

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: James E. Parsons  
Claude Weisner  
Robert A. Taft II  
Matt Smith  
Don Purvis  
Charles J. Luken  
Richard D. Spoor  
Clyde Middleton  
J. Neal Gardner  
Christian Karrsiens  
Dan Jewett  
William Buchholz  
Alan Bernstein  
Bill Gradison

FROM: William K. Engeman

DATE: August 28, 1990

RE: Corps of Engineers Permit - Proposed Rowing Facility

The attached response was forwarded Friday, August 24, to the United States Army Corps of Engineers. As you know, the comment period closed July 30 with no filings by the towing industry and only the objections discussed in the opening paragraph of my letter of August 24. Your continued interest and support has gotten us this far and will undoubtedly see this project through.

It should not be long now.

cc: Trustees, Greater Cincinnati Rowing Foundation

EIGHTEENTH FLOOR  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK CENTER  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

August 24, 1990

Mr. Frank DeGott  
Operations & Readiness Division  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Louisville District  
P.O. Box 59  
Louisville, Ky 40201-0059

Re: Public Notice 90-KY-195, Proposed Rowing Facility

Dear Mr. DeGott:

As you know, we met with the Department of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and understand we have resolved their objection. We have also spoken with the owner of Barleycorn's Restaurant concerning his objection (and certain tenants) to the placement of the proposed facility. Based on the study by Aquarius Marine, the width of the opening (i.e. 50 ft.) between the bridge pier and the barge is not materially different from the navigable width between the pier and the shore at pool because of the shallow water. I can see no basis for a navigation concern. Of course, any such concern could be remedied by revising the dock arrangement at Barleycorn's so that it does not leave as the only access to the Barleycorn's dock the adjoining property owner's frontage. In sum, there is no legitimate usage concern regarding the placement of the facility, while there is a considerable amount of public interest in its completion.

The enclosed materials summarize the beneficial impact of this project on the "needs and welfare of the people" of this region and "the cumulative impact of the proposed activity on the public interest." Tab 1, for background, contains a short history of the Boathouse, which summarizes the development of the first National Team Training Center for Rowing between the two coasts. This project was completed on land owned by the City of

Mr. Frank DeGott  
August 24, 1990  
Page 2

Cincinnati after unanimous approval by the City Council, its Committees on Finance and Planning, the Park Board, Urban Design and Review Board, Zoning Commission, Development Office, Legal Department and other governmental entities specifically because the project served the interests of the Greater Cincinnati public.

Tab 2 contains newspaper articles post-dating the approvals discussed above, demonstrating the widespread continuing public interest in the programs and activities generated by the Center. These articles describe the facility, the many school programs sponsored, as well as the National Team elite athletes who train there. Of particular relevance are the articles relating to the issue of access to the Licking River. The Kentucky Post of Monday, October 2, 1989 details the community and other interest in a facility utilizing the Licking. The development is described as certain to "benefit the entire community." The relative safety of the Licking River as a training venue is also emphasized in that article. The Cincinnati Enquirer of Thursday, April 5, 1990 again stresses the benefits of access to the Licking River in terms of improved training conditions for the athletes and the community benefits to having access to the facility and the river for those working downtown.

Tab 3 includes current endorsements of the City of Newport's permit application from Robert A. Taft, II, Commissioner of Hamilton County, the principally-affected Ohio political subdivision across the river (other than the City of Cincinnati, whose view was previously expressed). Also included are letters from the United States Rowing Association's Program Director, Matt Smith, expressing the views of the national governing body for U. S. Rowing (which has approximately 30,000 members across the United States) from the perspective of a complete effective national team training center. The third letter is from a Cincinnati attorney, Timothy A. Garry, Jr., a member of the local rowing community (approximately 300 active members), describing how the facility will support the local programs and individual participants. Also included is a letter of support from the President of the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, John P. Williams, Jr., stating that the proposed facility will "further support our U.S. National Team development" and "be a great resource for this community."

The latest U.S. Rowing Report formally announced the decision of U.S. Rowing's Collegiate Advisory Council to place both the men's and women's collegiate championships in Cincinnati for 1991. These national events generate considerable local publicity and spectator and other interest as well as national

Mr. Frank DeGott  
August 24, 1990  
Page 3

publicity for the Cincinnati area and Midwest Region. I can forward under separate cover an illustrative television show produced at the 1988 Collegiate Championship and Olympic/World Championship trials. Similar shows have been produced in 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, and 1990. Sports Illustrated has covered this event on an annual basis. See Tab 1 for the earlier articles.

