

## **Open House on Boathouse Zone Study, May 22; Comment Period Closed, May 24**

The National Park Service held a final open house on May 22 to provide information about its Georgetown Non-motorized Boathouse Zone Feasibility Study. NPS then closed the public comment period on the study at 11:59 p.m., Mountain Time, on Friday, May 24, 2013.

The Defenders coalition thanks everyone concerned with protecting the canal park who considered the three approaches to development presented in the study and made their comment. Unlike the study's High and Medium Density Scenarios, the Low Density Scenario respects the values of the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

The NPS message announcing the May 22 open house is copied at the end of this page. The event consisted of a brief slide presentation, after which the audience were invited to ask questions of the NPS staff members and consultants dispersed throughout the room.

The open house confirmed that a range of possibilities remain open for the future of the boathouse zone. Individual elements of the High, Medium, and Low Density Scenarios may be combined in whatever plan is eventually adopted. NPS consideration of possible boating facilities beyond the Boathouse Zone along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers is ongoing, but at a low level due primarily to budget limitations.

Building upon the Feasibility Study, NPS' next steps will likely be development planning and an Environmental Impact Study (EIS), although the scope and focus of these activities has not been determined. The possibility remains of reopening the EIS, currently on hold, that is funded by Georgetown University and examines the impact of establishing a GU boathouse on a site within the C&O Canal NHP.

Although designated a storage facility in the Feasibility Study text, the new structure proposed for Site C within the C&OCNHP under the High Density Scenario might include such amenities as locker rooms and rest rooms on its upper level, and launching of team rowing shells would be possible from its dock. Height limitations on the new buildings within the canal park under the High and Medium Density Scenarios remain unspecified.

### **NPS message, April 19, 2013:**

**FEASIBILITY STUDY TO IMPLEMENT A NON-MOTORIZED BOATHOUSE ZONE Along the GEORGETOWN WATERFRONT, CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AND ROCK CREEK PARK**

The National Park Service (NPS) has released the Feasibility Study to Implement a Non-motorized Boathouse Zone to the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/nmbz>

The NPS will be conducting a public information meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 to present the findings from the study that examined the potential implementation of a non-motorized boathouse zone on the shore along the District of Columbia's side of the Potomac River waterfront in Georgetown. The NPS examined the structures and facilities related to non-motorized boat usage, including rowing,

canoeing and kayaking, that can be accommodated within this zone (project area), as well as other uses, such as cycling and passive recreation.

This study will lay the groundwork for future decision-making regarding (1) scenarios for development/improvement of NPS facilities or potential land exchanges for private development of boathouses, and (2) further planning and National Environmental Policy Act/National Historic Preservation Act compliance as necessary to implement the non-motorized boathouse zone.

The meeting will consist of an open house with a short presentation. NPS staff will be on hand to visit with you and answer questions.

The public open house will be held between 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 in the large meeting room at the West End Library, 1101 24<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.

For further information or if you have special needs to be accommodated during this public open house please contact: Tammy Stidham, National Capital Region, at (202) 619-7474 or [tammy\\_stidham@nps.gov](mailto:tammy_stidham@nps.gov).