


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 20, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM:  BRUCE JOHNSON, ACTING CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT AWARD FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE HISTORIC ICE WELL AT GADSBY'S TAVERN MUSEUM

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application to support the rehabilitation of Gadsby's Tavern Ice Well.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council authorize the Acting City Manager to:

- (1) Ratify a grant application submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Certified Local Government Program; and
- (2) Execute all necessary documents that may be required.

BACKGROUND: The historic ice well at Gadsby's Tavern Museum was exposed for public viewing at the intersection of N. Royal and Cameron Streets about 1974. Currently, the ice well is in need of rehabilitation to preserve the structure and to improve public access and interpretation. The goals of the ice well rehabilitation project are to preserve the historic feature according to the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards and improve the visitor's ability to experience the historic use and significance of the ice well.

The design for the ice well rehabilitation project has been completed and approved by the Old and Historic Alexandria District Board of Architectural Review. The rehabilitation project will stabilize the ice well's interior, reduce moisture accumulation and improve moisture within the space. New windows for viewing will be installed, and open plan seating will be incorporated into the ice well steps to provide an inviting area for interpretation. Engraved interpretive signage will also be installed highlighting the significance of this unusual historic feature. The estimated cost of this project is \$360,000. To date, \$168,000 has been raised, including this grant. It would be the Office of Historic Alexandria's intent to consider undertaking this project in phases if raising full funding is not successful.

Due to miscommunication within the Office of Historic Alexandria, this application was mistakenly submitted to the State before consideration by City Council. We regret that proper procedures were not followed, and steps will be taken within OHA to prevent a recurrence. Subsequently the Office of Historic Alexandria has been notified that a grant of \$25,000 has been awarded for the project.

GRANT PERIOD: July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact on the City. All funding to rehabilitate the ice well at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, including the cash match required for this application, are being provided by private donors and non-City grants. The cash match of \$25,000 for this application has already been raised and is available.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria
Gretchen Bulova, Director, Gadsby's Tavern Museum