In short, there is ample basis for approval of the permit application on the grounds of public interest. There is no basis for a public hearing on the objections forwarded to the applicant. None of the facts presented in the objections would, if confirmed in sworn testimony in a public hearing, warrant denial of the application. The application is appropriate and in the public interest and we look forward to the decision on the application in due course.

Sincerely,

  
William K. Engeman

WKE/gc  
Encls.  
degott.ltr

EIGHTEENTH FLOOR  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK CENTER  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

January 14, 1991

Jack C. Wilson  
Director of Parks  
CINCINNATI PARK BOARD  
950 Eden Park Drive  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Jack:

Following up on my conversation with Brent Owens, I wanted to update you and the Park Board on the progress of the Rowing Center project and our efforts to get it up and operational with a full range of rowing and training activities.

As you know, the original concept for the Center included a 120 foot floating dock to be reached by ramps and stairs from the Center. This would have permitted boat launching from the Center with easy access to the Ohio and Licking Rivers. Charles Kubicki, the developer had secured a letter of permission to construct this dock from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in December of 1987. In March of 1989, he proposed an expanded dock and other construction. The Corps required public notice and comment and a new permit and directed him to cease construction on the dock during that period until it could review the comments.

After the towing industry comments, it became apparent that no floating dock suitable for our purposes would be approved by the Corps of Engineers at that site. So, in December of 1989, after many meetings with the Corps and the objectors, we withdrew the proposal for a floating dock permit.

This has been a devastating blow to us. You cannot run a rowing organization with water practices at Coney Island and the same staff supervising activities at Sawyer Point.

Through late 1989/early 1990, we developed a solution

Jack C. Wilson  
Page 2

that we firmly believe will work, tying the Center at Sawyer Point to a floating boat storage facility in Newport above Crockett's on land owned by the City and leased by the Bernstein family.

The Newport floating boat storage and launching facility has been under construction all spring and summer. The City of Newport applied for a Corps of Engineers permit on our behalf on April 2, 1990. I enclose a copy of the Corps' request for public comment dated July 5, 1990 as well as our response to the public comments received dated August 24, 1990. As you will see, we had letters of support from Congressmen Gradison and Bunning, Mayor Luken, Clyde Middleton, Bob Taft, USRA's Program Director and others, demonstrating the strength of community support for the project.

We had our dedication June 9 (program enclosed), which was good fun. But some unanticipated approval delays, construction delays, et al., meant the facility was not actually installed until last month. Obviously, we will have very limited use of it this winter but it will be available next spring. Thanks to Sporty's, a major Cincinnati Regatta sponsor, we will be able to use two of the outboard motorboats they donated to the Regatta for safety launches. The Greater Cincinnati Rowing Foundation has donated some two-way radios, etc., which will make the communication, coaching problem manageable between the various staff members at the two locations and on the water.

The next item on the agenda is the modification of the stairs at the Center to include a series of 40' x 6' concrete platforms with modifications to the existing concrete barrier beside the stairs to permit shells to be launched from the Rowing Center. I enclose Charles Kubicki's letter of September 11, 1990 to the Corps of Engineers and John Bammerlin's site plan so that you can see exactly what is contemplated for the Rowing Center itself so we can get on the water from this site. I also enclose a copy of the Corps' latest request for public comment on this project. Although the concrete docks will not be in the stream but on shore, there may still be some opposition. Obviously, anything you or the Park Board members could do to generate support for the proposal would be appreciated. It is key to tying the two facilities together that there be simple, assured access to the water from the Center. It is also very important to the connection with Montgomery Inn at the Boathouse and the City of Cincinnati to be able to have on-water events there, which require the concrete dock.


I can't emphasize enough how grateful we are for your and the Park Board's continuing support of this project. I hope you also recognize the extraordinary commitment of the developer, Chuck

Jack C. Wilson  
Page 3

Kubicki, who tore up our "mortgage" for over \$200,000 worth of improvements at the Center and has supported us in all our efforts to date. This support has really permitted us to get as far as we have. We are also very grateful to the Gregory family and Montgomery Inn at the Boathouse. They have been the presenting sponsors and very helpful and understanding with Center-sponsored events in 1990. They are also underwriting the cost of the stair improvements once the necessary permission is obtained from the Corps of Engineers. I hope with your help and their continued support, we will have a Cincinnati-side landing before too many more months. Baker Concrete is ready to do the job as soon as the plans are approved.

Obviously, if there is ever anything you or the Park Board members or staff need from the Cincinnati Rowing Center, you have only to ask. The Center's new Director, Dan Jewett, would be glad to come to a Board meeting or host the Board or your staff for a workout or a tour.

