

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 22, 2007
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 
SUBJECT: THE FY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

ISSUE: The FY 2006 Annual Report from the Alexandria Waterfront Committee (Attachment).

RECOMMENDATION: 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 2006 (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006) and the Committee's planned future efforts.

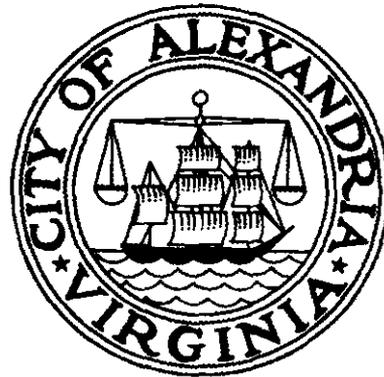
The Committee has reviewed the waterfront safety and security issues, worked with staff on redevelopment of Windmill Hill Park, participated in the Godspeed 400th Jamestown Anniversary planning, and held its annual waterfront walk. The Committee plans to participate in the City's Waterfront planning effort and the flood mitigation project.

ATTACHMENT: FY 2006 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 2006 Annual Report
July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006



**ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
FY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2005 - JUNE 30, 2006**

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. The Chairperson may call special meetings. 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.

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 FY 2006:

Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, Council Liaison
Susan Pettey, Chair - Old Town Civic Association, Representative
Engin Artemel - Citizen, East of Washington St., North of Pendelton St.
Jay Atkinson - Citizen, East of Washington St., North of King St.
Kent Barnekov - Chamber of Commerce, Representative
Henry Brooks - Park and Recreation Commission, Representative
Joshua Dickinson - Environmental Policy Commission, Representative
Doug Gosnell - Pleasure Boat Lease Holder, Representative
Charlotte Hall - Old Town Business Association, Representative
Charles Hamel - Founders Park Community Association, Representative
Joanne Mitchell - ACVA, Representative
David Olinger - Citizen, East of Washington St., South of King St.
Pete Peterson - Alexandria Archaeological Commission, Representative
John Sullivan - Citizen-at-Large Residing East of Washington St.
Curtis Wagner - Seaport Foundation, Representative
Vacant - Citizen, East of Washington St., North of Pendelton St.

CITY STAFF

Kirk Kincannon, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee were involved in the following activities during FY 2006:

- The Committee continued to express its support for continued security along the waterfront. At the City Marina, the Department of General Services coordinates overnight security, seven days a week.
- The Committee worked with City staff in identifying and drafting recommendations regarding improving safety along the City's waterfront. One recommendation is to provide additional life rings along the waterfront, particularly at Windmill Hill Park, and the posting of signs to warn visitors and improve safety. Staff will look into the feasibility of incorporating additional life rings and safety signage as part of the on-going renovations of Windmill Hill Park. In addition, as part of the Committee's recommendations, staff provide first aid packages at the City Marina, and will consider the acquisition of a defibrillator in the future.
- The Committee continued to work with City staff to ensure the booms at the City Marina remained in good condition. The booms at Founder's Park were replaced in August 2005, and the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services regularly inspects and replaces the booms as necessary.
- The Committee continued to monitor the National Park Service's study and plans regarding the redevelopment of Jones Point Park. The Committee will respond to the findings presented by the National Park Service.
- The Committee participated in a "brainstorming session" of its members and the public to determine the direction and to guide the Committee in its efforts. The exercise identified what the participants felt about "The favorite features of the waterfront," "What would you like to see more of along the waterfront," and "What you would like to see changed along the waterfront." Results from the session are available at the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.
- 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.
- A member of the Committee served on the *Godspeed* 400th Jamestown Anniversary Committee Citizen Committee. The Citizen Committee was

responsible for coordinating and served as a liaison between the City and the sponsors of the *Godspeed* event. Through their efforts, the Citizen Committee assisted with volunteer recruitment; made recommendations on the scope of the event, and ensured the impact of an eight-day event was manageable. The *Godspeed* 400th Jamestown Anniversary event was held in part in Founder's Park, the City Marina and Waterfront Park from May 27 to June 3, 2006.

- In June 2006, the Waterfront Committee held its annual waterfront walk. The walk began at Fords Landing and headed north to Canal Center. Committee members expressed their compliments to City staff regarding improved conditions in parks along the City's waterfront, in particular, Founders and Waterfront Park's restoration efforts following the eight-day *Godspeed* Jamestown Anniversary event.

FUTURE EFFORTS

The Waterfront Committee will continue to monitor progress on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement project and Windmill Hill Park, and continue to work with staff. In addition, the Committee will continue to actively participate in the flood mitigation study and the waterfront plan. 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.

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