

January 14, 2019

Patrick Comiskey
Cambridge City Manager
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Re: Cambridge Yacht Club
Annual Admiral Byrd Regatta
Camping inquiry and joint promotion exploration



Patrick:

During the weekend of July 19-21, CYC will be holding its annual Admiral Byrd Regatta in which we expect upwards of 40 sailboats to participate. Many of the boats who have committed to us already as well as those who are still considering participating, will be arriving with their boats on trailers as it would take too long to sail here then participate in a weekend of racing.

The first Regatta was held 108 years ago and for 62 years, from 1946 to 2008, the largest fleet to participate in the Admiral Byrd Regatta, was the Hampton fleet from Tidewater, VA. These 18' boats became the "Belle of the Ball," and the most prestigious award, the Admiral Byrd Trophy, named so after the Admiral visited the Club in 1947 to make the award (see picture), sits proudly in a case at CYC today.

About 10 years ago, we lost the Hampton Fleet partially because they could no longer camp out on the grounds in front of the Club. We are talking to the Fleet about returning this summer and this letter is intended to explore the possibility of allowing up to 20 tents for just Friday and Saturday nights, on the front grounds either to the left or right of Yacht Club Drive (aka Mill Street), as the City deems appropriate.

The ability to camp significantly lowers the cost to the Hampton crew members, making our Regatta attractive enough in which to participate, compared to the other event options the fleet has.

This is also true for the other trailered, one design fleets who have already committed to us (Shields, Comets), as well as the ones with which we're still talking / negotiating (Hamptons, Albacores, Stars, etc.)

Thinking about what we should expect of the fleet in terms of camping support / behavior / limitations, etc., our thoughts are below but are of course open to the City's thoughts as well:

- Only Friday and Saturday nights
- The club will pay for port-a-potties to be available on the lawn (or could access to the City's bathroom facilities be made available?)
- Showers will be taken at the CYC clubhouse

- The expectation will be that alcohol will not be tolerated in the campground or off Club grounds
- No vehicles or trailers may be parked on the grass
- The campsite will be left cleaner than found

We'd like to ask if the City could provide additional for that weekend.

Secondly, if the city would like to promote the event to the citizenry via the City's website or however it sees fit, as an event worthy of watching we could purposefully set the race course up such that starts and finishes are near and viewable enough to the city dock and Long Wharf. With the PHRF handicap class boats (think Wednesday night racing type boats), and potentially 5 one design classes starting one class after the other, there will likely be little time that there isn't action occurring at the start / finish line making for a great spectator experience. Perhaps there could be a festival like atmosphere planned at Long Wharf.

We have already communicated with Dorchester County Tourism and Events and expect the Regatta to be promoted there. It'll also be promoted in the publication "Spinsheet," but that is not widely viewed by the non-racing community.

I might also mention the fun fact that Saturday, July 20, 2019, is the exact day on which the Admiral Byrd Regatta was held in 1969. Several people with whom I've talked commented on how great it was to watch the Regatta, and then later that same day watch Neil Armstrong take that "Giant leap for mankind." How fun is it that the 50th anniversary of that historic event is during the Admiral Byrd Regatta again this year!

I and other representatives of CYC are ready to come talk with the Mayor and City Council, if you believe it helpful. Thank you for your willingness to take this to the Mayor and City Council and for their and your consideration.

Sincerely,



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