Sincerely,



William K. Engeman

WKE/gc  
Encls.

cc: Ted Gregory  
Charles J. Kubicki  
Greater Cincinnati Rowing Foundation Trustees  
Dan Baker  
John Bammerlin  
Cincinnati Rowing Center Board  
Dan Jewett

wilson.ltr

AUG

ROBERT A. TAFT II  
SUITE 960  
120 EAST FOURTH STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

(513) 723-0900

August 6, 1990

William K. Engeman, President  
Greater Cincinnati Rowing Foundation  
180 Star Bank Center  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Bill:

I have just received and reviewed the Application of the City of Newport for a Department of the Army (DA) Permit for the construction and anchoring of a floating boat dock at mile 469.95 in Newport, Kentucky, for use by The Cincinnati Rowing Center for the housing and launching of rowing skulls and canoes.

The original construction of the Boat House at Sawyer Point and its designation as one of only five National Training Centers by the U.S. Rowing Association has been of great public interest, not only in Cincinnati and Hamilton County but the entire State of Ohio. Many of us were saddened when the contemplated dock could not be constructed.

While, initially, I thought the sight of skulls rowing on the Ohio River would add another jewel to the Queen City's already impressive skyline, I can understand the Corps' reluctance to grant such a permit in light of the substantial barge traffic. What a great solution the barge and its accessibility to the Licking River offers.

Thus, it is with great enthusiasm that I endorse the Application for the Newport dock. The facility, once completed, will afford the citizens of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky a unique opportunity to learn the great sport of rowing and add another dimension to the resources and attractions of this area.

I strongly support approval of the Application.

Yours very truly,



Robert A. Taft, II  
Hamilton County Commissioner





August 13, 1990

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Louisville District  
P.O. Box 59  
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-0059

Attn: Mr. Frank DeGott  
Operations and Readiness Division

Dear Mr. DeGott:

I am writing in support of the Cincinnati Rowing Center's request to dock a barge in Newport, Kentucky for the purpose of storing and launching rowing shells.

The Cincinnati Rowing Center is a USRowing National Training Center. A rowing shell storage facility located in close proximity to downtown Cincinnati and the Licking River in Northern Kentucky would be of great convenience to Cincinnati-based US rowers who are training and working career jobs. My colleague Kris Korzeniowski, USRowing's National Technical Director, and I recently visited Cincinnati and toured the Licking River. We found the Licking River and the location of the proposed boat storage barge facility to be an excellent solution for rowing and shell storage in the greater Cincinnati area.

The United States Rowing Association strongly supports the Cincinnati Rowing Center's request for this rowing shell storage and launching facility. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Matt Smith  
Program Director

TIMOTHY A. GARRY, JR.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1100 AMERICAN BUILDING  
30 EAST CENTRAL PARKWAY  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

TELEPHONE  
(513) 621-2888

July 31, 1990

TELECOPIER  
(513) 241-1181

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District  
Attn: Mr. DeGott  
P.O. Box 59  
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-0059

Re: Public Notice No. 90-KY-195

Greetings:

I am writing to express my support for the rowing shell and canoe storage and launching facility which has been proposed by the City of Newport and the Cincinnati Rowing Center to be moored at Mile 469.95 of the Ohio River at Newport, Kentucky. I do not have the training or background regarding this proposal to comment on its technical characteristics. However, I believe that your grant of a permit for this facility is in the public interest.

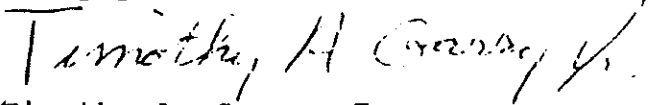
By way of background, I am a life-long resident of Greater Cincinnati. My first exposure to rowing was on the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. during the four years I was a student competing for Georgetown University. Upon my return to Cincinnati in 1982, I found a small group of people engaged in expanding rowing in Greater Cincinnati beyond the three recently-formed high school programs. In Spring, 1983, I coached students from the three universities in the area, which spawned rowing programs at the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University which thrive today. Over the years I have also participated in administering the Cincinnati Rowing Center, as well as competing for it as a coxswain and a lightweight single sculler.

The quality of rowing in Cincinnati has improved dramatically since 1982 to the point where it is usual for locally-trained athletes to earn seats in national team boats. In addition, there have been many, many people who have participated in rowing here, from students to senior citizens. These results have been due to two major factors: visionary leadership and tremendous community support, both private and governmental. One of the ongoing challenges has been to expand facilities to the point where there can be true community-based recreational rowing for everyone who wants to participate. The proposal before you is a huge step in that direction.

