

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 23, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A STAKEHOLDERS PANEL FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON THE HUNTING CREEK AREA PLAN

ISSUE: Establishment of a Stakeholders Panel to keep the community informed and solicit ideas on the Hunting Creek Area Plan implementation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council direct the City Manager to establish a Stakeholders Panel for the dissemination of information and solicitation of a broad range of comments and ideas regarding a proposal to amend the Hunting Creek Plan to increase height in exchange for an "extraordinary" affordable housing contribution.

DISCUSSION: At its June 13, 2006 legislative meeting, City Council asked staff to return with a proposal for establishment of a Stakeholders Panel for the dissemination of information to the community and to solicit input on the Hunting Creek Area Plan implementation. The Stakeholders Panel would help to ensure that the public is kept informed during the process of evaluating a proposal to amend the Hunting Creek Area Plan to permit increased height for a project providing extraordinary affordable housing.

In addition to the on-going Planning Commission work sessions on this topic, the Stakeholders Panel will provide a forum for identifying the full range of community issues including provision of "extraordinary" affordable housing, protection of the historic character for the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the Old & Historic District. The Council requested that all segments of the community be informed of these issues and provided numerous opportunities for input prior to any text amendment to the Hunting Creek Area Plan

A very public process that includes extensive involvement with the Planning Commission and the public was outlined and endorsed by the Council. That process included:

- Initial conceptual review of any plans or proposals by City staff.
- Extensive community outreach and involvement for input on proposals.
- The initial Planning Commission work session to be held in September 2006.

- Involvement of key stakeholders, including Hunting Towers and Hunting Terrace residents, throughout the process.

The following is the recommended makeup of the Stakeholders Panel. It should include one or more representatives from each of the following groups or organizations:

- Residents of the Hunting Towers and Hunting Terrace projects
- The Porto Vecchio Association
- Civic associations in the south Old Town area – Yates Gardens Civic, Old Town Civic, Old Town Hunting Creek Civic Associations
- Citizens at large
- Historic preservation interests
- Affordable housing interests
- The National Park Service.

There are additional civic and special interest organizations and individuals who will be interested in participating in the process. The groups listed below should be kept informed throughout the process, so that they are aware of upcoming meetings and matters being discussed. Asterisks identify organizations represented on the Hunting Creek Area Plan Advisory Group that assisted in the preparation of the Hunting Creek Area Plan.

Core community and civic associations in and near the planning area

Groups in the Hunting Creek Area Plan planning area:

Hunting Towers and Hunting Terrace residents*
 Porto Vecchio Association*

Civic associations in south Old Town:

Old Town Civic Association*
 Old Town South Civic Association
 Southwest Quadrant Civic Association*
 Old Town Hunting Creek Civic Association

Other civic and homeowner associations including condominium associations near the planning area:

Yates Garden Citizens Association
 Old Town Village Condo Association
 Old Town Village Homeowners

Special Interest Organizations

Affordable Housing

Alexandria Housing Development Corporation
 Housing Action
 Rebuilding Together Alexandria

Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) Board of Directors
Habitat for Humanity

Historic Preservation
Historic Alexandria Foundation

General Interest Civic Organizations
League of Women Voters
Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations

Boards and Commissions

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee*
Old and Historic Alexandria District Board of Architectural Review*
Waterfront Committee
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission
Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission
Environmental Policy Commission

*Represented on Hunting Creek Area Plan Advisory Group

These groups will be kept up to date on a continuing basis and informed of all community meetings and Planning Commission work sessions.

The planning effort will also include the City's full development team including P&Z, Housing, T&ES, Code, Recreation and Parks, Historic Alexandria, and the City Attorney.

We look forward to working with these groups on this important issue that presents a great opportunity, but also a great challenge for the City.

STAFF:

Eileen P. Fogarty, Director, Planning and Zoning
Pat Mann, Neighborhood Planning