

Gloria Sitton

14
9-12-20

From: Jay Long <jr.longfellow@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Cc: Mark McHugh; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]DSUP2019-00033: 9/01/20 Planning Commission

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker,

Thank you for your response, it is very much appreciated.

Our concern is two-fold, first, this project is unique in that it was city-owned first, allowing certain requirements to be part of this project. One of those requirements was parking. Since this council has admitted in the past that there is a limited supply of publicly-owned property, the idea of shedding these parcels without anything coming back to the public in terms of permanent construction seems counterproductive, especially in such a prime and central location. If the city represented the public fully, some kind of cultural co-op could have been a worthy goal to strive for. A public-private partnership to create an amazing public art enhancement was available here, and was not even considered.

And what you say is completely true, the Alexandria Art Alliance believes that Galena Capital Partners donating to the art fund is a positive. However, any private development that already had private control of this land, well... this would be a normal procedure, so the act of donating to the art fund isn't special, just required. The overarching issue here is the city could have and should have included public art enhancements, something that is meaningful to Old Town, as part of this project. The lack of any support from the city in this regard was of dire concern to many art organizations and advocates in this area and still remains so.

Art funds are important, but actual "real" public art is still lacking throughout the entire Old Town area sans the waterfront. The council has a chance to change that now, especially in a political climate where we can highlight and bolster the cultural history of Alexandria, focusing on our African-American roots and ties, to name one of many worthy themes and goals. There are so many options, and plenty of space, and obviously with this project still requesting special accommodations in the past several weeks and days, there seems to be plenty of flexibility as well. Besides profit per sq/ft, what is the reasoning to not enrich this community? In my due diligence, I cannot answer this question, but I think the council and developers should.

Secondly, I appreciate you mentioning that they are "planning" public art contributions, but I do not think that what they are proposing at this moment should count as "public". If you notice, all of their art features will be located in private areas. The one concept they've submitted is to be placed in an alleyway dedicated to their own private entrance with no other outlet. I believe that while it's always a worthy goal to add art elements for their own residents and their own commercial elements, there is no benefit to the public. I don't doubt that some will appreciate this gesture, but what good is art if there are built-in limitations to its access? While technically "public", I don't doubt the consumption of this art will end up mostly private. (In addition, if any art is implemented for this project, it should be under a local art call so that only local Alexandria artists may be commissioned.)

We truly believe that in terms of public art, the city and this project have fallen short in this specific regard. I would point to the example of the new project on the northside of Old Town: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/08/26/art-themed-condo-building-alexandria-va-near-amazons-hq2-open-2021/>

As you can see, comparing these two projects, while the impacts and size differ, the core concept remains the same. The project I shared with you has recognized how significant art is to the community. This GCP project simply has not.

In full disclosure, I want to be clear that along with being a board member for the Alexandria Art Alliance and a member of the 2020 Visit Alexandria Nominating Committee, I also serve as director of Kyo Gallery, a business that is owned by Monica Malreoh. I have advocated for her interests as a representative previously on other matters, separate from this one. I would like to add that while she has reserved time to speak at today's hearing, her submitted and final letter on this matter to the council shall stand for her official statement, as this additional communication shall stand as an official statement by myself as representative of the AAA. If you have any additional and separate communications for the Alexandria Art Alliance, please reach out any time to myself or Melinda Kernc, President.

I request that you add this response to the public record, staff report for this project, and that it be shared with your esteemed fellow councilmembers for today's hearing.

Best Regards,
Jason Longfellow
Treasurer, Alexandria Art Alliance

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 7:50 PM Elizabeth Bennett-Parker <elizabeth.bennettparker@alexandriava.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Longfellow,

Thanks for your email. 116 S Henry Street requires a public art contribution or on-site public art (at a minimum value of \$19,901). 912-920 King Street requires a public art contribution or on-site public art (at a minimum value of \$9,992). My understanding of our art policy is that applicants are able to choose as to whether to make a contribution or to do on-site art and we can not force them to do it on-site. That being said, my understanding is that the applicant is currently pursuing on-site art at both locations.

