



City of Annapolis

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

145 Gorman Street, 3rd Floor, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chartered 1708 Annapolis 410-260-2200 • FAX 410-263-9158 • MD Relay (711)

To: City Council
From: Planning Commission
Date: June 6, 2024
Re: Recommendations regarding changes to the Table of Uses and/or Standards applicable to the Waterfront Districts pursuant to Title 21.46.010 C 5.

Introduction

In accordance with O-25-21, incorporated as Title 21.46.010 C 5. The Planning Commission shall submit findings and recommendations to the City Council for Changes to the table of uses and/or standards applicable to the waterfront districts in order to preserve the maritime industry as a vibrant part of Annapolis' heritage and as a contributor to the local economy.

The Maritime Taskforce ("MTF") met for a year and reviewed the challenges and opportunities facing both the maritime districts and the maritime industry, and how the districts function within the larger city, with an eye toward ensuring their continued success. The thirty-four active members of the Task Force reflected the districts, industry, and city with a wealth of knowledge and experience from both Annapolis and other world-class boating centers.

The Task Force came to consensus on a range of policy proposals aimed at protecting the districts while allowing them to evolve. It confirmed that the maritime zoning districts in Annapolis have been a great success, and the health of the maritime industry in Annapolis owes much to their existence. A consensus report was finalized in July of 2021 and recommendations were created in good faith by a group of citizens who devoted a great deal of time and energy to create what they believed would benefit the city immediately and into the future.

Findings

While the City has acted on several of the Water Access recommendations outlined in the MTF report, it appears that not many of the recommended Actions identified for Strengthening Maritime have been implemented. Those Actions include business recruitment, maritime district promotion, workforce development, creating a maritime incubator, exploring creation of a regional Blue Tech collaborative, and establishing an Annapolis maritime industry fund and fees as outlined on pages 50 and 51 of the MTF.

The Planning Commission reviewed its first annual report from the Economic Development Department prepared for the March 7, 2024 Planning Commission meeting and updated in a report dated April 4, 2024. The report which surveyed the 47 properties located in maritime zones had a poor response rate. Just 48% of property owners responded. The Director of Economic Development noted several challenges to completing the necessary information in the report. See attached Planning Commission findings dated May 14, 2024.

Despite reporting challenges, the Department of Economic Development reports that the state of Annapolis' maritime industry is very strong.

Recommendation

Based upon the lack of robust reporting by maritime property owners and the list of outstanding items set forth by the Maritime Task Force's 2021 Report, the Planning Commission does not recommend making any changes to the table of uses and/or standards applicable to the waterfront districts.

Resources:

Planning Commission Findings, May 14, 2024

Economic Development 2022 Maritime Reporting dated April 4, 2024

[Maritime-Task-Force-Strategy-Strengthening-the-Industry-2021-PDF \(annapolis.gov\)](#)