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CITY OF SAUSALITO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT

November 1, 2016

Dear Members of the HLB:

I am writing today regarding your consideration of matters related to the Marinship District of Sausalito, in a special meeting now scheduled for November 3, 2016. It is unfortunate that those located in the Marinship area were not notified of the meeting and unfortunately I am not able to attend in person. I have reviewed the materials and events leading to your consideration and have some concerns. So I hope you will consider my remarks and enter them into your record for this evening.

By way of introduction I am the Park Manager of the Bay Model Visitor Center a position I have held since 2001. I however have worked at the Bay Model for 30 years having just celebrated this milestone on October 12, 2016. As you maybe be aware the Bay Model houses an exhibit dedicated to the war effort and celebrates the Marinship area in which the Bay Model is located. It is with that interest and affection I applied to be part of the WAM (Waterfront and Marinship) Committee back in 2008. This committee unlike the other committees that came out of the Imagine Sausalito process was appointed by the City Council at the time. Over 40 people applied to be on the committee and 20 were ultimately selected along with alternates. After the first initial meeting of the committee, I was selected to serve as the Chair. I applauded the City Council at the time because there was a conscious effort to make the committee as diverse as possible. That commitment was achieved. The list of committee members is available in that report as with other items I am going to refer to.

The committee spent 2 years studying the Marinship area and conducted all investigations with due diligence. The final report was presented to the Council in May of 2010. The presentation lasted 2 hours and at the conclusion received a standing ovation from Council and the audience. Nothing I had seen prior or since. Considering all the time and effort that was put into that process I have since felt very committed to making sure that work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. The Committee members to this day affectionately refer to me as the "Mother of Marinship". It is in that vein I write to you today.

Unfortunately there has been slow progress on recommendations from the report since 2010. I know the City did convene another committee in 2014 on this subject on which they used the WAM report as a starting point. [It is disheartening to think that the City's only apparent direction is to convene ever more committees instead of following through on the community-based recommendations that came from our 2-year-long WAM process.] I am also aware that the City allocated \$50K toward research regarding only one of Marinship's properties. Those resources that I assume could have been used toward implementing one of the WAM Committee's recommendations.

It saddens me that the City continues to explore the issue around the historical nature of the "marine rails" which are on the property of Sausalito Shipyard and Marina (previously knowns as Arques Marina). The historical nature of these rails I know have been debunked (by someone hired by the City) who made that determination. I question if the motivation to make that determination as historic as well as when it was determined not historic to impose more restrictions on the Sausalito Shipyard property owner. [It looks like the City – having been corrected on the "marine rails" question – is now looking for other ways to limit the use of the private property with another dubious "historic" designation.

Candidly, this sounds like the City is reaching a bit – rather unfortunately in a manner which undermines the recommendations of our WAM report.]

I urge HLB to review the WAM report and refer to frustrations that this particular landowner has faced while trying to improve their property. There are some real economic incentives in the WAM report that would allow for that investment in maritime and community serving uses. Imposing further restrictions only limits further opportunities.

It is unfortunate not more progress has been made since the inception of the WAM committee and opportunities lost. Such as the West Marine store which recently moved out of the Marinship area. I respectfully ask you to please consider the contributions made by the Sausalito community members who have developed – through broad consensus of diverse interests. I ask you to decline any action on the further restrictions on the Marinship such as additional historic designations of any form. Let's please ask the City to work with the property owners, so that a sustainable maritime future for the Marinship can be achieved through an effective public-private partnership. In so doing we are probably more likely to produce a beneficial result for the whole community, including matters relating to historical significance.

Sincerely,

Chris Gallagher

Chris Gallagher
Chair – WAM Committee