

*City of Alexandria, Virginia***MEMORANDUM**

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2000 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of the FY 2000 Annual Report from the Alexandria Waterfront Committee (Attachment).

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council receive the Annual Report from the Alexandria Waterfront Committee and thank the Committee for its efforts on behalf of the City.

DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Waterfront Committee is a 15-member advisory body created by City Council on April 25, 1989¹. The purpose of the Committee is to advise City Council, the City Manager, and appropriate City departments on matters pertaining to the use of the Alexandria waterfront by commercial and private vessels.

The Alexandria Waterfront committee has prepared a report which highlights the principal activities of the Committee during FY 2000 (July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000) and the Committee's planned future efforts. The following are highlights of the Committee's accomplishments during this period:

1. In an effort to provide information to City Council and make recommendations concerning the City's recreational needs, the Alexandria Waterfront Committee:
 - recommended that one citizen representative who resides East of Washington Street and North of Pendleton Street be added to the Waterfront Committee to reflect the population growth in the north end of Old Town, which City Council approved, with a citizen from this area being appointed in February 2000;

¹The establishment of the Waterfront Committee was based on a recommendation from the Alexandria Waterfront Task Force, appointed by City Council on June 29, 1988, to study commercial uses of the waterfront.

- recommended to City Council that the City reduce the personnel property tax rate on boats from \$4.75 per \$100 assessed value of \$0.1 per \$100 of assessed value for pleasure boats. This rate was approved by City Council effective with the 2000 tax year. The tax rate for commercial vessels remained unchanged; and
 - supported the Park and Recreation Commission's work on issues pertaining to dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks, and recommended that dogs should not be allowed to be unleashed in Founders Park.
2. In an effort to improve the waterfront area, the Waterfront Committee:
- continued to monitor the City's efforts to improve the decking at the City Marina;
 - continued to support its recommendation to remove the pilings from the Old Town Yacht Basin, and to make necessary improvements at the waterfront and at the City Marina; and
 - unanimously recommended that the full north-south walkway along the City's waterfront be named the "Alexandria Waterfront Walk," and that the walkway between the Ford's Landing development and the Potomac River be named the "Ford's Landing City Park."

ATTACHMENT: FY 2000 Annual Report for the Alexandria Waterfront Committee

STAFF: Sandra Whitmore, Director
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director
Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

**ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
2000 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 1999 - JUNE 30, 2000**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Alexandria Waterfront Committee is an advisory body to the City Council and to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. It was established by City Council on April 25, 1989 on the recommendation of the Alexandria Waterfront Task Force, which was appointed by City Council on June 29, 1988, to study commercial uses of the waterfront.

The function of the Committee is to advise City Council, the City Manager and appropriate City departments on matters pertaining to the use of the Alexandria Waterfront by commercial and private vessels.

The Alexandria Waterfront Committee meets every month between September and June. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman. The Committee's meetings are public, and notification of meetings is circulated to newspapers by the City's Citizen Assistance Office.

II. LIST OF MEMBERS

The Alexandria Waterfront Committee is composed of 15 members. Each member represents a particular neighborhood, community or City committee.

MEMBERS SERVING DURING FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000:

Council Member Lois L. Walker (Council Liaison)
James Dorsch - Chairman - North of King Street, East of Washington Street
Ross Bell - Environmental Policy Commission
Stafford Farmer-Lee - Pleasure Boat Lease Holder
James Boatner - Chamber of Commerce (resigned 3/00)
Kenneth Foran - Park and Recreation Commission
David Guy - East of Washington Street, South of King Street (term expired 5/00)
Charlotte Hall - Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association
Myra Halpin - At-large Citizen Representative
Charles Hamel - Founders Park Community Association
William Kuehnle - Old Town Civic Association
Miriam MacDonald - East of Washington Street, South of King Street (appointed 5/00)
James McIlhenny - Alexandria Seaport Foundation
Pete Peterson - Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Robert Roland - East of Washington Street, North of Pendleton Street (appointed 2/00)
Martin Zorn - Chamber of Commerce (appointed 5/00)
Vacant - Old Town Business Association

CITY STAFF:

Sandra Whitmore, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Buffie Brownstein, Landscape Architect - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
(Retired 12/99)
Jack Browand, Recreation Supervisor III - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Al Cox, Urban Planner II - Planning and Zoning

III. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee were involved in the following activities during FY 1999-2000:

1. The Committee recommended to City Council that due to the population growth in the North end of Old Town, with a number of new residential developments and several citizen associations in this area, the Waterfront Committee add one additional citizen representative who resides East of Washington Street and North of Pendelton Street to the Committee. City Council approved the recommendation and a citizen was appointed to the Committee in February 2000.
2. The Committee continued to monitor the City's efforts to improve the decking at the Alexandria City Marina. The City of Alexandria plans to replace the decking at the City Marina after the 2000 tourist season. In addition to new decking, the City Marina will be fitted with a fire suppression system.
3. The Committee continued to support its recommendation to remove the pilings from the Old Town Yacht Basin, and to make necessary improvements at the waterfront and at the City Marina.
4. The Committee unanimously recommended that the full north-south walkway along the City's Waterfront be named the "Alexandria Waterfront Walk", and that the walkway between the Ford's Landing development and the Potomac River be named the "Ford's Landing City Park."
5. The Committee supported and recommended to City Council that the City revise and reduce the personal property tax rate on boats from \$4.75 per \$100 value to \$.01 per \$100 value for pleasure boats. This tax rate was approved by City Council and will take affect in the 2000 tax year. The tax rate for commercial vessels remained unchanged. The lower tax rate was initiated to keep pleasure boats in the City Marina year round.
6. The Committee supported the Park and Recreation Commission's work on issues pertaining to dog exercise areas and fenced dog parks. The Committee made a recommendation on not allowing dogs to be unleashed in Founders Park.

FUTURE EFFORTS

The Waterfront Committee continues to cooperate with the Park and Recreation Commission to study and make recommendations about future uses of the waterfront. The Committee will also continue to make recommendations on improving the City's waterfront and monitor the status of waterfront properties in the effort of creating a continuous walking path along the City's waterfront. In addition, the committee continues to look at providing a safe environment for boaters, citizens and visitors to Alexandria's waterfront.