

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY BOATHOUSE PROPOSAL: PROTECT C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK FROM PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT

Sample "scoping" letter to National Park Service for the preparation of an EIS -

Send your own letter to: NCR_Georgetownboathouse@nps.gov or via the NPS website for this project: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?parkID=177&projectID=15645&documentId=21412> or by regular mail at the address below: **Deadline is January 18, 2008**

Mr. Kevin Brandt
Superintendent, C&O Canal National Historical Park
1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100
Hagerstown, Maryland 21742
NCR_Georgetownboathouse@nps.gov

Re: Georgetown University boathouse proposal – Scoping comments for the preparation of an EIS

Dear Mr. Brandt:

I am opposed to a private Georgetown University (GU) boathouse proposed by the National Park Service (NPS) for a location inside the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

In addition, I believe the NPS should broaden the scope of the EIS to analyze all of the recreational needs for the waterfront, not just the rowing needs of one private university.

Finally, I request NPS to include the following alternatives in the preparation of the EIS:

Alternative #1 - Instead of planning for two large private "university" boathouses and one new (unfunded) public boathouse in the constricted Key Bridge area (as per the current modified Georgetown Waterfront Plan of 1987), consider only one new boathouse: a Georgetown "universal" boathouse at 34th/K Sts., financed by George Washington University (GW) and GU and shared by university, high school and public boating programs, with NPS retaining ownership of the waterfront land. (Thompson's Boat Center, built in 1960 at the eastern edge of Georgetown, is the model)

Alternative #2 - Instead of trading waterfront land to private interests, and building boathouses in the Key Bridge area, encourage GW and GU to invest in an expanded/updated Thompson's Boat Center (see Swedish Embassy, next to Thompson's on land where high school groups formerly stored their rowing shells, for limitless possibilities for design and size of a modern structure), and keep land under Key Bridge in the public domain for launching of boats and storage purposes only.

Alternative #3 - If NPS decides it is important and necessary for two private universities to build their own collegiate facilities, with private ownership of the waterfront land, then consider placing the boathouses next to each other, at 34th/Water Sts. or at another accessible site outside the C&O, and near the proposed new public facility.

Alternative #4 - Utilize, expand or build boathouses on the Anacostia River or the Virginia side of the Potomac, or other accessible land outside of the C&O Canal National Historical Park, as a means of providing additional facilities for team rowing, particularly for high school teams whose needs are advanced as part of the justification for a new GU boathouse.

Thank you for including these comments in the preparation of the EIS.

Sincerely,

(Name, address, date)