Potomac Boat Club 3530 WATER STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007

Organized 1869

2002 MAY 13 PM 4:58
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ZONING

Washington, DC Zoning Commission
Carol Mitten, Chair
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210 South
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Mitten,

The Potomac Boat Club is a 260-member rowing and paddling organization that has been a part of the District of Columbia, Georgetown, and the Potomac River waterfront for 134 years. We understand that on May 19, Georgetown University will go before the DC Board of Zoning in a final hearing for approval to build a boathouse in our neighborhood (Reference Case # 02-30). On behalf of the membership of the Potomac Boat Club, I am writing enthusiastically to endorse the construction of a boathouse for Georgetown University on the Potomac River.

PBC views the construction of a boathouse for Georgetown as beneficial for many reasons. PBC has reviewed the University's building proposal and we believe it more than conforms to U.S. Park Service and community plans for measured and appropriate development of the valuable Potomac River waterfront. PBC's boathouse is designated on the District List of historic structures, and we are therefore concerned that any new waterside structure be compatible and appropriate to the location. A number of PBC members have attended meetings held to consider Georgetown's boathouse design, we understand that the appropriate design authorities (including the US Fine Arts Commission) have favorably reviewed the proposal, and we concur in their positive appraisal of the design.

A boathouse for Georgetown fits the historical use of the area. The proposed site is perfectly appropriate for rowing, as there have been in the past several other boathouses upstream of our own, most recently Dempsey's, which was lost in a 1960 fire. Georgetown's non-motorized boating activity would marvelously complement that at our own institution, at the Washington Canoe Club next door, and at Jack's (canoe and kayak rentals) downstream. Since rowing, paddling and even sailing enthusiasts have been able to co-exist for more than 100 years sharing the same water, we believe that appropriate landing and launching patterns will be worked out rather easily among this small group of boathouses. A Potomac River Safety Committee consisting of representatives of most if not all Potomac non-motorized recreational programs works effectively to discuss river usage patterns, lighting, and related safety concerns.

Most significantly, rowing at all levels on the Potomac has enjoyed strong growth in the recent past, to the point where space for high school and collegiate crews in Washington is today severely limited. Georgetown's crew has been rowing out of the Park Service's Thompson Boat Center since 1960. Thompson's is also host to George Washington University's Crew, as well as those of 12 regional high schools. Most of these schools store their shells in a fenced enclosure open to the weather. (For its part, PBC has hosted Arlington's Washington-Lee High School crew for over 50 years.) Soon, many of these programs will lose that outdoor space as planned construction of a new embassy and related structures displaces the programs using the outside storage at Thompson's. Construction of a

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 113

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.113

boathouse for Georgetown would permit reallocation of space at Thompson's and allow the accommodation of additional high school or collegiate crews there. A Georgetown University boathouse would greatly enhance the ability of Washington-area rowing infrastructure to meet the current needs of the local rowing community.

The addition of a third rowing facility on the upper Potomac would strengthen Washington's position and reputation among East Coast rowing cities, support the overall recruiting efforts of District Universities, and enhance the Georgetown waterfront as a lively, appealing and frequented place by allowing non-polluting, non-motorized recreational use of this stretch of the Nation's River to continue to flourish. I urge you to approve Georgetown University's proposal. Please do not hesitate to call me at (703) 414-3907 should you have any questions regarding this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Schneider
President, PBC