

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 7, 2002  
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*  
SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2001 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE

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**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of the FY 2001 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 a 15-member advisory body created by City Council on April 25, 1989. The purpose of the Committee is to advise City Council, the City Manager, and appropriate City departments on matters pertaining to the use of the Alexandria waterfront by commercial and private vessels.

The Alexandria Waterfront Committee has prepared a report which highlights the principal activities of the Committee during FY 2001 (July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001) and the Committee's planned future efforts (Attachment).

**ATTACHMENT:** FY 2001 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

**ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMITTEE  
2001 ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2000 - JUNE 30, 2001**

**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 advise City Council, the City Manager, and appropriate City departments on matters pertaining to the use of the Alexandria Waterfront by commercial and private vessels.

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. Notices of meetings are also mailed to anyone requesting them. Currently, 34 citizens receive meeting notices in addition to the committee members.

**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 2000-2001:**

Councilwoman Claire Eberwein (Council Liaison) (appointed 7/00)  
Charlotte Hall - Chairperson - Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association  
James McIlhenny - Vice-Chairperson - Alexandria Seaport Foundation  
James Dorsch - North of King Street, East of Washington Street (resigned 10/00)  
Andrew Palmieri - North of King Street, East of Washington Street (appointed 11/00)  
Ross Bell - Environmental Policy Commission  
Stafford Farmer-Lee - Pleasure Boat Leaseholder  
Kenneth Foran - Park and Recreation Commission  
Myra Halpin - At-large Citizen Representative  
Charles Hamel - Founders Park Community Association  
William Kuehnle - Old Town Civic Association  
Miriam MacDonald - East of Washington Street, South of King Street  
Pete Peterson - Alexandria Archaeological Commission  
Robert Roland - East of Washington Street, North of Pendleton Street  
Vacant - Old Town Business Association  
Martin Zorn - Chamber of Commerce - (resigned 6/00)  
Robert Taylor - Chamber of Commerce - (appointed 6/00)

### **III. CITY STAFF**

Sandra Whitmore, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director - 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 2000-2001.

1. The Committee worked with staff on the planning process and design components for Windmill Hill Park. The Committee participated in public meetings that were held on May 1 and May 10, and a City Council work session that was held on June 6, to discuss plans for Windmill Hill Park. On June 26, 2001, City Council adopted a resolution that authorized the City Manager and the Mayor to appoint an eleven member ad hoc steering committee on Windmill Hill Park, including a representative from the Waterfront Committee, to work with staff and the design consultant to recommend a design plan for Windmill Hill Park.
2. The Committee worked with staff to develop a plan for improving the pedestrian signs along the waterfront. The plan that was developed will provide 54 attractive pedestrian signs on existing poles and lights along the waterfront.
3. The Committee continued to work with staff and the Park and Recreation Commission to manage and enforce dog exercise areas and fenced parks along the waterfront. On September 27, 2000, City Council approved the Park and Recreation Commission's Master Plan for Dog Exercise Areas. The Waterfront Committee reviewed this plan and provided input to ensure that dog exercise areas along the waterfront are properly managed.
4. The Committee developed a waterfront security plan for the fall and winter that included additional police coverage in the evening, the replacement of lights, and the addition of signs informing individuals on the proper use of life ring boxes that have been added at the City Marina.
5. The Committee recommended a change in the Docking Operations Plan to split one of the existing commercial boat slips, which is located at the landing in front of the Chart House, into two slips to enable two commercial enterprises to utilize this space and to improve the financial viability of the City Marina. This action, which increased the total number of commercial boat slips from six to seven, was approved by City Council on November 14, 2000.

6. The Committee continued to work with staff to ensure the proper use of the waterfront and the enforcement of high maintenance standards for private and commercial boat operators. These efforts included regular trash removal and cleaning of the City Marina, police patrols of the waterfront area, and restrictions on the use of marina restrooms by passengers of commercial vessels. As a result, the high standards associated with the cleanliness and attractiveness of the waterfront and the City Marina have been maintained.
7. The Committee continued to work with staff to plan renovations for the waterfront to include improved decking at the City Marina, a fire suppression system at the City Marina and dredging.
8. The Committee worked with staff to support events such as the Parade of Lights on the Waterfront, the Red Cross Waterfront Festival, and the City's Annual Birthday Celebration.

### **FUTURE EFFORTS**

The Waterfront Committee continues to cooperate with the Park and Recreation Commission to study and make recommendations about future uses of the waterfront. The Committee will also continue to make recommendations on improving the City's waterfront and monitor the status of waterfront properties in an effort to create a continuous walking path along the City's waterfront. In addition, the committee will continue to ensure that the City provides a safe environment for boaters, citizens, and visitors to Alexandria's waterfront.