


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 21, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 81 : WINDMILL HILL PARK WATERFRONT REPAIRS

This memo is in response to Councilman Macdonald's questions regarding repairs at Windmill Hill Park (Attachment 1).

The funding dates for the major improvements planned in the proposed FY 2005 to FY 2010 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) at Windmill Hill Park, including the bulkhead, are in FY 2007 and FY 2008. No major improvements prior to these dates have been planned. As we approach FY 2006, staff will investigate grant possibilities for the site. The project costs are currently estimated at \$3.0 million dollars based on the Approved Concept Plan, with \$2.0 million of the funding associated with bulkhead improvements. In the Proposed CIP, \$2 million in City funds have been planned for the Windmill Hill Parks Project with \$1 million in grant funding targeted.

As part of the City Council's approval of the proposed revisions to the Windmill Hill Park Concept Plan, \$126,295 was transferred from Contingent Reserves and combined with \$52,783 in funds identified for this project within the Recreation Department's operating budget for a total of \$179,078 in minor improvements.

The proposed Revisions to the Windmill Hill Park Concept Plan, approved at the April 12, 2003, City Council meeting, included the relocation of the basketball court to enable the sidewalk along Gibbon Street to be extended from Lee to Union Street. Any changes to this Concept Plan would require Council approval. Improvements approved at that April 2003 City Council meeting included the volleyball court relocation and sidewalk realignment (along Union) from the tunnel to Gibbon Street, which was completed in November of 2002 (FY 2003), and the asphalt removal from the waterfront area, completed in June of 2003. Also approved was renovation of the Gibbon Street stormwater outfall and the installation of plantings (scheduled for late this summer) and site furnishings between the waterfront and Union Street (expected to be installed in mid-June).

Plans for the basketball relocation and sidewalk extension were developed, but work has been delayed pending the determination that the plans are in conformance with the new Chesapeake Bay regulations. This determination has now been made that the plans are in conformance, and they are currently out to bid, with a closing date of April 23rd. The bid targets a May 17th start date.

The Transportation and Environmental Services Department (T&ES) is currently undertaking the Tanyard Ditch Combined Sewer Partial Separation Project in which the Gibbon Street outfall will be reconstructed. As part of that project, the dead wood, fallen trees, and invasive species will be removed in the outfall area. This project will go out for bid soon with construction anticipated to begin in the fall. Minor restoration of the outfall, as described above, will be completed at that time.

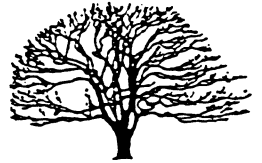
In response to a letter from Councilman Macdonald dated August 4, 2003, staff met with the interested parties adjacent to Windmill Hill Park, including Old Town Civic Association, Harborside and Ford's Landing to review the proposed alignment of the basketball court. At that meeting a consensus was achieved that the court would only move 10 feet to the north, to preserve the existing open quality of the park area. It was noted at the meeting that, after the work on the basketball court and sidewalk extension is completed, there are no additional funds available for improvements at Windmill Hill Park until FY 2007 when the CIP funds become available.

Attachment



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

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Tree City USA

Andrew H. Macdonald, Ph.D.
Councilman

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MEMO

March 8, 2004

TO: Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager

From: Councilman Andrew H. Macdonald

CC: Hon. Mayor and Members of Council
Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)
Waterfront Alliance
Director, Parks and Recreation Dept.

RE: Budget Memo #4--- Windmill Hill Park Waterfront Repairs

The Windmill Hill Park Task Force recommended that the old waterfront marina and some adjacent shoreline along South Union Street be substantially improved in order to make this park more attractive to wildlife and people, and safer. I would like the most essential repairs – the bulkhead, wetland, etc.—to be completed as soon as possible. Please provide an estimate of the price tag, possible sources of funding within the existing budget and a time-table for completing these tasks.

I would also strongly encourage the Parks and Recreation Department to look again at the plan to build a sidewalk beside the basketball court along Gibbon St. The current plan will mean that we lose open space. I see no absolutely no reason for this to happen. This issue needs to be more carefully examined before any money is spent.