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May 12, 2017

Teresa Polhemus
Executive Director/Secretary
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, Room 910
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Re: Activation of Waterfront, Water's Edge RFI – Charlestown Navy Yard

Dear Ms. Polhemus:

The Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard (the "FCNY") is a non-profit, public interest organization that works to improve the quality of life for residents of and visitors to the Charlestown Navy Yard (the "Navy Yard"). FCNY has 300 members who are Charlestown residents and businesses. We promote responsible development in the Navy Yard consistent with the historical character of the Yard and its National Historic Landmark Designation. Over the past decade, with the assistance of the BPDA and several community partners, FCNY has organized several events aimed at activating the Charlestown waterfront that have attracted tens of thousands of visitors.

Given its past activation activities, FCNY is keenly interested in the BPDA's Request for Letters of Interest ("RFI") from qualified parties to contribute to the activation of the waterfront and water's edges of the Navy Yard, specifically Dry Dock #2, the foot of Dry Dock #2, Dry Dock #2 Pump House, Pier 5, Shipways, Dry Dock #5, the water's edge, and adjacent watersheets. FCNY is pleased that the BPDA is soliciting proposals to further activate the Navy Yard Waterfront. To that end, we enthusiastically provide the following comments relative to the RFI.

As a threshold matter, FCNY was heavily involved in the development of 2007 Waterfront Network Activation Plan and the Water-Dependent Use Management Plan for the Navy Yard ("2007 Activation Plans"). FCNY believes that the 2007 Activation Plans are two of the most thoughtful planning documents ever created by the BPDA for the waterfront. The Network Activation Plan focuses on year-round public use and enjoyment of the waterfront with activities and a series of interpretive story loops that relate to the history of the Navy Yard. Brought to fruition, the Network Activation Plan will develop an activation network that both capitalizes on the entire history of the Navy Yard and uses the full geographic reach of the Yard to narrate its rich history. The breadth of the Network Activation Plan will serve to connect and integrate the Navy Yard as a whole and not segregate activity to just a few areas.

The Water-Dependent Use Management Plan was developed to address the management of the sailing facilities, marinas and water transit facilities along the shoreline and adjacent watersheet. These documents lay out a conceptual plan for improved public access and year-



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round enjoyment of the Harborwalk and waterfront areas of the Navy Yard. The general goals and objectives are to improve the clarity and connectedness of the extraordinary resources of the Navy Yard including the public access areas and historic and cultural institutions. Taken together, the 2007 Activation Plans seek to create a common identity for the entire Navy Yard and generate interest for diverse audiences at varied times of the day and year and develop a realistic implementation plan. FCNY thinks it crucial to use the 2007 Activation Plans as the BPDA's primary guide in assessing responses to the RFI.

Several proposals have been previewed to FCNY by various groups and individuals. While some of the proposals are at the surface exciting and creative, FCNY hopes that the BPDA will focus on proposals that stand a better chance of successful implementation (e.g., a kayak station). As stated, the 2007 Activation Plans are rich in realistic and workable activation concepts and should be heavily relied on in this regard. FCNY also urges the BPDA to more fully utilize existing infrastructure, such as Shipyard Park with its natural amphitheater and the heavily-visited Anchor Park at Drydock #2, in its activation and programming efforts (FCNY has used Shipyard Park with great success in its activation and programming). Pier 5 would be a natural location for an environmental education/research station aimed at school children to monitor and study marine habitat and ecosystem, as well as tidal influence rising sea levels. We are confident that there are several community partners who would be willing to collaborate on this effort.

In addition, the Pump House is the first and last thing the many thousands of visitors see when using the water shuttle to travel to and from the Navy Yard. Rehabilitation of the Pump House will not only restore a beautiful and historic building to its former glory, but will also create a visually pleasant welcoming area and serve as an important wayfinding and information area to direct visitors to key areas and attractions throughout the Yard. FCNY believes that the rehabilitation of the Pump House is vital to activation efforts. Not to be ignored is the development of a robust water transportation system connecting the neighborhoods along the Boston waterfront, making it easier for residents and visitors to enjoy the waterfront's many resources. Finally, the rehabilitation and perpetual maintenance of the Harborwalk is a persistent issue that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. If people cannot safely traverse the Harborwalk (with adequate wayfinding), activation efforts will be wasted.

Of course, this is the start of the process and there are many ideas and concepts to vet and discuss. FCNY stands ready to assist in the planning and implementation of Charlestown waterfront activation and programming. Please feel free to contact us to discuss our perspective further. Thank you.


Michael W. Parker
Chair


Lois Siegelman
President