Warmly,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Vice Mayor

City of Alexandria

Aide: Cassidy Ketchem

Cassidy.ketchem@alexandriava.gov

571.414.1627

From: Jay Long <jr.longfellow@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:35 AM

To: PCZoning <PCZoning@alexandriava.gov>; plancomm@alexandria.gov

Cc: Mark McHugh <mark.mchugh@alexandriava.gov>; Diane Ruggiero <diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov>; Elizabeth Bennett-Parker <elizabeth.bennettparker@alexandriava.gov>; Stephanie Sample <Stephanie.Sample@alexandriava.gov>; Catherine Miliaras <Catherine.Miliaras@alexandriava.gov>; Lia Niebauer <lia.niebauer@alexandriava.gov>; Matthew Harwood <matthew.harwood@alexandriava.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]DSUP2019-00033: 9/01/20 Planning Commission

My name is Jason Longfellow, and as a board member of the Alexandria Art Alliance, I am submitting a letter for your review written by myself and the Alliance to advocate to the Planning and Zoning Commission for art features and elements to be implemented in new developmental efforts, with a current focus on the city/private partnership referred to as DSUP2019-00033 and DSUP2019-00032.

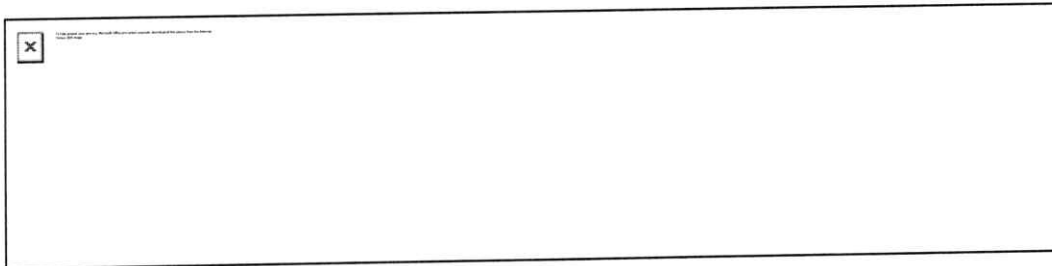
Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Jason Longfellow

Treasurer, Alexandria Art Alliance

DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.
DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.



14
9-12-20

Gloria Sitton

From: Noe T Landini <noe@noelandini.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 10:15 AM
To: Gloria Sitton; Charlotte Hall; Justin Wilson; Mark Jinks
Cc: swbabin@neighborhoodrestaurantgroup.com; Jason Yates; Chad Sparrow; Niamh O'Donovan; Wali Zadran; Cyrus Coleman; Herbert Rosenblum; Murray Bonitt
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Old Town - Landini Comments - Outdoor Freedoms
Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers,

Cc Mark Jinks

Good morning,

I was not aware or planning on submitting comments for today live discussion the night before. That would not have occurred to me and does not make sense given the nature of this type of forum. This is a city council meeting and I should be able to raise my concerns while council is in session. I am very disappointed that I cannot speak to council and share my concerns about the proposed new RULES.

We as a business community have worked so hard to get to this point as restaurants and small business have been devastated. Folks are finally getting comfortable and we as a community have done so well at getting people to visit our wonderful city as well as residents to come out of their homes. Part of the attraction of coming to Old Town and the lower end of King or the neighborhood streets of Del Ray is that people finally get an opportunity in their day to be NORMAL. I don't speak for my constituents on this emails but I'm asking you, please don't take that away from them. Don't take away anymore of our freedoms. Please don't make it harder on local business than it already is.

At this point, people should be able to make decisions for themselves and unless we are at this point, (arbitrarily) manipulating people's freedoms beyond our ability to actually help them. Business owners and their clients alike are tired of it. The beauty of being a free country is being able to make decisions about how we want to live our lives. Those who feel uncomfortable walking down the street are entitled to feeling uncomfortable however they do NOT speak for the vast majority of us.

