


City of Alexandria, Virginia

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5-13-08

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 8, 2007

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: REPORT FROM THE CITY COUNCIL'S NAMING COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSAL TO NAME THE DUKE STREET BRIDGE NEAR THE BEATLEY LIBRARY IN HONOR OF THE LATE RICHARD B. LIEBACH AND SETTING THE REPORT FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2008.

ISSUE: Consideration of Report from the City Council's Naming Committee on the Proposal to Name the Duke Street Bridge Near the Beatley Library in Honor of the Late Richard B. Liebach and Setting the Report for Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That City Council:

- (1) Receive this report;
- (2) Set the report for public hearing on Tuesday, May 20; and
- (3) Following the public hearing approve the recommendation of the Naming Committee to name the Duke Street Bridge near the Beatley Library the Richard B. Leibach Bridge in honor of the late long-time member and former vice chairman of the Alexandria Planning Commission Richard B. Liebach.

DISCUSSION: Former vice chairman of the Alexandria Planning Commission Richard B. Liebach, who died on February 19, 2007, served the City of Alexandria and its Planning Commission for nearly 20 years. His initial appointment to the Planning Commission was on January 27, 1987. He was elected as vice chairman in 2001 and served until 2005; deciding not to seek another appointment at the end of 2006. Mr. Liebach was an important contributor to the development and implementation of Alexandria's open space plans and had a long standing interest in and commitment to affordable housing. On February 5, 2008, the Planning Commission requested that the bridge be named after Mr. Leibach to recognize his outstanding service to the City.

On March 26, 2008 the City Naming Committee which includes Vice Mayor Del Pepper, Council Member Tim Lovain, and City Manager Jim Hartmann met to discuss naming options. The Committee recommends that the bridge over Duke Street near the Beatley Library be named the Richard B. Leibach Bridge. The bridge is located not far from Mr. Leibach's residence and connects to Ben Brenman Park.

In order to obtain public input on this naming of the bridge, I recommend that Council set the proposal to name the Duke Street Bridge near the Beatley Library in honor of the late Richard B. Leibach for public hearing on Tuesday, May 20. Following the public hearing, the Naming Committee recommends that Council name the bridge the Richard B. Leibach Bridge.

ATTACHMENTS: Information on Richard B. Leibach

STAFF: Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2008

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR WILLIAM D. EUILLE AND MEMBERS OF
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: ERIC WAGNER, CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMISSION *EW*

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO NAMING COMMITTEE FOR RICHARD LEIBACH

I am requesting that the City's Naming Committee explore naming an appropriate landmark or other prominent feature of Alexandria's landscape in honor of Rich Leibach. As you know, Rich served with distinction as a Planning Commission member for nearly 20 years, during which time he championed open space and affordable housing. He lived in the West End of the City. It would be a fitting tribute to Rich and those who knew him to consider naming the pedestrian bridge in Ben Brenman Park or other similar feature in his name. Thanks for your consideration and assistance.

cc: Faroll Hamer
Rich Josephson

Richard Leibach Dies

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE-PACKET

Richard Leibach, long-time member and former vice chairman of the Alexandria Planning Commission, died unexpectedly Monday at his home. His body was discovered Tuesday, Feb. 20, by his wife Karen upon her return from a cruise during which they had kept in touch by e-mail "as we always did," she said.

"He had suffered from a number of illnesses over the past several years," she said. Leibach's initial appointment to the commission was on January 27, 1987. He was

elected by his colleagues to be vice chairman in 2001 and served in that position until 2005 when he nominated his successor John Komoroske to fulfill that role on the Commission. He decided not to seek another appointment at the end of 2006.

At his final meeting — January 4, 2007 — Leibach was honored with a proclamation from Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille for his 20 years of "outstanding service to the City of Alexandria and its Planning Commission." He received a standing ovation from his colleagues on the

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Richard Leibach is congratulated by Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille at the Jan. 4 Planning Commission meeting.



Gazette 2/22/07

Richard Leibach

FROM PAGE 1

Commission and the audience filling Council Chambers in City Hall.

In his proclamation, Euille noted Leibach's "long-standing interest in and commitment to affordable housing" and his efforts "to enhance the provision for affordable housing through the planning and development review processes." It also referenced Leibach's participation on the ad hoc Washington Street Task Force and Open Space Steering Committee.

"Rich has earned the respect and gratitude of numerous civic organizations and citizens for his contributions to planning in Alexandria," the proclamation stated.

"Richard has been the epitome of what volunteer service is all about," Euille added.

For his part, Leibach, a Pennsylvania native, told those assembled in Council Chambers that night, "I could never have achieved in Pittsburgh what I have achieved here. Alexandria is a very open city. It has been an honor to serve this city and its citizens."

