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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

FROM: FAROLL HAMER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING

SUBJECT: AMEND RESOLUTION #2297 TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP ON THE POTOMAC YARD PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP TO UP TO 20

ISSUE: The increase of members on the *Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group* to 20 in order to broaden neighborhood representation and other stakeholder interests.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council amend Resolution #2297 to increase the Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group membership from 15 members to up to 20, and add that members will also be drawn from representatives of interest groups such as affordable housing, transportation, the environment, and others.

DISCUSSION: On Tuesday, October 14, City Council passed Resolution #2297 to establish the Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group. The Memo and Resolution indicated that the group would be composed of 15 members. Members were proposed to be drawn from: residents of surrounding neighborhoods; property owners; members of the business community, including the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP); the Alexandria City Public Schools; and the Planning Commission. The City Manager was to appoint the 15 members.

Public response to the nomination process was overwhelming with almost 50 nominations representing a variety of geographical areas and interests. In order to broaden neighborhood representation and include interests such as affordable housing, transportation, the environment, and others, the group is proposed to be composed of up to 20 members instead of 15.

No other changes are proposed to the approved Resolution to establish the Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group.

ATTACHMENT: (1) Amended Resolution to establish the Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group with up to 20 members; and (2) Resolution #2297.

STAFF:

Faroll Hamer, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning

Jeffrey Farner, Deputy Director, Urban Design

Valerie Peterson, Principal Planner

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of Potomac Yard area is important to the quality of life, as well as the economic and social health of Alexandria as a whole, and to the immediately surrounding areas in particular, and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to gain the advice of community members representing a variety of interests in the preparation of a proposed plan for redevelopment of the area, which takes advantage of opportunities presented by redevelopment, and which provides long-term benefits to residents and businesses in the Potomac Yard area, and to Alexandria as a whole,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA THAT:

1. There is hereby established a Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group.
2. The Planning Advisory Group will consist of 15 to 20 members. Members will be drawn from among the following groups: residents of surrounding neighborhoods; property owners; members of the business community, including the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP); the Alexandria City Public Schools; representatives of interest groups such as affordable housing, transportation, the environment, and others; and a member of the Planning Commission.
3. The functions of the Planning Advisory Group shall be to:
 - a. Identify and study the issues, challenges and opportunities presented by the redevelopment of Potomac Yard.
 - b. Bring community values, knowledge and ideas into the process of creating a plan that takes advantage of opportunities to improve the area in ways that provide lasting benefit to the local community and the City as a whole.
 - c. Based on the members' interests, local knowledge, values and ideas, advise City staff on options for the future of the planning area, and assist staff in developing policy recommendations in the variety of subject areas required for a plan.
 - d. Weigh the desirability of a new Metrorail station in comparison to the impacts of the density needed to support it.
 - e. Keep the public informed about the Potomac Yard planning processes and issues, advising groups the members represent of the progress of the plan and issues raised that are of interest.
4. Planning and Zoning staff will provide support to the Planning Advisory Group, and be supplemented by a consultant team and staff from other departments.
5. Staff shall endeavor to present the final draft of the Potomac Yard Plan, to include the findings of the Metrorail Station Work Group, to the Planning Commission and the City Council by December 2009.

6. The City Manager shall appoint the members of this Planning Advisory Group.

ADOPTED: _____
Date

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE M. HENDERSON CMC CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION NO. 2297

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of Potomac Yard area is important to the quality of life, as well as the economic and social health of Alexandria as a whole, and to the immediately surrounding areas in particular, and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to gain the advice of community members representing a variety of interests in the preparation of a proposed plan for redevelopment of the area, which takes advantage of opportunities presented by redevelopment, and which provides long-term benefits to residents and businesses in the Potomac Yard area, and to Alexandria as a whole,

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 - a. Identify and study the issues, challenges and opportunities presented by the redevelopment of Potomac Yard.
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 - c. Based on the members' interests, local knowledge, values and ideas, advise City staff on options for the future of the planning area, and assist staff in developing policy recommendations in the variety of subject areas required for a plan.
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 - e. Keep the public informed about the Potomac Yard planning processes and issues, advising groups the members represent of the progress of the plan and issues raised that are of interest.
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Attachment I

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Date

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

JACQUELINE M. HENDERSON CMC CITY CLERK