to open up access to Foundry Park.
- Cleaner waterfront and appropriate development of empty lots and unused buildings in the vicinity of the Strand. What a wasted treasure.
- More access from the Potomac River for boaters.

### **3. What waterfront issues do you believe need to be addressed by the city in the next one to two years?**

- We need to ensure that the seawall is better maintained, that we allocate enough money for that and to improve the marina, and that we set a timeline for implementation of the Waterfront Plan once it is complete. We should find a way to get rid of the hideous chainlink-fenced parking lot at the Boat Club, and improve signage and access from points other than King Street.
- 1. Better need for security on the docks.
  2. Need for greater protection (boats)from debris on the water
  3. Prefer floating docks given tide fluctuation

4. Improved electrical service.
5. Need pump-out facility for us boaters
6. Need storage facilities
7. Would love to see more bathroom facilities for guests.
8. Need gates to close piers to public at night.

- Implications from sea-level rise projections for Old Town; Purchase of parcels connecting publicly-owned land.
- Improved security measures e.g . adding lighting in certain dark areas. Improve boating slips for small boats. Maximizing vistas. More restrooms. Maintaining seawall. See 2 above.
- See #2 [above].
- Balance of public and commercial access to the waterfront.

**4. How would you like to see the waterfront change over the next five to ten years? Over the next 20 to 30 years or more?**

- Over 5-10 years, develop the Robinson Terminal North site, and create a real plaza/waterfront access node at the foot of King Street Over 20-30 years, complete the waterfront access pathway, work toward elimination of the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station and develop a site plan for those 28 or so acres. Acquire more property in the Strand area to create a functioning tourist attraction area there.
- Be more continuous, organized, more signs, more retail and food choices.
- Less privately-owned land. More acknowledgement of the natural environment and the City's heritage. Adaptation to projected sea-level rise.
- Retain scale. However it should accommodate greater river traffic, more tourists and more persons living in the area. Needs to continue to accommodate sustainability features as indicated in Alexandria's Green Plan and recommendations in LEED-ND manual.
- Preservation of open space, addition of sculpture and art, interpretive signage or docents.
- More integration of public and commercial uses of the waterfront

**5. Are there any questions that you have about the waterfront that we can help you to answer?**

- Why are funds allocated for seawall repairs not being used to actually repair the wall down by Windmill Park, for example?

**6. Do you have any additional comments?**

- It is good that we are looking ahead and making a plan for the waterfront, and encouraging active citizen participation. It would be a shame to complete such a plan, in which so many people will have invested a lot of time and effort, and then not actually move forward to implement it. Unfortunately, this is a tendency that some of the City's planning efforts seem to have had (such as Washington Street Historic District task force).
- Yes. The current marina staff are the best and are a tremendous asset to the city!

- This was the first time I had done the waterfront walk. I found it fascinating from historical, environmental, commercial perspectives.
- City Council should be influenced that we need less talk and more action to improve the waterfront. What happened to the plan of the 80's? We are now involved in yet another study! The 80's plan should've been dusted off, updated by citizen input and staff without more millions involved in another study. This is \$\$ that could've been spent on improvements.

**7. Where do you live?**

- Old Town Alexandria – 4 (66.7%)
- Elsewhere in Alexandria – 1 (16.7%)
- Outside of Alexandria – 1 (16.7%)

**8. Where do you work?**

- Old Town Alexandria – 3 (50.0%)
- Elsewhere in Alexandria – 1 (16.7%)
- Outside of Alexandria – 2 (33.3%)