



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

January 24, 2025

Mr. James Parajon, City Manager
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation and Flood Mitigation

Dear Jim,

During the past three years, the Commission has received a number of updates on the Alexandria Waterfront Small Area Implementation Plan, and, in particular, plans to implement effective stormwater mitigation in Old Town. Twice we have sent letters – on June 16, 2022 and then more recently April 11, 2024 – both times supporting these efforts and providing feedback on the proposals at the time.

Plans have developed and changed – many options and locations have been considered, we have weighed the benefits against the significant investment in each as well as the impact on the waterfront. The Alexandria waterfront is one of our city's most prominent and important gathering places for residents and tourists alike. From the Parks and Recreation Commission perspective, while we continue to believe it is critical to address this problem, we must do so with an eye toward maintaining and improving spaces that can be used and enjoyed by residents.

Consistent with that view, our starting preference is for an option that retains open space that can be enjoyed by residents, contribute to the beauty of the Waterfront, and service various programming needs. There is an important balance that needs to be achieved between maintaining and improving open spaces while also investing in flood mitigation. As plans for the needed structure are finalized, we urge the design team to continue to look at ways of reducing the above ground size of the building to maximize usable space in the park.

Second, of the options presented by the City for the Pump Station, our preference is for the Prince Street option, placing the needed structure along the street and across from the Old Dominion Boat Club in order to retain a significant portion of the existing park for public use and not unnecessarily add structures that would block views along Strand Street or otherwise prevent future development of this area. We believe this is consistent with the goal of activating continuous pedestrian promenade on lower King Street and along the Waterfront.

Third, the Commission supports park improvements as part of this project and adding other amenities to serve the residents of Alexandria. This includes adding bathrooms, accessible power to support events and considering the addition of performance space that opens up into the park – all of which have been discussed as part of the current plan presented by the design team.

We compliment Matt Landes (and the whole design team) on their work as this project has been considered. We thank them not only educating Alexandria residents and the relevant commissions, but also responding to the multiple requests to consider, evaluate and reevaluate various options.

Now is the time to move forward with this project. The Commission stands by to further discuss or answer any questions that you or city Council might have.

The Commission thanks the City Manager for strongly considering our recommendations. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical project.

Sincerely,
DRC
Dana Robert Colarulli
Chair, Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Alexandria City Council
Waterfront Commission members
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Jack Browand, Acting Director and Staff Liaison to the Parks & Recreation Commission
Rami Chehade, P.E., Acting Director, Project Implementation
Matthew Landes, Portfolio Manager, Department of Project Implementation

Signature: 
Dana Colarulli (Jan 24, 2025 17:28 EST)

Email: danacolors@gmail.com






PRC Letter Pump Station Jan2025

Final Audit Report

2025-01-24

Created:	2025-01-24
By:	Jack Browand (jack.browand@alexandriava.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAzngQPSB3Q7WfQ2k2ja_nB3rsHKYKWqvX

"PRC Letter Pump Station Jan2025" History

-  Document created by Jack Browand (jack.browand@alexandriava.gov)
2025-01-24 - 10:09:16 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Dana Colarulli (danacolors@gmail.com) for signature
2025-01-24 - 10:09:40 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Dana Colarulli (danacolors@gmail.com)
2025-01-24 - 10:27:15 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Dana Colarulli (danacolors@gmail.com)
Signature Date: 2025-01-24 - 10:28:07 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-01-24 - 10:28:07 PM GMT