Washington Canoe Club

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MAY 16

Carol Mitten
Chair, DC Zoning Commission
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Suite 210
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D.C. Zoning Commission
2002 MAY 17 PM 2:57

My purpose for the communication is in reference to the building of the Georgetown University boathouse on the proposed controversial plot of land on the Potomac River. I've heard both sides of the story and there's no doubt that Georgetown should have the opportunity to have a boathouse which would not only improve their rowing program but also the schools image as far as recruiting purposes are concerned. Everyone, though, seems to be missing the point. The point is that whether one is for or against this particular project, whether you're the Park Service or Georgetown, we all know that the boathouse does not belong in the proposed location. The obvious reasons are; access will be poor, the Crescent trail will have to be moved, an access road will have to be built, they'll have to build on top of an existing sewer line, the effect on the C&O canal, the obstructed view plus all the environmental issues at hand. The one reason, though, that's being overlooked is the question of ethics. Is it ethical to disrupt not only the land but all those concerned when there are other solutions far more acceptable? The answer is a resounding 'no'.

The proposed Georgetown boathouse, on paper, appears to be quite an expansive structure, far too large for the location in question but perfect for the location on the down river side of Key Bridge. This is were the building will truly stand out, this is where the building truly belongs. It fits in perfectly with any proposed park area plans. Currently, Georgetown feels that the proposed location is their only option. If Georgetown University can be assured by the 'powers that be' concerning this location that this is very much a possibility then we're headed in the right direction. This pursuit would have a tendency to satisfy all parties.

If you have any questions or reason to contact me please feel free to call me at 202-501-0779, otherwise I look forward to seeing you on Monday May 19th.

Sincerely,

Bill Cooper

Vice-President
Washington Canoe Club

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 191

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.191