

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 23, 2003
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*
SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

ISSUE: City Council consideration of the FY 2003 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.

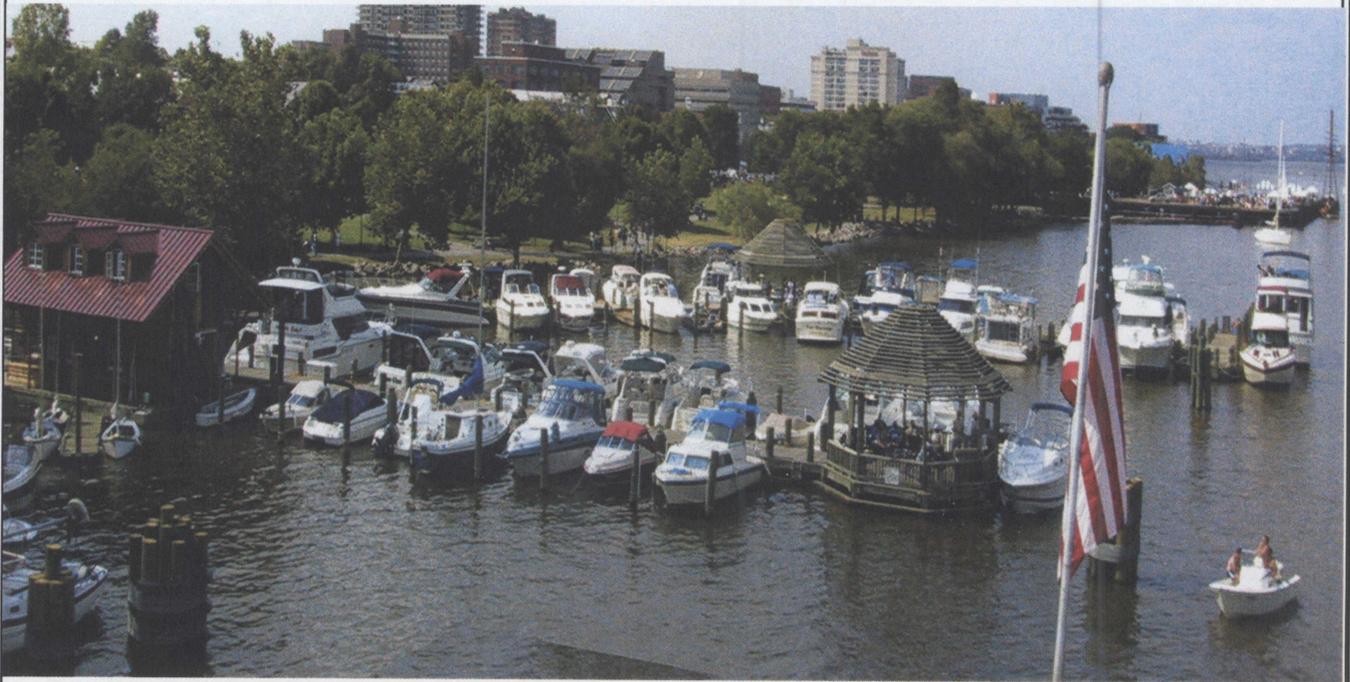
DISCUSSION: The Alexandria Waterfront Committee is an advisory body to the City Council and to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. It was established by City Council on April 25, 1989, based on the recommendation of the Alexandria Waterfront Task Force, which was appointed by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

The Alexandria Waterfront Committee has prepared a report that highlights the principal activities of the Committee during FY 2003 (July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003) and the Committee's planned future efforts.

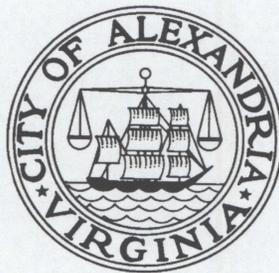
ATTACHMENT: FY 2003 Annual Report for the Alexandria Waterfront Committee.

