

MEMORANDUM

To: Tony Gammon, Acting Deputy Director
City of Alexandria, Department of Project Implementation

From: Kevin Van Hise, Project Manager
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Date: February 23, 2015

Subject: Windmill Hill Bulkhead Improvements –Community Meeting #1 – Analysis
Held February 12, 2015 at 6:30 PM at City Hall (Sister Cities Conference Room), City of Alexandria

Overview

Community Meeting #1 was the first in a series of public meetings that will review the options available for bulkhead replacement at Windmill Hill Park. Meeting #1 focused on a review of the concept plan approved by City Council in 2003 and potential shoreline treatment approaches and strategies that have evolved since the approval of the 2003 plan and may be appropriate for Windmill Hill Park. Community Meeting #2 will focus on a review of conceptual plans based on feedback provided in Meeting #1.

Approximately thirty (30) people attended Community Meeting #1. The meeting was organized around a welcome presentation given by City Staff and consultants, polling using keypad devices during the presentation, a brief question and answer session, and interactive display boards. Participants had the opportunity to interact with the team through multiple avenues during and following the presentation.

The results of the keypad polling are attached to this memo as well as photographs of the illustrative boards. With the exception of the consultant team and City staff, all of the attendees were City of Alexandria residents, the majority of whom indicated that they lived within two blocks of the project area.

Question and Answer Summary

Brief notes were kept from the question and answer portion of the meeting. Principle themes that emerged during the session included:

- *Concern for project implementation. Participants expressed a strong desire for the project to move toward construction sooner than later*

- *Concern for debris management. Participants were concerned for the current condition and interested in future designs that would reduce trapped debris (logs, trash, etc.) in the basin*
- *Canoe/kayak access. Comments were made regarding the desire to offer people access for canoeing and kayaking*
- *General access. Comments were made about making sure to accommodate people's desire to walk at the water's edge*
- *Safety. Comments were made about providing a safe environment for all users*
- *Protection/stabilization. Comments were made regarding ensuring that future improvements stabilize the shoreline from future erosion*
- *Treatment of the basin. Comments were made regarding interest to fill the basin or to dredge it to keep water in it at all times or an alternative treatment in an aquatic garden (or similar)*
- *Cost awareness. Participants were attuned to city budget and cost (both initial construction) and ongoing operations and maintenance burden*

Keypad (Electronic) Polling

The raw data collected by the polling devices is attached to this memo. The following is a thematic summary of the responses from meeting participants who elected to use the provided keypad polling devices:

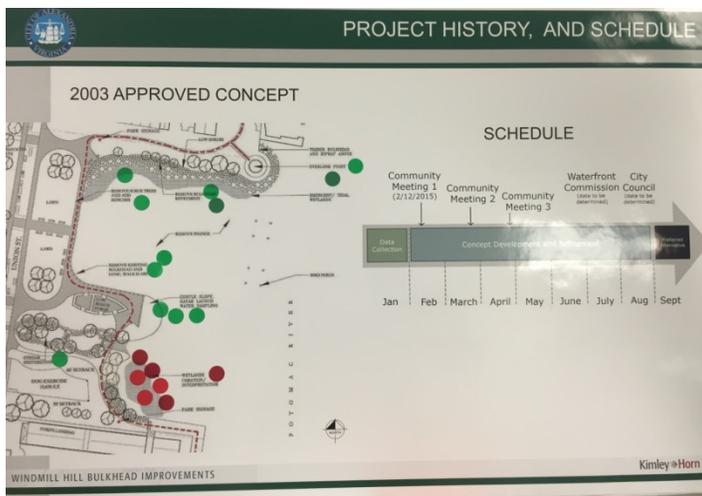
- **Question 1: Where do you live?** *All live in the City of Alexandria*
- **Question 2: How long have you lived at your current residence?** *Most have considerable tenure as residents (generally more than 5 years) of Alexandria*
- **Question 3: How close do you live to Windmill Hill Park?** *Most live within 5 blocks of Windmill Hill Park*
- **Question 4: How familiar are you with the 2003 Windmill Hill Park plan?** *Most were somewhat, to very familiar with the 2003 plan*
- **Question 5: If you are familiar with the 2003 park plan, what did you LIKE most about it?** *Preference was for bulkhead replacement and living shoreline with some, but low interest in water access*
- **Question 6: If you are familiar with the 2003 park plan, what did you most DISLIKE about it?** *Concern was expressed about the living shoreline and water access*
- **Question 7: On average, how often do you visit the park near the water's edge?** *People indicated that they use the waterfront frequently*
- **Question 8: What do you do most when you come to the park near the water's edge?** *People come to the waterfront for both passive (walking/sitting) and active (playing/recreating) reasons*
- **Question 9: What type of shoreline improvement treatment interests you most?** *A simple bulkhead replacement is preferred, but there was interest in living shoreline or a hybrid*
- **Question 10: What do you most value?** *Adequate protection and manageable maintenance (related to debris in particular) were priorities*

