

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 3, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MICHELE EVANS, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER *me*

SUBJECT: RECEIPT OF THE FY 2004 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of the FY 2004 Annual Report from the Alexandria Waterfront Committee (Attachment).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That 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 2004 (July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004) and the Committee's planned future efforts.

**ATTACHMENT:** FY 2004 Annual Report for the Alexandria Waterfront Committee

**STAFF:**

Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Janet Barnett, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

**City of Alexandria**  
**Waterfront Committee**

**FY 2004 Annual Report**

**July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004**



**ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE  
2004 ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004**

**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 and posted on the City's website.

**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 2003-2004:**

Councilman, Andrew Macdonald, Council Liaison  
Andrew Palmieri, Chair - East of Washington Street, North of King Street  
Engin Artemel - East of Washington Street, North of Pendelton Street (Appointed 2/2004)  
Kent Barnekov - Chamber of Commerce  
Henry Brooks - Park and Recreation Commission  
Wout Coster - Pleasure Boat Lease Holders  
Charlotte Hall - Old Town Business Association  
Myra Halpin - Citizen-At-Large  
Charles Hamel - Founders Park Community Association  
Lorraine Lloyd - Alexandria Convention and Visitors' Association  
James McIlhenny - Alexandria Seaport Foundation  
David Olinger - East of Washington Street, South of King Street  
Pete Peterson - Alexandria Archaeological Commission  
Susan Pettey - Old Town Civic Association  
Robert Roland - East of Washington Street, North of Pendelton Street (Term Expired 2/2004)  
Adam Wilson - Environmental Policy Commission

### III. CITY STAFF

Kirk Kincannon, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Sandra Whitmore, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (Retired 3/2004)  
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Fay E. Heath, Dock Master - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

The Committee thanks Charlotte Hall who served as Chairperson from September 2002 - September 2004. Her leadership and guidance are appreciated by the Committee.

### IV. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee were involved in the following activities during FY 2003-2004:

- A. As a result of Hurricane Isabel in September 2003, a portion of the City Marina's decking, and water and electrical systems were severely damaged. The Department of General Services submitted a preliminary damage cost assessment of approximately \$600,000 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City was ready to begin work on the repairs, but could not begin until FEMA approved the funding. The Waterfront Committee worked with staff, the City Manager and City Council in monitoring the progress of FEMA's response to our request for funding for the repairs.
- B. The Waterfront Committee unanimously endorsed the recommendations of the Open Space Committee chaired by Judy Guse-Noritake and Eric Wagner. The Committee recognized the many demands facing the City, and the economic issues in obtaining the parcels in question, but the Committee believed that the City would benefit dramatically from a well conceived plan for the acquisition, development and preservation of these sites.
- C. The Committee was briefed on the City's waterfront including its history, the 1982 Waterfront Plan and current proposed plans that will shape the waterfront.

Eric Wagner, Chair of the Planning Commission, provided an overview of the current proposed plans for the City's waterfront. Pam Cressey, City Archaeologist, provided a history of the City's waterfront. Engin Artemal, former Director of Planning and Community Development, outlined the current waterfront plan, which was adopted in 1982. The plan resulted from a joint effort by the City, and Federal Departments of Justice and the Interior. The plan specified that the land along the river was suitable for open space, recreation, and public access. Ellen Pickering provided a recent historical summary of the evolution of Waterfront Plans to the plan presently in effect.

In 2004, City Council scheduled future waterfront planning to begin in 2005, and noted that a task force will be created that will allow for input on the plan from

community based meetings, and interactions with City staff and consultants. The task force is expected to study and discuss the City's Open Space Plan and how it relates to the City's waterfront, the City's relationship with the National Park Service and position on dealing with the Federal Court System, and revisiting the 1982 Master Plan.

- D. The Committee continued to express its concerns regarding security along the City's waterfront. Several incidents of vandalism were reported in Founders Park and other areas along the waterfront. The Committee urged the Alexandria Police Department to increase patrols along the waterfront, and requested that General Services enhance existing security during the night.
- E. The Committee continued to work with City staff on the redevelopment of Windmill Hill Park. Although funding for significant changes in the park will not be available until Fiscal Year 2007, staff discussed interim fixes such as improvements in landscaping and walkways until full funding is available.
- F. In June 2004, the Waterfront Committee held its annual waterfront walk. The walk began at Fords Landing and headed north to Rivergate Park. In addition, the Waterfront Committee organized a joint river cruise of the Alexandria waterfront with the Planning Commission, Open Space Committee, and Park and Recreation Commission as a means of identifying areas of concern for future planning.

## **V. FUTURE EFFORTS**

The Waterfront Committee will continue to monitor the repair status of the City Marina and urge City Council to take action to institute and complete repairs by the Spring of 2005 to avoid adverse economic and aesthetic impact for a second tourist season.

The Waterfront Committee will continue to monitor progress on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement project, Windmill Hill Park and continue to work with staff, and the Park and Recreation Commission. In addition, the Committee will continue to actively participate with the Park and Recreation Commission, and the Environmental Policy Commission to study and recommend future use of the waterfront. The Committee will also continue to work with staff and the Open Space Committee on the development and acquisition of open space along the City's waterfront. 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.

Because of the Committee's concerns about waterfront security, it will form a subcommittee to study security along the waterfront to ascertain whether there has been a rise in criminal activity in this area and to recommend abatement measures to City staff and to City Council.

The Committee will continue to welcome citizens to its meetings, which are held at 7:30 a.m. on third Tuesday of each month at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street. More than 20

citizens attended the monthly meetings, and provided important input to the Committee during the past year.