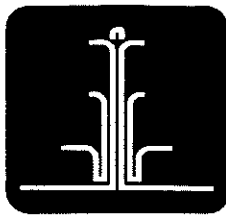
I am not so parochial as to think rowing is the only worthwhile recreational endeavor in life. But it does help kids develop good work habits, strong bodies, and a combination of self-reliance and trust of others. It is also a low-impact exercise that offers great cardio-vascular benefits to people of all ages. One of the things that makes our community great is the diversity of recreational opportunities that it offers. This facility would immediately add to that diversity.

Having rowed hundreds of miles in my single scull on the Ohio River out of the boat storage shed at Coney Island, I am convinced that launching, rowing, and landing can occur safely at the proposed facility, and that the rowers and canoeists can co-exist with the commercial vessels, pleasure craft, and businesses that use the two rivers in this area. I look forward to the day when I can row without first wading into the river to launch my shell from a sometimes muddy, sometimes algae-slickened ramp. Thank you for considering my comment.

Truly yours,

  
Timothy A. Garry, Jr.

cc: ✓ William K. Engeman, Esq.



Greater Cincinnati  
Chamber of Commerce

John P. Williams, Jr.  
President

August 13, 1990

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Louisville District  
P. O. Box 59  
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Attn: Mr. Frank DeGott  
Operations and Readiness Division

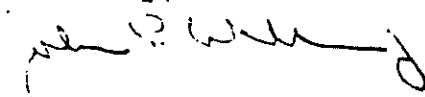
Dear Mr. DeGott:

I am writing in support of the Cincinnati Rowing Center's request to dock a barge in Newport, Kentucky for the purpose of storing and launching rowing shells and training.

The Cincinnati Rowing Center is a National Team Training Center for USRowing. This designation means that Cincinnati is one of only five Centers in the country for the development of the United States National Team. With this established, it is important for the Rowing Center to have a rowing shell storage facility in close proximity to downtown Cincinnati and the Licking River in Northern Kentucky. Upon a recent visit from USRowing National Technical Director, this site is deemed the most appropriate for rowing and boat storage in this area. The proposed boat storage barge facility will give this organization just what it needs to further support our U. S. National Team development.

I support the Cincinnati Rowing Center's request for this rowing shell storage and launching facility and believe it will be a great resource for this community.

Sincerely,

  
John P. Williams, Jr.

vab



September 1, 1992

Mr. Frank J. DeGott  
Project Manager, Regulatory Branch  
Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Engineer District  
Louisville Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 59  
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Re: Public Notice No. 199200770

Dear Mr. DeGott:

This is in response to your letters of August 27 and 31 enclosing copies of letters objecting to the proposed floating boat dock.

The letters from Messrs. Meek, Smith and Leake all relate to access by Ashland Petroleum to their facility at Mile 3 on the Licking River. The point made is their current tow is up to 750 feet long and 54 feet wide and that the river is too narrow. This objection would bar all improvements to the first three miles of the River. Further they state this tow requires the entire width of the River when entering the Licking from the Ohio or entering the Ohio from the Licking River. Mr. Brewer and Mr. Carey make general but related objections. Mr. Carey bases his objection additionally upon "actually near misses of collision with rowers in that area reported by us to the local Coast Guard."

As you know, the existence of the boat storage and launching facility at a particular location does not indicate that the operation of rowing shells occurs at that location. In fact, rowing shells have been using the Licking River for well over 100 years as have Boy Scout canoes, water skiers or other



USRowing™ Official U.S. Rowing Training Center

925 Eastern Avenue • Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 • (513) 241-BOAT

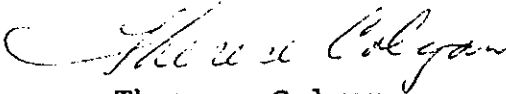
Mr. Frank DeGott  
September 1, 1992  
Page 2

recreational users and they certainly are no hazard to navigation itself. The hazard to the athletes, on the other hand, is substantially lessened by the relocation of the facility from the Ohio to the Licking River. As you know, the Corps issued a permit to the City of Newport, the applicant here, in 1990 for the Ohio River location for this facility and the change of locations will serve to protect the athletes from Ohio River navigation hazards, including barges and recreational users on the Ohio when all launching required passage of the Ohio River channel to reach the Licking River.

The proposed location of the facility downstream and inside the line at the 4th Street bridge pier removes any possible hazard to navigation posed by the facility. The pilot must steer to avoid the two bridge piers. They can pursue the same line down the much wider channel below the piers for a few seconds and avoid any possibility of damaging the boat dock. This should not prove a significant difficulty and far less difficult than unexpectedly meeting another water craft in the same stretch of the Licking River a difficulty which they currently face every day.

The enclosed letter from William Engeman of August 24, 1990 summarizes the beneficial impact of this project.

Sincerely,

  
Therese Colgan