Interactive Display Boards

Meeting participants were offered the opportunity to interact with displays using provided red and green stickers. The use of the provided green and red stickers to express preference—green = desirable/interest and red = undesirable/no interest—on the presentation boards was informative. Several observations based on people’s participation are below:

- *Preference was split equally between traditional bulkhead and living shoreline treatments*
- *Less desire was shown for a hybrid shoreline treatment (mixed bulkhead/living shoreline)*
- *Little interest in and desire was indicated for rip rap/armored shoreline treatment*
- *There appeared to be some interest for providing kayak access (this differs from keypad polling where very little interest appeared)*

Shown below: No desire for the southern wetland creation, while some desire was expressed for living shoreline and kayak launch. Little desire was shown for the bulkhead replacement on the board, while some desire for existing bulkhead replacement was indicated during the polling.



Shown below: Bulkhead and living shoreline treatments received the highest level of interest and there was little consensus on which were preferred. Considerably less interest was shown for rip-rap/armored and bulkhead/living shoreline hybrid treatments.

 SHORELINE PREFERENCE ACTIVITY

INSTRUCTIONS
PLACE GREEN DOTS ON THE TREATMENT APPROACHES YOU PREFER, AND RED DOTS ON THOSE THAT YOU DO NOT PREFER.
YOU MAY PLACE AS MANY OF YOUR GIVEN DOTS ON A PICTURE AS YOU LIKE TO INDICATE STRENGTH OF PREFERENCE.
PLEASE DO NOT COVER THE DOTS OF OTHERS.

BULKHEAD	RIP-RAP / ARMORED	LIVING SHORELINE	BULKHEAD/LIVING SHORELINE HYBRID
			
			

WINDMILL HILL BULKHEAD IMPROVEMENTS Kimley»Horn

Session Name
Community_Meeting_1_Input 2-12-2015 7-44 PM

Date Created
2/12/2015 4:58:40 PM

Active Participants
23

Total Participants
23

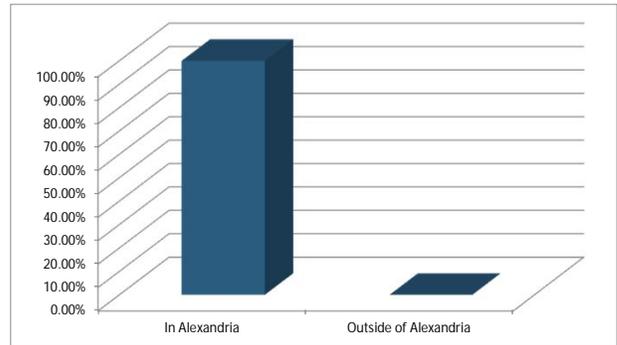
Average Score
0.00%

Questions
10

Results by Question

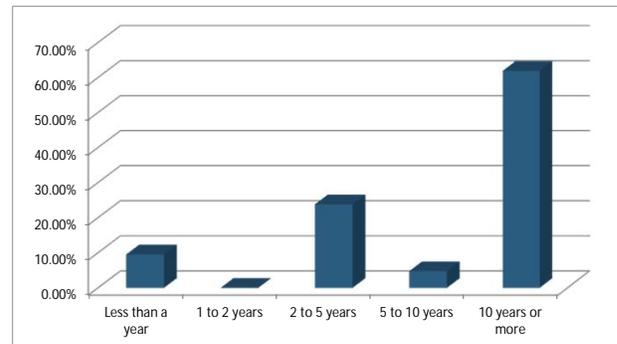
1. Where do you live? (select one)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
In Alexandria	100.00%	18
Outside of Alexandria	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	18



