



July 19, 2010

Mr. Toby Mack
Ms. Marti DeGraaf
Co-chairman of Chicago Navy Memorial Plaza at Navy Pier
645 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60611

RE: Chicago Navy Memorial Plaza at Navy Pier

Dear Mr. Mack and Ms. DeGraaf,

Thank you for your presentation of the Chicago Navy Memorial plan to Gail Spreen at a recent meeting. The SOAR Neighbors Action Task Force discussed your plans at length during our June and July meetings.

Overall, we agree that the park area near the entrance to Navy Pier is an ideal place for a memorial to honor the men and women of the United States Navy, and the importance that Navy Pier has played in the history of Chicago. As the most visited attraction in Chicago, Navy Pier and the surrounding area has become a focal point of our city and particularly of our neighborhood. We always welcome positive enhancements to this great space.

While we welcome this great memorial, we have some concerns regarding the initial design. Currently, the design of a ship's bow pointing mainly north creates a hidden, barren landscape on the south end of the memorial. The ramped, interpretive plaza would be hidden from pedestrians, traffic, and security commonly found to the north. Should individuals decide to engage in illegal or less than desirable activities on the south end of the memorial, they would be completely hidden.

The current design also presents a very hard and cold landscape. While water features will certainly help, more greenery, and less expansive spaces of hard surfaces should be incorporated. From the river, this area will appear as a mountain of concrete rising from the water's edge. Instead, it should more realistically represent the shorelines of our country by incorporating grass, trees, rocks and other natural features instead of pavers, marble and concrete. The ramped, interpretive plaza, as currently designed, will become a haven for skateboarders, which will put more wear and tear on the structure than anticipated, and create a dangerous area for people to walk up the bow.

We recommend a few changes be considered to address our concerns. The orientation of the bow should be different, perhaps facing east or south, and lowered, so that the ramped area can be monitored from the more populated areas to the north and west. More soft surfaces need to be incorporated. Instead of pavers and concrete, perhaps tall grasses can be used to simulate waves through which the bow is cutting. From the river, this could look as though a grand ship is rising from the ground. Finally, action should be taken to

ensure the ramped area is safe for all users, and that it doesn't create a stage for skateboarders. Lighting is also a key component to creating atmosphere and adding to the security of the area. Significant lighting should be incorporated into the design for enhancement, effect and safety. By addressing our concerns, we believe it will enhance this memorial and make it more inviting to all visitors.

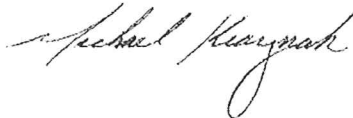
The residents of Streeterville are very proud of Navy Pier, and proud of the fact that our neighborhood literally rose from the waters many years ago. Connecting the history of our city and our neighborhood to the waterways and the men and women who protect and serve on them, is an admirable undertaking and we thank you for your efforts to bring a Navy Memorial to this area.

We look forward to future discussions on this project, and to one day helping you celebrate the completion of a long overdue memorial.

Sincerely,



Gail Spreen
Immediate Past-President and
Co-chair Neighbors Action Task Force



Michael Kraynak
Secretary and
Co-chair Neighbors Action Task Force

Cc: Alderman Brendan Reilly
Benet Haller, Dept. of Zoning and Land Use Planning
Paul Zalmezak, Dept. of Community & Economic Development
Marilynn Kelly Gardner and Vince Gavin, Navy Pier
John Chikow, GNMAA
Mable Buckner, Streeterville Chamber of Commerce
Erma Tranter, Friends of the Parks
SOAR Board of Directors and Jill Heise, Executive Director