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

City of Alexandria Waterfront Committee



**FY 2003 Annual Report
July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003**



**ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
2003 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2003**

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 study issues relating to the Alexandria Waterfront, and to make recommendations to City Council, the City Manager, and appropriate City departments.

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 2002-2003:

Councilwoman, Claire Eberwein, Council Liaison
Charlotte Hall, Chairperson - Old Town Business Association
Kent Barnekov - Chamber of Commerce
Wout Coster - Pleasure Boat Lease Holders
Kenneth Foran - Park and Recreation Commission
Myra Halpin - Citizen-At-Large
Charles Hamel - Founders Park Community Association
Lorraine Lloyd - Alexandria Conventions and Visitors Association
James McIlhenny - Alexandria Seaport Foundation
David Olinger - East of Washington Street, South of King Street
Andrew Palmieri - East of Washington Street, North of King Street
Pete Peterson - Alexandria Archaeological Commission
Susan Pettey - Old Town Civic Association
Robert Roland - East of Washington Street, North of Pendelton Street
Adam Wilson - Environmental Policy Commission

III. CITY STAFF

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

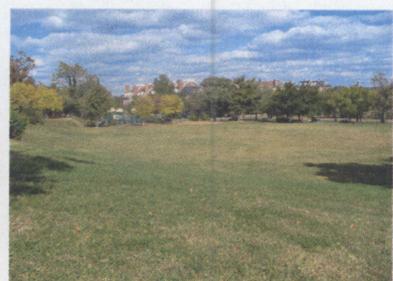
IV. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee were involved in the following activities during FY 2002-2003:

- A. The Committee worked with City staff to ensure that repairs and improvements at the City Marina remained on schedule and would be completed before the summer season. Repairs and improvements at the marina included the installation of a fire suppression system and deck replacement. Pressure-treated decking material was replaced with Trex Board, a wood and plastic composite material.



- B. The Committee continued to work with City staff on the concept plan for the redevelopment of Windmill Hill Park. City Council continued to review the plan, and staff reported that the dog park and volleyball court will remain in the plan, but there will not be a north entry to the water, for dogs, as initially proposed.



- C. The Committee worked with City staff to address growing concerns regarding animal control. The Police Department has begun training new officers on animal control regulations, and will identify, with Animal Control, the concerns of the Committee regarding problems associated with dog park rules and commercial dog walkers.

- D. The Committee worked with City staff and representatives from the D.C. Harbor Police to ensure enforcement of the No Wake Zone on the Potomac River. Lt. John Maloney, D.C. Harbor Police representative, received concerns from the Committee, including issues of raising fines for boaters violating the No Wake Zones and the need for better signs identifying speed limits and No Wake Zones. A letter to Lt. Alfred Durham, Harbor Master, Harbor Patrol, Metropolitan Police Department, was sent requesting Harbor Patrol's assistance in enforcing the speed limits in the No Wakes Zones.
- E. The Committee reviewed the City's Open Space Plan, and some members participated in public meetings regarding obtaining open space. Members recommended creating and maintaining open space along the City's waterfront.
- F. The Committee worked with City staff in identifying and developing an approach to remedy the increasing rodent problems along the City's waterfront. It was determined that approximately \$12,000 to \$14,000 per month is spent in baiting, and that the increase in rodent activity can be attributed to the 2002 drought, and the construction and demolition associated with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project.
- G. In June 2003, the Waterfront Committee held its annual waterfront walk. The walk began at Fords Landing and headed north to Rivergate Park. In addition, the Committee recognized and thanked Ken Foran for his years of service to the Committee, and for initiating the annual waterfront walk. Mr. Foran resigned his position on the Committee to join the City of Alexandria School Board.

V. 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. In addition, the Committee will continue to cooperate with the Park and Recreation Commission, and the Environmental Policy Commission to study and recommend future uses of the waterfront. The Committee will continue to make recommendations on improving the City's waterfront and to 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 development of open space 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.