D.C. ZONING COMMISSION
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Georgetown's boathouse

Opponents of Georgetown University's proposed boathouse a quarter-mile west of Key Bridge are telling the Zoning Commission the site is one of the "main scenic treasures of the nation's capital" where "no development should be permitted."

The Defenders of Potomac River Parkland, a group formed in April, opposes the National Park Service's desire to trade land two miles up the river owned by the university for the proposed boathouse land next to the Washington Canoe Club.

If the Zoning Commission denies the request, the university plans to build on the riverfront land it now owns — which could result in the construction of a road that could severely damage parkland.

The Defenders claim there has been no public review of the detailed architectural plans, but this newspaper has published articles on the boathouse over several years. The plans came before the Georgetown advisory neighborhood commission in September 2000 after appearing on its published agenda. The commission approved them on its consent calendar, reserved for noncontroversial issues.

The detailed architectural plans have come before the Commission of Fine Arts, the Old Georgetown Board, the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Georgetown Waterfront Commission as well as the C&O Canal National Historical Park Advisory Commission. All have praised them.

The Defenders claim to be friends of boating. If the Zoning Commission rejects the Georgetown boathouse, high school rowers would lose their boat storage space to the new Swedish Embassy. Their programs would be stopped cold for years, if not forever.

To us, the park would be far more at risk if Georgetown were forced to build its boathouse in a truly pristine area rather than next door to the Canoe Club. Any claim that there has been no opportunity for public review is ridiculous. We urge the Zoning Commission to join the many other public bodies that have supported the university's building its boathouse next door to the Canoe Club.

Editorial in May 28, 2003 *Current* newspapers.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 02-30
Exhibit 234

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-30
EXHIBIT NO.234

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MESSAGE

Please submit the attached letter to the record of Case #02-30 Georgetown U. Boathouse Map Amendment. Thanks.

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