Creating more rules and an even broader framework that further restricts our ability to do business by creating an environment where patrons can enjoy themselves will impact our businesses negatively.

As this relates to the constructive development and an overall design of a Covid and post Covid future environment particularly the lower end of King, laying out more restrictions and rules will ultimately impact my ability to decide how we as a company are able to move forward with outdoor dining.

Respectfully,

Noe Landini
Managing Director & CEO

REX Management LLC
REXMGT.COM
115 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
571-238-7613 (direct)



DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.
DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.

184
9-12-20

Gloria Sitton

From: Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 9:58 PM
To: Gloria Sitton
Subject: After-Items for DSUP2019-00033: 9/01/20 Planning Commission

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Gloria,

I wanted to make sure you had seen this email and that it would be possible for it to be added to the after-items?

Thanks,
Elizabeth

From: Jay Long <jr.longfellow@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Elizabeth Bennett-Parker <elizabeth.bennettparker@alexandriava.gov>
Cc: Mark McHugh <mark.mchugh@alexandriava.gov>; Gloria Sitton <Gloria.Sitton@alexandriava.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]DSUP2019-00033: 9/01/20 Planning Commission

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker,

Thank you for your response, it is very much appreciated.

Our concern is two-fold, first, this project is unique in that it was city-owned first, allowing certain requirements to be part of this project. One of those requirements was parking. Since this council has admitted in the past that there is a limited supply of publicly-owned property, the idea of shedding these parcels without anything coming back to the public in terms of permanent construction seems counterproductive, especially in such a prime and central location. If the city represented the public fully, some kind of cultural co-op could have been a worthy goal to strive for. A public-private partnership to create an amazing public art enhancement was available here, and was not even considered.

And what you say is completely true, the Alexandria Art Alliance believes that Galena Capital Partners donating to the art fund is a positive. However, any private development that already had private control of this land, well... this would be a normal procedure, so the act of donating to the art fund isn't special, just required. The overarching issue here is the city could have and should have included public art enhancements, something that is meaningful to Old Town, as part of this project. The lack of any support from the city in this regard was of dire concern to many art organizations and advocates in this area and still remains so.

Art funds are important, but actual "real" public art is still lacking throughout the entire Old Town area sans the waterfront. The council has a chance to change that now, especially in a political climate where we can highlight and bolster the cultural history of Alexandria, focusing on our African-American roots and ties, to name one of many worthy themes and goals. There are so many options, and plenty of space, and obviously with this project still requesting special accommodations in the past several weeks and days, there seems to be plenty of flexibility as well. Besides profit per sq/ft, what is the reasoning to not enrich this community? In my due diligence, I cannot answer this question, but I think the council and developers should.

Secondly, I appreciate you mentioning that they are "planning" public art contributions, but I do not think that what they are proposing at this moment should count as "public". If you notice, all of their art features will be located in private areas. The one concept they've submitted is to be placed in an alleyway dedicated to their own private entrance with no other outlet. I believe that while it's always a worthy goal to add art elements for their own residents and their own commercial elements, there is no benefit to the public. I don't doubt that some will appreciate this gesture, but what good is art if there are built-in limitations to its access? While technically "public", I don't doubt the consumption of this art will end up mostly private. (In addition, if any art is implemented for this project, it should be under a local art call so that only local Alexandria artists may be commissioned.)

We truly believe that in terms of public art, the city and this project have fallen short in this specific regard. I would point to the example of the new project on the northside of Old Town: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/08/26/art-themed-condo-building-alexandria-va-near-amazons-hq2-open-2021/>

As you can see, comparing these two projects, while the impacts and size differ, the core concept remains the same. The project I shared with you has recognized how significant art is to the community. This GCP project simply has not.

