



FOUNDED IN 1975

Working to Keep Streeterville a Neighborhood

SOAR is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

**SOAR Testimony
GATEWAY HARBOR
600 East Grand & 703-715 East North Water Street
Chicago Plan Commission Hearing
Thursday, December 17, 2009**

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Buff Sergent

Good afternoon. My name is Gail Spreen, I am Past President of SOAR, the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents. I am pleased to come before you today to speak, on behalf of SOAR, in support of this project.

SOAR would like to thank the Chicago Park District for their outreach to SOAR and we feel that this new harbor will be an asset to the neighborhood as well as the City.

SOAR works hard to make sure all development in Streeterville, whether recreational, commercial, residential or institutional, is done to the highest degree of excellence. Each project must be sensitive to the pedestrian experience and incorporate designs and features that will enhance the neighborhood.

The need for transient slips in Chicago has existed for a long time and the creation of a significant number of slips for visitors to enjoy will be a service to the boaters of Lake Michigan. SOAR appreciates the regulated requirement and goal to have a significant number if not all the slips be designated as transient slips.

The history of Dime Pier is as memorable as the story of Cap Streeter. Preserving the pier and acknowledging its place in history will benefit the neighborhood. In addition, there are several positive features of the new Gateway Harbor project including: year round public access, LEED certified design, 30 foot width of the pier, subtle lighting on the pier, addition of parkland to Gateway Park, the interesting design of the pier, harbor and harbor buildings along with the dramatic sculpture on the east end and the preservation of the historical aspects of Dime Pier. We applaud the efforts and creativity used to bring these features to Streeterville.

SOAR'S concerns have been the ingress/egress of the many visitors and the services needed for the harbor, pier and restaurant and the narrow road and turnaround providing access. We are also concerned about having enough restroom facilities and services on the new pier for the public who will be enjoying it.

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We have been reassured that this has been reviewed and approved by CDOT, MPEA and USACE and that all concerns have been addressed. SOAR reserves the right to review and comment on any future changes considered in this project.

Thanks to all who are working to make this a wonderful addition to our neighborhood. We look forward to our continued relationship on this project and future projects.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

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