



Lafayette Winona Civic League

A Civic League of the City of Norfolk, VA

August 13, 2023

The Honorable Mayor Kenneth Cooper Alexander
Patrick Roberts, City Manager
Norfolk City Council
810 Union Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Mayor Alexander, Mr. Roberts, and City Council Members:

Thank you for hosting the Public Forum on August 9, 2023, regarding the future of the city-owned parcel of Lambert's Point in Ward 2 of the City of Norfolk. A substantial number of our neighborhood residents are also residents of Ward 2. Therefore, we hope you will agree that we have a special interest in this matter.

We join the organizations, associations, and numerous individual voices who have already communicated their strong desire that the City of Norfolk keep and maintain what remains of this invaluable property as public space for the citizens and visitors of Norfolk.

While no one public space can be all things to all people, we feel confident in stating that members of our association wish to see this land remain accessible to the public at large. To be clear: by "accessible" we do not mean that we wish to see the remaining parcel shared with any other entity, such as Old Dominion University (ODU). Indeed, it is our hope that as a highly-regarded corporate citizen the HRSD may see fit to share some of their recently purchased City land with us. For example, the HRSD may be willing to provide pedestrian access to areas they now own.

Certainly we would like to see the parcel opened up to users other than golfers, a far too narrow constituency for such a coveted location. Our residents overwhelmingly favor a mixed-use park that takes full advantage of the marvelous views this parcel offers. We would not be disappointed if “mixed-use” included picnic shelters, benches, pedestrian paths, a playground, a pier, a kayak/canoe launch, a dog park, or other attractive amenities, but we feel the following are crucial:

- The City-owned parking area(s) should revert back to the City when the current ODU lease expires. City of Norfolk residents will need these parking spaces if our hope for a mixed-use park comes to fruition.
- A mixed-use park should include a public rest room.
- The [Elizabeth River Trail](#) (ERT) should be expanded along the **entire** perimeter of the original Lambert’s Point Golf Course, including the land recently sold to HRSD. This perimeter has been designated “public access,” and the ERT is the best use for it.
- It is crucial that the City work closely with the [Elizabeth River Project](#) (ERP) to make sure the shoreline meets or exceeds their guidelines/standards.

Above all else, these magnificent, unobstructed vistas should remain public and available for all to enjoy.

Thank you for considering the wishes of the members of the Lafayette Winona Civic League.

Sincerely,
Nancy Eyler, Acting President, Treasurer
Katie Romeo, Acting Board Member
Jessica Clark, Acting Board Member