In full disclosure, I want to be clear that along with being a board member for the Alexandria Art Alliance and a member of the 2020 Visit Alexandria Nominating Committee, I also serve as director of Kyo Gallery, a business that is owned by Monica Malreoh. I have advocated for her interests as a representative previously on other matters, separate from this one. I would like to add that while she has reserved time to speak at today's hearing, her submitted and final letter on this matter to the council shall stand for her official statement, as this additional communication shall stand as an official statement by myself as representative of the AAA. If you have any additional and separate communications for the Alexandria Art Alliance, please reach out any time to myself or Melinda Kernc, President.

I request that you add this response to the public record, staff report for this project, and that it be shared with your esteemed fellow councilmembers for today's hearing.

Best Regards,
Jason Longfellow
Treasurer, Alexandria Art Alliance

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 7:50 PM Elizabeth Bennett-Parker <elizabeth.bennettparker@alexandriava.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Longfellow,

Thanks for your email. 116 S Henry Street requires a public art contribution or on-site public art (at a minimum value of \$19,901). 912-920 King Street requires a public art contribution or on-site public art (at a minimum value of \$9,992). My understanding of our art policy is that applicants are able to choose as to whether to make a contribution or to do on-site art and we can not force them to do it on-site. That being said, my understanding is that the applicant is currently pursuing on-site art at both locations.

Warmly,

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Bennett-Parker

Vice Mayor

City of Alexandria

Aide: Cassidy Ketchem

Cassidy.ketchem@alexandriava.gov

571.414.1627

From: Jay Long <jr.longfellow@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:35 AM

To: PCZoning <PCZoning@alexandriava.gov>; plancomm@alexandria.gov

Cc: Mark McHugh <mark.mchugh@alexandriava.gov>; Diane Ruggiero <diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov>; Elizabeth Bennett-Parker <elizabeth.bennettparker@alexandriava.gov>; Stephanie Sample <Stephanie.Sample@alexandriava.gov>; Catherine Miliaras <Catherine.Miliaras@alexandriava.gov>; Lia Niebauer <lia.niebauer@alexandriava.gov>; Matthew Harwood <matthew.harwood@alexandriava.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]DSUP2019-00033: 9/01/20 Planning Commission

My name is Jason Longfellow, and as a board member of the Alexandria Art Alliance, I am submitting a letter for your review written by myself and the Alliance to advocate to the Planning and Zoning Commission for art features and elements to be implemented in new developmental efforts, with a current focus on the city/private partnership referred to as DSUP2019-00033 and DSUP2019-00032.

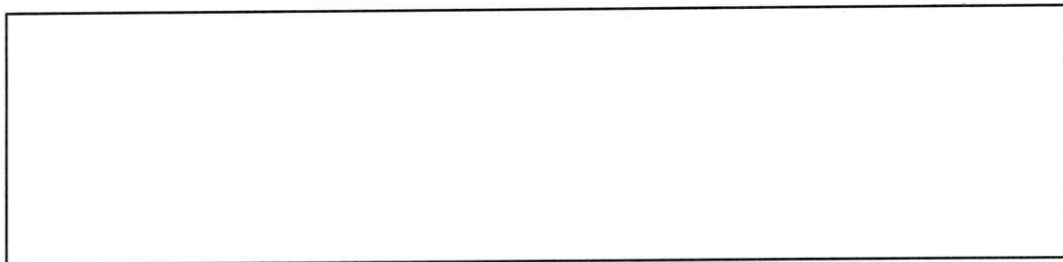
Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Jason Longfellow

Treasurer, Alexandria Art Alliance

DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.
DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.



Gloria Sitton

14
9-12-20

From: website <noreply@surveygizmo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Gloria Sitton
Subject: [EXTERNAL]City Council speaker's form submission received

Meeting Date: 09/12/2020
Docket Item# 14

Speaker's Name: Mary Catherine Gibbs
Phone #: 7038351922
Email: mcgibbs@wiregill.com
Address: 700 N. Fairfax St., Suite 600

Representing self? No
If representing other:

Position on the item: For

Nature of interest: Attorney

Are you being compensated? Yes

DISCLAIMER: This message was sent from outside the City of Alexandria email system.
DO NOT CLICK any links or download attachments unless the contents are from a trusted source.