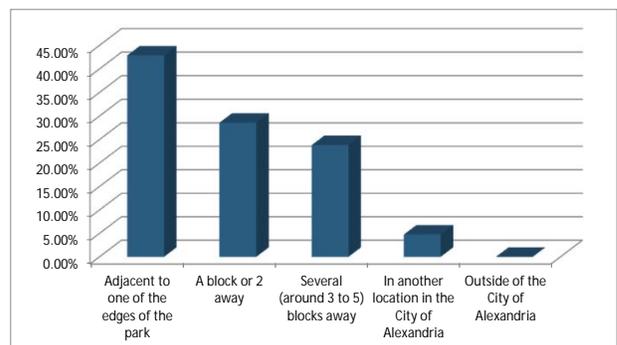
2. How long have you lived at your current residence? (select one)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Less than a year	9.52%	2
1 to 2 years	0.00%	0
2 to 5 years	23.81%	5
5 to 10 years	4.76%	1
10 years or more	61.90%	13
Totals	100%	21



3. How close do you live to Windmill Hill Park? (select one)

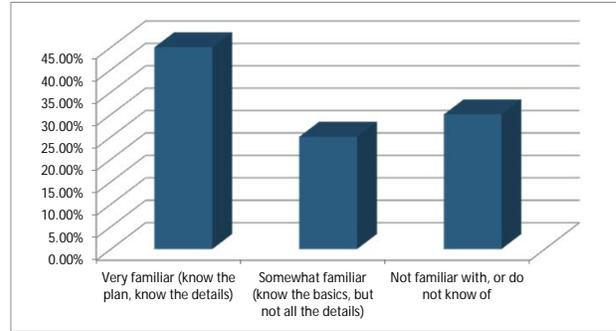
Responses		
	Percent	Count
Adjacent to one of the edges of the park	42.86%	9
A block or 2 away	28.57%	6
Several (around 3 to 5) blocks away	23.81%	5
Other location in the City of Alexandria	4.76%	1
Outside of the City of Alexandria	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	21



4. How familiar are you with the 2003 Windmill Hill Park plan? (select one)

Very familiar (know the plan, know the details)
Somewhat familiar (know the basics, but not all the details)
Not familiar with, or do not know of

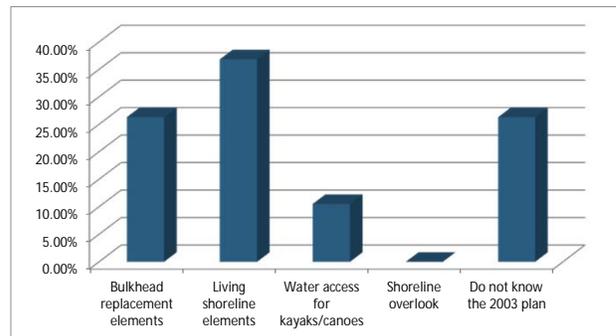
Responses		
	Percent	Count
Very familiar (know the plan, know the details)	45.00%	9
Somewhat familiar (know the basics, but not all the details)	25.00%	5
Not familiar with, or do not know of	30.00%	6
Totals	100%	20



5. If you are familiar with the 2003 park plan, what did you most LIKE about it? (select one)

Bulkhead replacement elements
Living shoreline elements
Water access for kayaks/canoes
Shoreline overlook
Do not know the 2003 plan

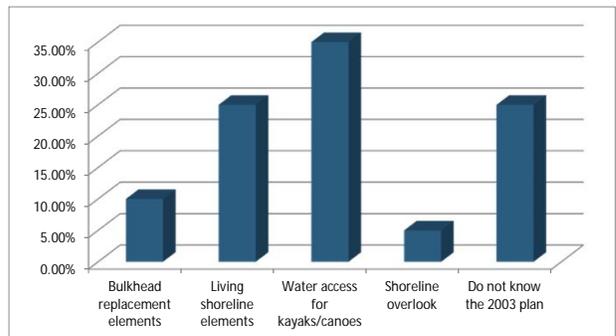
Responses		
	Percent	Count
Bulkhead replacement elements	26.32%	5
Living shoreline elements	36.84%	7
Water access for kayaks/canoes	10.53%	2
Shoreline overlook	0.00%	0
Do not know the 2003 plan	26.32%	5
Totals	100%	19



