**Kenneth A. Wright**

**Vallejo, CA**

As Chairman of the Marina Advisory Committee, I had hoped to attend the Council meeting this evening to speak against the dissolution of the Committee. As I am unable to attend, please accept these thoughts.

The Marina Advisory Committee is the only City of Vallejo Board or Committee established by resolution, with its members appointed by the Mayor. At the time of its inception, there was a serious and potentially damaging disconnect between City and Marina staff, and the tenants of the Marina. It became such a problem that Council created a committee to address and resolve the issues, and ensure that they did not happen again.

Fortunately for everyone, times have changed, and we now have the benefit of a competent and attentive Public Works Department, and a Marina staff adept at balancing the happiness of tenants and protecting the interests of the City. But without the volunteers of the Marina Advisory Committee, one very important factor is missing…a passion for boating. The seven members of the Committee are either sail or power boaters and/or engaged professionally in the boating industry; several are all. We offer experience, suggestions, support…and passion…for what is becoming more-and-more the crown jewel and one of the main reasons for the current growth of the City…the Marina.

The Vallejo Marina currently has 670 slips, with almost 26,000 feet of tenant dock space, and 700 feet of guest dock. At an average rental price of $8.82/foot, the Marina has the potential of generating a gross monthly income of almost $230,000, or $2,760.000 per year, becoming self-sufficient, and providing excess revenue to the City.

But the marina is currently only 50% occupied, and there is a lot of work to be done. No one disputes the importance of committees to ensure that our codes are met, that the uniqueness of our neighborhoods are preserved, and our library open and staffed. So please, also, don’t underestimate the importance of a committee which meets once quarterly, uses only minimal City staffing and resources, and lends experience and passion to one of our greatest assets. I urge you to not abolish the Marina Advisory Committee.

Respectfully,

 

Kenneth Wright