

**City of Alexandria, VA
Waterfront Landscape and Flood Mitigation Design
Community Meeting #5, May 8, 2014
Group Exercise and Responses**

BREAKOUT SESSION EXERCISE: 1 = Agree; 2 = Unsure; 3= Disagree

ALTERNATIVE D - WATERFRONT CORE AREA Questions

- 1. Does Alternative D incorporate the most desirable elements of the previous Alternatives?**
- 2. Does Alternative D retain the appropriate scale and character for Alexandria?**
- 3. Do you like how Alternative D responds to the relocation of the Old Dominion Boat Club?**
- 4. Is there anything that you would like to add or subtract from Alternative D?**

GROUP RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

Group # 1 Responses/Comments

Question #1: Yes.

Question #2: Yes = 1; Unsure = 2.

Question #3: Good solution in terms of design, but expensive.

Question #4:

- More private slips
- More marina activity
- Allow more transient boating locations
- Find a balance between residents and transient boating needs.

Group # 2 Responses/Comments

- Where are the private slipholders' slips?
- Overlook blocks the view
- Move pavilion to SW corner of Fitzgerald Square
- Pavilion could be a heavier structure elsewhere
- Public boat launch needed (trailered boats)
- Skating rink at Market Square
- King Street pier view – good
- More buffer needed between ODBC lot and promenade . . . add green space
- Likes simplicity of promenade
- Gradual development to keep it new

BREAKOUT SESSION EXERCISE: 1 = Agree; 2 = Unsure; 3= Disagree

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GROUP RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS (Continued)

Group #3 Responses/Comments

Question #1: Yes; likes D better than C

- Likes organization along The Strand
- D is better than the Diagonal
- Likes access to the water
- Unclear where visiting boats go – maybe expand the piers
- Likes having more space to/along Torpedo Factory
- Ice skating rink ok in season
- Likes representation of the ferry terminal with viewing platform
- Likes small scale spaces
- Likes raised pavement
- Likes outline of wharves

Question #2: Scale is good

Question #3: Yes

Question #4: Crane to put boats in water

Group #4 Responses/Comments

Concerns:

- Parking for ODBC (see below – response to question #3)
- Seaport Foundation (COA subsidy, Grants, aligned vision)
 - Displacement?

Question#1: Yes; incorporates most desirable elements.

Question #2: Yes; Likes rooms; trees provide visual breaks; water feature is great.

Question #3: Parking not a favorite – as alternative, use existing garage; put some underground; green zone along the promenade; green the parking; park under building at ground level and building above.

Question #4:

- Cupola masks the views; align the Overlook with the pumphouse
- Shade structure blocks the views and is too flimsy
- Add a stage or platform
- Don't replace massing at ODBC existing site (keep historic)
- Likes to the continuous promenade

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GROUP RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS (Continued)

Group #5 Responses/Comments

Question #1:

- Wants the marina to look like a marina. More slips for residents are needed. They add to the character and ambience.
- Wants pedestrian friendly, open feel that allows visitors to locate the water
- Need to be better stewards of current assets.
- Mix of public and private slips needed.
- Questions about buskers
- Concern about commercial boats.

Question #2:

- Does not fit with the historic feel.
- Wants something unique, not like every other place.
- Likes intimates rooms/multiple uses.
- Likes continuity and existing historic design elements.

Group #6 Responses/Comments

Question #1: Yes in general it does incorporate previous features

- Design something reminiscent of the Beachcomber:
- Some added features are better – observatory.
- Need way to mitigate potential debris

Question #2: Not different from Alt. C

- More subdued than expected which is practical.
- Iconic art is important
- Shade screen and observation tower
 - Takes from complete view to river and sky – should be summer only
- Good proportion of green space
- Character – critical to have materials – environmentally friendly and reuse existing materials

Question #3: Perfect Solution

- Opens up Fitzgerald Square

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GROUP RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS (Continued)

Question #4 (Group #6 Continued):

- Debris mitigation in central marina area
- Pop up commercial such as coffee stands, small markets
- Civic building use for boat building shop
- Trolley turn table
- Green roofs - sustainability

Group #7 Responses/Comments

Question #1: Yes

- Fuller realization of the original plan
- Variety of previous activities retained
- Adds parkland to the river

Comments/Suggestions

- Include the provision of restrooms near the King Street pier
- Add wayfinding for arriving guests – featuring information about historic sites in Alexandria and along the water
- Archway – include the archway from the Ferry Building; it is a historic feature
- Figure out motorcoach and trolleys
- Flood lines – include flood lines to ensure this will be durable
- Design has a bit of a hard edge – needs more greenery
- Civic building – questions remain on square footage and its use (s) (Will be addressed in next phase)
- 2 Duke Street may be an opportunity to explore for a museum, SF, art, etc.
- Call out the Seaport Foundation
- Waterfront Park
 - What happened to the stage off Waterfront Park?
 - Can more slips be added? Concern about loss of leased slips.
- What are next steps relative programming?
- Make sure there is adequate infrastructure to support activities
- Extend attention to ambience up King Street for consistency
- Look from river is important – need to add a view from there

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GROUP RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS (Continued)

Question #2 – Yes (Group #7 Continued)

- Likes that the design follows the street grid
- Likes small spaces
- More viewshed needed from Union to the river
- Ice skating rink is aligned with the character – helps to activate the area in winter and it is an important activity for families
- Ice skating rink – opposed to it

Question #3 – Yes

- Ask the boat club if they agree
- ODBC has agreed with their acceptance of the offer