

Bill Harvey Comments at Open Microphone Session on Alexandria's Waterfront Plan, March 12, 2011

Good morning Mr. Mayor and members of the Alexandria City Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak about my impressions of the recently-released Alexandria Waterfront Plan. My name is Bill Harvey, and I am a City resident. Before moving to Alexandria, I spent 28 plus years as a military member of the Army Corps of Engineers where I worked in high-level positions. I am a graduate Civil Engineer and also a licensed professional engineer. I know a lot about waterways and in-the-river projects. My last Civil Works position in the Corps was Vice President for Civil Works for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts that included the Potomac River.

Viewing the planned waterfront improvements from the Potomac River, I see an economic development driven Plan that is not tied to the history of Old Town Alexandria, but to any town on the water, USA, that has marinas, hotels, and restaurants. My hope is that the City actually wants, and not just rhetoric, to capitalize on the connection between the Waterfront and historic Old Town.

Alexandria does not have a protected waterfront as do most other water recreation and economic developments. That is why we do not have industrial or recreational facilities into the run-of-the-River and why Alexandria's seaport status waned with the advent of larger cargo ships.

The draft Plan "sticks" things out into the run of the River to create more extensive, economic-driven uses. This strategy exposes these new facilities to flood-related flotsam and jetsam collection and damage; ice jams; high currents; locations near the shipping channel and potential for collision damage; high flotsam and jetsam collection in the facilities; and potentially significant environmental impacts. The proposed marina off the South Robinson Terminal is a good example. Of course, the City can do what is proposed in this Plan, but design, construction and operations and maintenance costs will be higher than the current Plan assumes, due to the issues I just mentioned.

Most waterfront projects are located where they take advantage of the natural "order" of the waterway. I see very little of that logic used in

selecting the Waterfront Plan structures in the River. That is one of the reasons you do not have realistic design, construction and operations and maintenance costs. The cost estimates for the Plan's water structures assume a lower capital cost, but will result in higher maintenance costs. If you build appropriate structures, facilities costs will drive up usage fees to the general public -- the group that the City's Plan purports to support! The foregoing characteristics and resulting environmental impacts will be used by the Corps and other agencies in considering requests for permits to build the Waterfront Plan facilities in the River -- permits that may not be granted for the current Plan.

A scaled down Plan with significantly less "speculative necessity" is needed to reduce current risks. I understand the need for a Plan to control future development, but it should not be an unrealistic Plan that would be developed "at any cost!" An initially smaller, less ambitious Plan could be the foundation for a larger, future Plan that is more informed on needed amendments to the 1983 Agreements; realistic and less costly landowner considerations; and Old Towners vision for the Waterfront. Necessary permits from Federal and other agencies may require significant changes to the current Plan anyway.

Spoke

(2)

SPEAKER'S FORM

DOCKET ITEM NO. 2

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND GIVE IT TO THE CITY CLERK
BEFORE YOU SPEAK ON A DOCKET ITEM.

PLEASE ANNOUNCE THE INFORMATION SPECIFIED BELOW PRIOR TO SPEAKING.

1. NAME: Bill Harvey
2. ADDRESS: 2151 Jamieson Ave, Unit 1809, Alexandria 22314
TELEPHONE NO. 703-566-0650 E-MAIL: wiharvey@comcast.net
3. WHOM DO YOU REPRESENT, IF OTHER THAN YOURSELF?
N/A
4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ITEM?
Other Waterfront Plan
5. NATURE OF YOUR INTEREST IN ITEM (PROPERTY OWNER, ATTORNEY,
LOBBYIST, CIVIC INTEREST, ETC.):
civic interest
6. ARE YOU RECEIVING COMPENSATION FOR THIS APPEARANCE BEFORE
COUNCIL?
No

This form shall be kept as a part of the permanent record in those instances where financial interest or compensation is indicated by the speaker.

A maximum of three minutes will be allowed for your presentation, except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard on a docket item shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation. If you have a prepared statement, please leave a copy with the Clerk.

Additional time not to exceed 15 minutes may be obtained with the consent of the majority of the council present; provided notice requesting additional time with reasons stated is filed with the City Clerk in writing before 5:00 p.m. of the day preceding the meeting.

The public normally may speak on docket items only at public hearing meetings, and not at regular legislative meetings. Public hearing meetings are usually held on the Saturday following the second Tuesday in each month; regular legislative meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month. The rule with respect to when a person may speak to a docket item at a legislative meeting can be waived by a majority vote of council members present but such a waiver is not normal practice. When a speaker is recognized, the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply. If an item is docketed *for public hearing* at a regular legislative meeting, the public may speak to that item, and the rules of procedures for speakers at public hearing meetings shall apply.

In addition, the public may speak on matters which are not on the docket during the Public Discussion Period at public hearing meetings. The mayor may grant permission to a person, who is unable to participate in public discussion at a public hearing meeting for medical, religious, family emergency or other similarly substantial reasons, to speak at a regular legislative meeting. When such permission is granted, the rules of procedures for public discussion at public hearing meetings shall apply.

Guidelines for the Public Discussion Period

- (a) All speaker request forms for the public discussion period must be submitted by the time the item is called by the city clerk.**
- (b) No speaker will be allowed more than three minutes; except that one officer or other designated member speaking on behalf of each *bona fide* neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association desiring to be heard during the public discussion period shall be allowed five minutes. In order to obtain five minutes, you must identify yourself as a designated speaker, and identify the neighborhood civic association or unit owners' association you represent, at the start of your presentation.**
- (c) If more speakers are signed up than would be allotted for in 30 minutes, the mayor will organize speaker requests by subject or position, and allocated appropriate times, trying to ensure that speakers on unrelated subjects will also be allowed to speak during the 30 minuet public discussion period.**
- (d) If speakers seeking to address council on the same subject cannot agree on a particular order or method that they would like the speakers to be called on, the speakers shall be called in the chronological order of their request forms' submission.**
- (e) Any speakers not called during the public discussion period will have the option to speak at the conclusion of the meeting, after all docketed items have been heard.**