

Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2005

Subject: Notice, Statement, and Invitation: Georgetown Boathouse Proposal to be Considered at October 13 ANC 2B Meeting

Dear Director Mainella:

Defense of public land and environmental and historic conservation have long been important to the public-minded citizens of my Dupont Circle neighborhood in Washington, DC. It is in recognition of this that, as an elected commissioner, I have asked for the Georgetown Boathouse proposal to be placed on the October 13th Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B agenda.

I confess I come to this with strong feelings. A favorite form of escape from city life for myself and many of my neighbors is to venture onto the water to enjoy the scenic wild areas of the Potomac River North of the Key Bridge, in Georgetown. This area of the Potomac is bound by a truly amazing national historical park, and is rich in both beautiful natural vistas and species diversity. As a uniquely esthetic and substantially wild area of the Potomac that is both quickly and easily accessible, the integrity of this national historical park is highly treasured by many residents of Dupont Circle and Washington's other urban and suburban neighborhoods. It is in good consideration of this that I have invited opponents of development of the wild lands along the river within this national park to speak to our community.

Principle members of Defenders of Potomac River Parkland, a coalition comprised of over 16 civic associations and leading local and national environmental organizations, will present their reasons for opposing this development at ANC 2B's October 13 meeting. I ask that you familiarize yourself with what these people have to say at their website: <http://www.savethecanal.org/>

I have personally studied the proposed boathouse plan, and am troubled by components of it including: the physical site, the land-swap, the massing of the proposed structure, the benefit offered to the public, and the mechanisms by which this proposal has advanced. I ask that you also inform yourselves of the issues. I, and my constituents, find the Defenders' arguments persuasive, and we strongly feel this deal is not in the interests of either the city or the public.

Director Mainella, if you have any questions in advance of this presentation, please feel free to contact me. Please also consider attending this meeting either in person, or through staff proxy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of concern to the citizens of our Capital City.

Mark Bjorge
Washington, DC
ANC Commissioner, SMD 2B05