He was recently honored with a retirement party in his honor and the Federation of Civic Associations was planning to present him with a plaque at their next meeting recognizing his many years of volunteer service.

Funeral arrangements were in the planning stage at press time.

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Leibach Leaves Planning

Virginia Concrete's SUP renewal gets a warm reception.

By CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Planning Commission opened its first meeting of 2007 on a bitter sweet note with a ceremony honoring the public service of Commissioner and former vice chairman Richard Leibach. He announced that after nearly 20 years on the Commission he is stepping down. Last Thursday night was his final meeting.

"I could never have achieved in Pittsburgh what I have achieved here," said the Pennsylvania native who has been one of the most perceptive, inquisitive, and dedicated members of the Commission

during his two decade tenure.

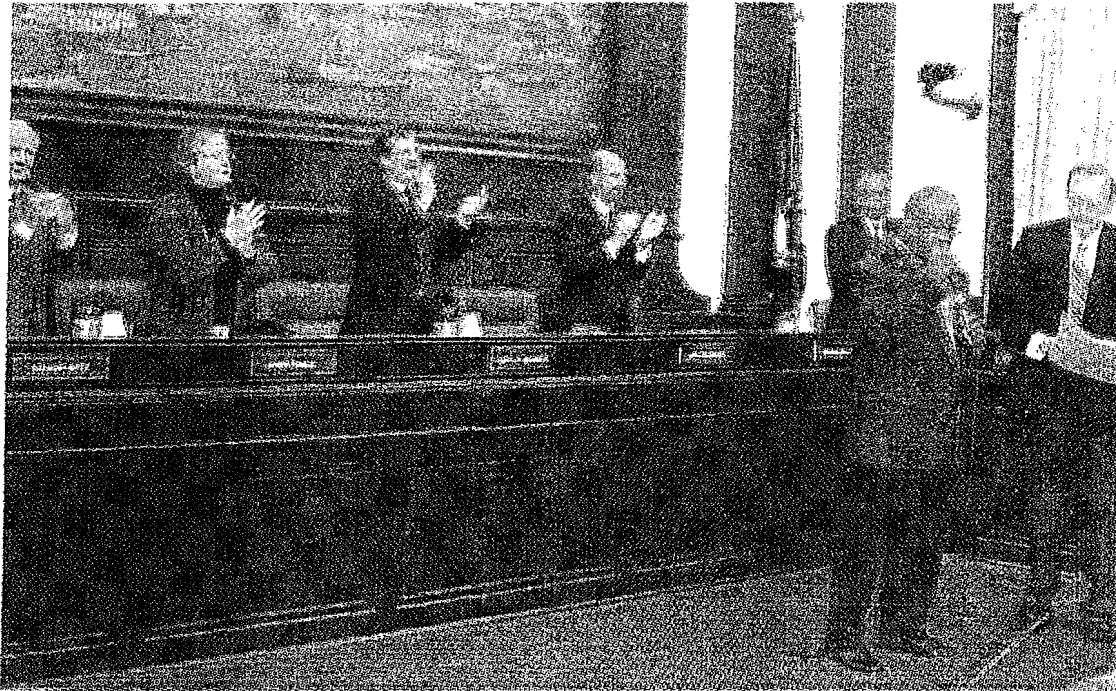
"Alexandria is a very open city. It has been an honor to serve this city and its citizens. The people of Alexandria can be very proud of what this Commission does

and has accomplished," Leibach said in responding to a proclamation in his honor read and presented to him by Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille.

"Richard has been the epitome of what volunteer service is all about. He has seen a wide range of changes in this city and has participated in bringing many of them about," Euille said. "We all thank you for your years of service."

Following Euille's remarks and Leibach's comments he received a standing ovation from both members of the Commission and the audience gathered in City Council Chambers for the upcoming meeting. Later he was presented with a farewell cake by his fellow

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Members of the Alexandria Planning give fellow Commissioner Richard Leibach a standing ovation after he received a proclamation and plaque recognizing his 20 years of service on the Commission.

NEWS

Leibach Leaves Planning Commission

FROM PAGE 3

Commissioners.

WHEN IT CAME to the evening's docket items, the Commission revisited an item that had been deferred following a lengthy debate during the December 2006 meeting. However, the basic question remained which brought about that deferral. Does the Carlyle development need another fast food eatery?

The applicant, Jerry's Systems, Inc., sought a Special Use Permit to operate a restaurant with both inside/outside dining and carry-out service at 520 John Carlyle St., Unit.150. The proposed restaurant space is located in the middle, ground floor space of a multi-story condominium building that includes both residential and retail space.

