



Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

September 16, 2014

Mayor William D. Euille
 Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg
 Councilman John Taylor Chapman
 Councilman Timothy B. Lovain
 Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
 Councilman Paul C. Smedberg
 Councilman Justin M. Wilson

Re: Pleasure Boat Slips/Marina

Honorable Mayor and members of City Council,

The City Council, during a public hearing in June 2014, approved the Phase I Landscape and Flood Mitigation Design in furtherance of the Waterfront Small Area Plan (WSAP). During the public hearing, the issue of keeping pleasure boats as a vital and integral part of the Old Town waterfront was raised and Council directed City Staff to work with the Waterfront Commission to determine the feasibility of including pleasure boat slips/marina in the WSAP. The Waterfront Commission tasked the Marina Subcommittee to identify potential locations for recreation boat slips that would provide for at least as many recreational slips as now exist at the city marina. The current WSAP, although providing the potential of increased docking locations, also represents a significant reduction in the number of publicly managed docking opportunities.

With the landmark agreement between the City of Alexandria and the Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) and the consolidation of commercial activity in the northern half of the City Marina, public accessible docking locations are reduced to fewer than 15 slips from the existing 60 plus. The Waterfront Commission recognizes that should the Old Dominion Boat Club exercise its riparian right to build two piers at the location of the relocated club, returning 26 slips to City management, a significant reduction in the total number of slips available to the public remains. Additionally, should the ODBC not build at their new location the ODBC will receive title to the City's A/B dock further reducing the number of slips available for recreational use.

The Marina Committee, working with City staff, initially identified sixteen Federal, City and privately owned locations on the waterfront, where piers could be constructed from Jones Point Park to Marina Towers. The Marina Committee considered several factors including distance from the King Street business district, available parking, pier vulnerability from debris, environmental concerns, consistency with other approved plans and settlement agreements, economic benefit to the city at large, ease of management and cost of preparing and constructing a suitable site, in its evaluation of these locations. As a result of the Committee's discussions and evaluation of potential locations, it appears the best location to maintain the current number of

public slips is from the Robinson North terminal to and including the Robinson South terminal, including the current City Marina.

The Waterfront Commission is requesting that City Council reaffirm its commitment to seek to maintain an active publicly accessible recreational boat marina and direct staff to complete the planned feasibility study to support the Council's commitment by the end of Fiscal Year 2015. The study should identify potential locations, select and identify criteria by which the locations are evaluated, and make recommendations. This will allow the findings to be incorporated in the planned Phase II of the Waterfront Plan implementation design process. The Waterfront Commission stands ready to work with staff as they develop the study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlotte", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Charlotte Hall, Chair
Alexandria Waterfront Commission

cc: Stephen Thayer, Chair, Marina Committee
Waterfront Commission members
James Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Emily Baker, Director, Department of Program Implementation
Karl Moritz, Acting Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Jack Browand, Division Chief, Staff Liaison to the Waterfront Commission