6. If you are familiar with the 2003 park plan, what did you most DISLIKE about it? (select one)

Bulkhead replacement elements
Living shoreline elements
Water access for kayaks/canoes
Shoreline overlook
Do not know the 2003 plan

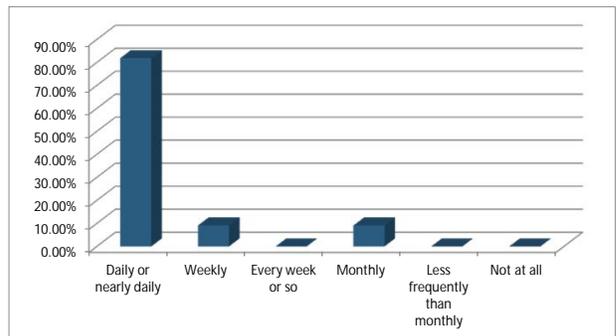
Responses		
	Percent	Count
Bulkhead replacement elements	10.00%	2
Living shoreline elements	25.00%	5
Water access for kayaks/canoes	35.00%	7
Shoreline overlook	5.00%	1
Do not know the 2003 plan	25.00%	5
Totals	100%	20



7. On average, how often do you visit the park near the water's edge?(select one)

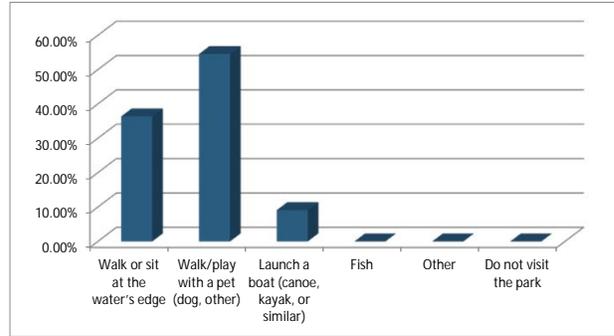
Daily or nearly daily
Weekly
Every week or so
Monthly
Less frequently than monthly
Not at all

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Daily or nearly daily	81.82%	18
Weekly	9.09%	2
Every week or so	0.00%	0
Monthly	9.09%	2
Less frequently than monthly	0.00%	0
Not at all	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	22



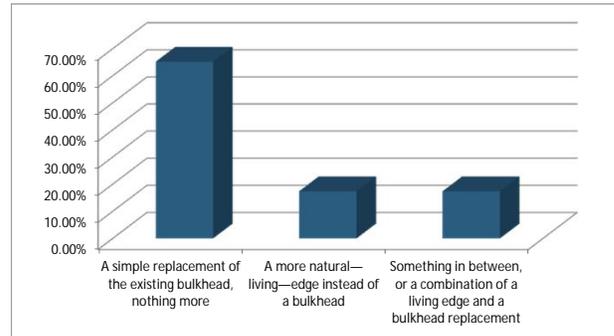
8. What do you do most when you come to the park near the water's edge?(select one)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Walk or sit at the water's edge	36.36%	8
Walk/play with a pet (dog, other)	54.55%	12
Launch a boat (canoe, kayak, or similar)	9.09%	2
Fish	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
Do not visit the park	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	22



9. What type of shoreline improvement treatment interests you most? (select one)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Replace the existing bulkhead, nothing more	65.22%	15
Living—edge instead of a bulkhead	17.39%	4
Living edge and a bulkhead replacement	17.39%	4
Totals	100%	23



10. What do you most value? (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Recreational water access	43.00%	9
Shoreline protection	100.00%	21
Improved water quality	0.00%	0
Improved and/or created new wildlife habitats	48.00%	10
Low project cost	10.00%	2
Low maintenance requirement	100.00%	21
Totals		