Commissioners H. Steward Dunn, Jr., and J. Lawrence Robinson were absent from the December Commission meeting. During discussions last Thursday night they split on their assessment as to the desirability adding another fast food establishment prior to securing a full service, more formal restaurant for the area.

"When we approved the PTO (U.S. Patent & Trademark Office) we created a no-man's land. We looked at Carlyle as a mix use area. But it hasn't worked out that way," Dunn said in proposing denial of the SUP.

"The area is mainly composed of fast food establishments and banks. We seemed to have taken the position that we follow the market. That's not good planning. Too many fast food establishments discourage full ser-

vice restaurants from locating in the same area," Dunn said.

Robinson, conversely, made a motion to approve the SUP based on the fact that there is a great deal of retail space still vacant and that the clientele to support a full service eating establishment was not yet present in the Carlyle development. Bill Harvey, a Carlyle resident, spoke in favor of granting the SUP and Robinson's motion.

In a memorandum from Rich Josephson, acting director, Planning & Zoning Department, he noted there are five fast food restaurants currently located in the Carlyle development. They include both chain and non-chain operations.

Overall there is 258,850 sq.ft. of retail/commercial space programmed for Carlyle. Existing restaurants account for 11,349 sq.ft. with another 3,000 sq.ft. proposed, including the Jerry's SUP. Other retail uses account for 19,668 sq.ft. of utilized space, according to Josephson's memo. That leaves approximately 224,000 sq. ft. of retail space vacant.

"With over 86 percent of retail space still available in Carlyle, there are ample opportunities to accommodate the short and long term needs for both quick service and full service restaurants and other retail and personal service uses," Josephson said in his memo.

That opinion was buttressed by Stephanie Landrum, executive director, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, Inc. "AEDP has been working on promoting a full service restaurant for Carlyle. Our office feels very confident that it will come

but it will take more residents and completion of more office space before that happens," she said.

"I will vote against the motion for denial not based on the market but on the staff report that show the extent of free space still available," said Commission Chairman Eric Wagner.

That staff report stated, "While staff feels that it would be

desirable for a full service restaurant to locate in this retail space, it also recognizes that there is still a demand for quick service restaurants to be located in close proximity to an area with a large number of office workers. By requiring conformance with high quality design elements, staff is confident that the proposed use will not detract from the surrounding retail area."

After a vote of four to three to defeat Dunn's motion to deny, Robinson's motion to recommend approval of the SUP to City Council passed five to two. Hours of operation are scheduled to be 7 a.m. to midnight daily to coincide with other previously approved restaurant SUP's in the Carlyle area.

IN STARK CONTRAST to previous controversial actions pertaining to the asphalt producing facility in Alexandria's West End, the Commission breezed through consideration of an SUP renewal for Virginia Concrete Company located at 340 Hooffs Run. It was approved unanimously in minutes.

"Virginia Concrete has been an Alexandria business for over 60 years," said J.

Howard Middleton, Jr., in speaking for the company's application. He also stated that the company wished to "maintain a plant in the City" well into the future.

"It is important for a city to maintain an industrial element if it is to be a real city and not just a suburb," Middleton said. Originally located at Prince and Strand streets, the plant moved to Eisenhower Valley in 1976. There the company built a concrete facility on a site previously used as the City's landfill, according to the staff report.

"I could never have achieved in Pittsburgh what I have achieved here."

—Planning Commissioner
Richard Leibach

In 1996, with the agreement that the plant would not expand or add employees, the City granted an extension of the existing SUP for another 20 years with consecutive five year reviews, according to staff. Remaining years at its present location are dependent on further development within Eisenhower Valley. However, several Commissioners expressed their hope that the company is able to remain in the City for the foreseeable future.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Richard Leibach was first appointed to the Alexandria Planning Commission during January 1987; and

WHEREAS, Rich has served with distinction during his 19 years on the Commission and earned reappointment by several different City Councils; and

WHEREAS, Rich has had a long-standing interest in and commitment to affordable housing and has successfully encouraged the Commission and City Council to enhance the provision of affordable housing through the planning and development review processes; and

WHEREAS, Rich has valued the historic character of Alexandria and served on the Ad Hoc Washington Street Task Force to help preserve that character; and

WHEREAS, Rich has been an important contributor to the development and implementation of Alexandria's open space plans and served on the Open Space Steering Committee from its inception to the present; and

WHEREAS, Rich was elected by his colleagues to be Vice Chair of the Planning Commission and served in that role from 2001 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, Rich has earned the respect and gratitude of numerous civic organizations and citizens for his contributions to planning in Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Rich has decided to retire from the Planning Commission and not seek reappointment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council do hereby recognize:

"RICHARD LEIBACH"

for his outstanding service to the City of Alexandria and its Planning Commission and extend best wishes for his future endeavors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 4th day of January 2007.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk