

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 28, 2023
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator



SUBJECT: Princess Cruises Preparations and Ports Research

As the planning and coordination for the Yorktown Princess Cruises pilot program is underway for 2024, staff has put together a timeline of preparations, and activity/accomplishments and compiled research on other locations' ports and cruise ship docking experiences.

Timeline: Preparations and Activity to Meet Marine Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) Compliance

- March 7, 2023 – Meeting with USCG Waterway Division for initial pier assessment at the Riverwalk Landing Piers
- March 22, 2023 – Meeting with USCG Sector Virginia, Homeland Security, FEMA to discuss the new rules and regulations in Norfolk
- April 5, 2023 – Initial cybersecurity meeting with Clint Theobald from USCG Sector Virginia, Department of Homeland Security, via Zoom
- April 12, 2023 – In-person meeting for cybersecurity with Clint Theobald and USCG reps, Cyber Director, as well as with IT Deputy Director and Chief in Yorktown and at Riverwalk Landing Piers
- April 12, 2023 – Meeting with the Watermen's Museum Executive Director and Board members to discuss grant opportunities
- April 13, 2023 – Ports Security and Emergency Response Demo at ODU Sailing Center in Norfolk
- April 13, 2023 – Follow up walk-through with Clint Theobald to help write up cyber plan for our Facility Security Plan (FSP)

Accomplishments and Next Steps:

- Staff is working on updating our Facility Security Plan (FSP) which is 90% of what needs to be accurately completed to obtain our MTSA regulation status.

- The new requirements for cybersecurity have been the hardest part, but after our last meeting with Clint Theobald and the York County IT team, we have the information and are starting to build that into our FSP.
- Building a list of needs to logistically be MTSA compliant and costs associated to apply for the FEMA Ports Security Grant. This grant, up to \$25,000, does not have to be matched by the applicant. Evaluating cyber needs for security, new radios to be used exclusively for operations when cruise ships are here, barricades for the docks, along with proper signage, etc., with a goal to keep below the \$25,000 threshold.
- Submittal information and new FSP ready by August 1 with a goal for approval by the USCG and compliance granted by September 2023.
- Planning for October Cruise Ship World Arrival to serve as a possible test of our systems and security measures in preparation for the Princess Cruises arrivals in 2024 and beyond.
- February 24, 2023 – Zoom meeting with AFR Tours, the Shore Excursion provider for Princess Cruises to discuss the tours to be offered.
- Staff has facilitated contact between the tour company and Yorktown attractions/businesses to provide details for destination experiences.
- May 31, 2023 – Scheduled logistics meeting to review bus staging areas and other related details.

Coordination with Princess Cruises

- Working to finalize 2024 pilot program dates.
- Staff continues to be in communication with the Princess Cruises Port Operations Team to identify dates that work for both the cruise line and the County.
- Staff continues to work with the communications team/director in announcing the 2024 pilot program details and have offered to assist in hosting a press event.
- Dates have been requested to hold local town hall meetings with the principal of Princess Cruises.

We have established dialogue with other ports to understand other ports' experiences, successes, and challenges as well as fees and structure. While this is only a small sample

of cruise ship experience, staff continues to reach out to other localities. We will continue to develop research and follow up as it is received.

Given the status of the state budget, we have no information regarding any possible grant and we will need to await further developments regarding any activity concerning a permanent facility suggested for the future.

Olsen/3525

Attachment:

- February 9, 2023 Press Release



Yorktown, Va., to be Featured on Princess' 2024 Schedule, First Major Oceangoing Cruise Line to Visit Virginia's Historic Triangle

***America's Earliest Settlements, Revolutionary War Sites and Charming Small Towns
Provide Guests with Unique Experiences Ashore***

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (February 9, 2023) – For the first time ever, Princess Cruises will call at Yorktown, Va. and Virginia's Historic Triangle, as part of a series of custom-curated itineraries in summer 2024 that will highlight opportunities to experience Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown in addition to visiting the historic seaside town.

Princess Cruises is planning five day-long calls – three via Island Princess (2,200 guests/900 crew) and two via Emerald Princess (3,080 guests/1,200 crew) – that will result in a significant economic impact to the region, which has played an important role in American history.

Additional details, including specific sailing dates, itineraries and shore excursions, are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

"Princess is already well known for our unique itineraries that appeal to our guests who gravitate toward interesting historical and cultural opportunities and Yorktown is perfectly in tune with that philosophy, offering not only a glimpse at the Revolutionary War but also dining, shopping and activity options with wide-ranging appeal. It's a win-win for everyone," said John Padgett, president of Princess Cruises.

Padgett added that the new itineraries are even more significant as interest builds ahead of events and festivities across Virginia to commemorate the 250th anniversaries of the Revolutionary War and the Declaration of Independence.

"Our community is rooted in history and it is an important part of our visitor mix. We are honored that Princess Cruises sees the value in bringing their customers to Yorktown," said Kristi Olsen-Hayes, Director, York County Economic & Tourism Development. "Additional visitors coming to our area via the cruise line would contribute to the region's economy, benefiting retail, restaurants, and regional attractions, as well as generating revenue for both the Commonwealth and multiple local governments."

As the first major cruise line to call on the region, Princess understands and appreciates the significant role it plays in boosting area tourism and, as it does with other homeport and port of call communities, the company will work with local tour operators to showcase the attributes of this fascinating historical region while benefiting local residents.

"We couldn't be more excited about this incredible opportunity to add this truly unforgettable destination experience to our already impressive array of itineraries," said Padgett. "As a native Virginian myself, I can attest that an itinerary that offers the chance to visit Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown promises to be a most welcome addition for our guests, providing them memorable vacation experiences that they can't find anywhere else."

Yorktown offers 300 years of history from revolutionary battlefields to 18th Century homes. Picturesque streets provide the backdrop for art galleries, antique and specialty shops, while attractions like the Watermen's Museum offer hands-on programs and exhibits for all ages. Entertainment, including Fifes and Drums performances, abounds, and visitors can stroll along the scenic riverwalk lined with charming restaurants and shops that offer a view of the York River.

Sure to be a popular shore excursion, a visit to Colonial Williamsburg will allow guests to discover why this was the capital of Virginia and the largest, most prosperous American colony. Men and women from all walks of life strolled these streets, and Princess guests will follow in their footsteps as they re-trace history. They'll also explore dozens of original buildings, homes, and shops reconstructed on 301 acres – most on their original foundations. Rare animal breeds, historic trades, and lovingly restored gardens add layers of authenticity to the Colonial Williamsburg experience. Guests will feel as if they've traveled back in time.

Guests opting to visit Jamestown, just a short, 30-minute motorcoach ride from the port, will be captivated by the history behind the original site of the first permanent English settlement in North America and the story of the role of the three cultures - European, North American and African - that came together to lay the foundation for a uniquely American form of democratic government, language, free enterprise and society.

Princess Cruises sails to more than 330 incredible destinations around the world. More information is available through a professional travel advisor, by calling 1-800-PRINCESS (1-800-774-6237) or by visiting the company's website at www.princess.com.

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About Princess Cruises

Princess Cruises is The Love Boat, the world's most iconic cruise brand that delivers dream vacations to millions of guests every year in the most sought-after destinations on a fleet of 15 ships that offer elite service, personalization and simplicity customary of small, yacht-class ships. Well-appointed staterooms, world class dining, grand performances, award-winning casinos and entertainment, luxurious spas, imaginative experiences and boundless activities blend with exclusive Princess MedallionClass service to create meaningful connections and unforgettable moments in the most incredible settings in the world - the Caribbean, Alaska, Panama Canal, Mexican Riviera, Europe, South America, Australia/New Zealand, the South Pacific, Hawaii, Asia, Canada/New England, Antarctica, and World Cruises. The company is part of Carnival Corporation & plc (NYSE/LSE:CCL; NYSE:CUK).

Newsroom:

Additional media information is available at princess.com/news

Media Contacts:

Vicki Johnson, +1 407-340-9658, vjohnson@princesscruises.com

Briana Latter, +1 661-753-1538, blatter@princesscruises.com

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2023

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: York County Dockmaster Building Design

I call your attention to the attached memorandum and application submitted from the Department of Economic and Tourism Development to the Historic Yorktown Design Committee (HYDC).

Once the HYDC has considered the application, we will follow up with the Board concerning the matter.

Morgan/3322

Attachment:

- Memorandum and Application - York County Dockmaster Building Design

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 2023

TO: Historic Yorktown Design Committee

FROM: Darren Williams, Chief of Waterfront Operations and Events 

SUBJECT: York County Dockmaster Building Design

The Dockmaster's Office is a crucial part of the waterfront infrastructure and serves several functions in supporting tourism and economic development efforts, providing recreational resources for visitors and residents, and preservation of Yorktown's rich history. The office manages cruise ship arrivals, waterfront events and activities, and pier operations. As the only facility that can house County staff on the waterfront, the 347-square foot building has become a de facto visitors center, lost and found, first aid station, and home base for Yorktown Waterfront Ambassadors and Parking Attendants. It is where boaters pay to dock, and visitors can reserve an amphibious wheelchair. Most importantly, it provides public restrooms for beachgoers and visitors. The ADA-accessible beach MobiMat, fishing pier, and trolley stop are all located beside the Dockmaster's Office.

Though York County has made great strides to ensure everyone can enjoy the amenities at the waterfront, one crucial gap remains and serves as the impetus for this project—the facility's public restrooms are not ADA-compliant. This is a significant deficiency, and only compounded by the fact that the office was built in the 1970s as a summer lifeguard building. Though it is now used year-round, it was not designed for such. The building lacks a climate control system, so staff members use space heaters in the office during the winter months. Furthermore, they must shut off the water to the building and close the restrooms to prevent the pipes from freezing. The size of the building and lack of climate control create substandard conditions that hamper County staff's ability to manage waterfront operations year-round. County officials have been eager to remedy the situation by replacing this building with one that is suitable to our needs as the destination for visitor services, dock operations, and functional office space for staff working at the waterfront.

Tourism is a key driver of revenue to the County and the growth of waterfront operations and visitation (events, retail, piers, etc.) continues to reinforce it as the destination of choice year-round. A new and improved Dockmaster's Office is a much needed asset to effectively support this important County resource and protect the interests of the nearby residents and businesses and, as such, is a high-priority action item for the County. The

new structure will be a central point of information and guest services with the goal of becoming a state-certified visitors center. The new structure will feature ADA-accessible restrooms, which will be a significant upgrade to the existing facility and support all of the other ADA-accessible amenities - MobiMat, MobiChair, and Yorktown Trolley. The new building will be climate-controlled and will include an area for staff to work year-round and take shelter from inclement weather. Yorktown ambassadors will be able to offer improved guest-relations services and provide visitors with information about Yorktown's important role, and how best to navigate all the regional points of interest, especially within the Historic Triangle. The structure will also function as a hub for managing the logistics of overall waterfront operations and events, and security infrastructure needed to monitor the area more effectively to improve public safety.

This is the third application for the new Dockmaster Building. In 2020, the Historic Yorktown Design Committee (HYDC) tabled the first application due to concerns over the height and impact of the viewshed. The new design being presented in this application addresses these concerns with a lower overall building height. Due to environmental regulations related to its waterfront location, we are very constrained in altering the footprint to achieve an alternate design.

We respectfully submit for approval this essential project knowing it will enhance the quality of the waterfront experience for visitors, residents, and staff – all a part of what makes Historic Yorktown a great place to live and work.

Williams/3508

Attachments

- Application



HYDC #: _____
Date Filed: _____

Historic Yorktown Design Committee

APPLICATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

I/We The County of York request authorization under the terms of the Yorktown Historic District (Section 24.1-377 of the York County Zoning Ordinance) and the Yorktown Design Guidelines to undertake the property improvements described in this application.

Property Location/Address: 425 Water St., Yorktown, VA 23690

NOTE: If property is located within the Chischiak Watch (CW) homeowners association, be advised that approval from the CW Architectural Control Committee may also be required before any changes or improvements to the property can be made.

Tax Assessor's Parcel Number(s): _____

GPIN: _____

Proposed Action(s):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Building	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repainting with existing color scheme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Addition	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repainting with different color scheme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Relocation	<input type="checkbox"/>	New roof – same color and materials
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demolition	<input type="checkbox"/>	New roof – different color or materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deck / Porch / Trellis	<input type="checkbox"/>	New / replacement windows
<input type="checkbox"/>	Garage / Storage Shed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signs (new or replacement)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walls / Fences	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please describe) _____ _____		

Detailed Description of Proposed Improvements / Actions: please describe the proposed exterior improvements and property modifications that you would like to undertake; attach architectural plans or sketches or photographs to depict the proposal: _____

See attached memo

A LIST OF ALL MATERIALS USED AND COLORS PROPOSED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION: (include information for foundation, walls, doors, windows, trim, gutters/downspouts, roofing, lighting, sidewalks, mechanical equipment, decks, rails, chimney, walls, fences, and others as applicable; include samples of materials and color charts.)

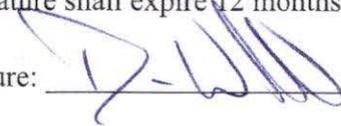
Applicant/Property Owner

Printed Name County of York
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone/Fax No. _____
E-mail _____

Representative

Printed Name Darren Williams
Firm _____
Address 121 Alexander Hamilton Blvd.
City/State/Zip Yorktown, VA 23690
Phone/Fax No. 757-890-3508
E-mail darren.williams@yorkcounty.gov

The above named person/firm has permission to represent me regarding this request for architectural review. I understand that approval by the Historic Yorktown Design Committee (HYDC) of any construction, reconstruction, alteration, demolition or other modification of a building, structure, sign or exterior architectural feature shall expire 12 months from the date of approval.

Property Owner Signature:  Date: 4-21-23

Signing this application form shall constitute the granting of authority to County officials and HYDC members to enter onto the property for the purposes of conducting the analysis of the application, taking photographs and posting signs to notify the public of the application.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CONSIDERATION WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.

Application was:

- Approved
- Approved with Conditions
- Administrative Approval
- Denied

Date of Action: _____