

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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10-8-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2002 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of the FY 2002 Annual Report from the Alexandria Waterfront Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council receive the FY 2002 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, 1989. 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 2002 (July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002) and the Committee's planned future efforts.

ATTACHMENT: FY 2002 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
2002 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2001 - JUNE 30, 2002**

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 based on the recommendation of the Alexandria Waterfront Task Force, which was appointed by 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 Chairperson. The Committee's meetings are public, and notification of meetings is circulated to newspapers by the City's Office of Citizen Assistance.

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 2000-2001:

Councilwoman Claire Eberwein (Council Liaison)
Charlotte Hall - Chairperson - Old Town Business Association (appointed 9/01)
Charlotte Hall - Chairperson - Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association (term expired 9/01)
James McIlhenny - Vice-Chairperson - Alexandria Seaport Foundation
Andrew Palmieri - North of King Street, East of Washington Street
Ross Bell - Environmental Policy Commission
Stafford Farmer-Lee - Pleasure Boat Leaseholder
Kenneth Foran - Park and Recreation Commission
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
Pete Peterson - Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Robert Roland - East of Washington Street, North of Pendleton Street
Robert Taylor - Chamber of Commerce - (resigned 2/02)

III. CITY STAFF

Sandra Whitmore, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Fay E. Heath, Dockmaster, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

IV. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee were involved in the following activities during FY 2001-2002.

1. On June 6, 2001, City Council approved a set of principles and factors for use as guidance in the Windmill Hill Park design process, and adopted a resolution that authorized the City Manager and the Mayor to appoint an eleven member ad hoc steering committee on Windmill Hill Park, including a representative from the Waterfront Committee, to work with staff and the design consultant to recommend a design plan for Windmill Hill Park.

The Ad Hoc Steering Committee began work in July, 2001. Over the next seven months, the Steering Committee met six times and the Waterfront Committee was represented at each of these meetings. In January 2002, the Steering Committee finalized a concept plan for Windmill Hill Park.

City Council held a work session on the Windmill Hill Park plan on April 9, 2002, and considered the plan at its meeting on May 28, 2002. After considerable discussion, City Council adopted the concept plan for Windmill Hill Park as recommended by the Steering Committee with changes to the location of the volleyball court and dog exercise area.

2. The Committee worked with staff to coordinate waterfront improvements including bulkhead improvements, improvements to the pier at the City Marina including a fire suppression system, replacement of dolphins adjacent to the City Marina, replacement of the decking, and improvements to the corner at the Old Dominion Boat Club and the Torpedo Factory.
3. The Committee continued to work with staff to improve signage along the Alexandria Waterfront.
4. The Committee worked with staff to support events such as the Third Annual Parade of Lights on the Waterfront, First Night, the Red Cross Waterfront Festival, the Parade of Boats, and the City's Annual Birthday Celebration.

FUTURE EFFORTS

The Waterfront Committee will continue to monitor progress on Windmill Hill Park and will continue to work with staff, and the Park and Recreation Commission on this project. In addition, the Committee will continue to cooperate with the Park and Recreation Commission to study and make recommendations about future uses of the waterfront. The Committee will continue to make recommendations on improving the City's waterfront and monitor the status of waterfront properties in an effort to create a continuous walking path along the City's waterfront. The Committee will also continue to work with staff on the Open Space Study and the Needs Assessment. In addition, the committee will continue to ensure that the City provides a safe, clean and attractive environment for boaters, citizens, and visitors to Alexandria's waterfront.