

The Friends of Liberty State Park
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The Jersey Journal

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Dear Editor Augie Torres,

Melissa Hayes did an excellent job in her August 7 **Jersey Journal** piece on the planned yacht marina at the Liberty National Golf Course. As she reported, the Friends of Liberty State Park (FOLSP) oppose the design because it is too close to the LSP public boat launch area – specifically the location of the 440 foot long dock “C”. FOLSP and other organizations including the NY/NJ Baykeeper and the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy and individuals have urged the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to hold a public hearing and order environmental impact studies and water depth studies as the mega yachts can be up to 150 foot long.

Though their lawyer says that the 65 foot distance from the marina is above the requirement, the context must be considered - with the increasingly popular public boat launch area having very busy, crowded days with lines of boaters waiting to use the ramp and some boaters being inexperienced and mega yachts’ width decreasing the distance.

Though Jersey City’s Planning Board approved a golf course, 1000 condominiums, and a marina in concept, this marina design was not specifically approved and it will be on the agenda at its Tuesday, 8/17 meeting at 5:30 pm at City Hall.

Contrary to the marina lawyer’s assertion that this was an “open and very friendly process”, FOLSP didn’t find out about the plan until we got a forwarded ACE public notice email on July 10. The golf course owner, who did an excellent job on its required public walkway, should have set up a meeting with park officials and FOLSP before it applied to the DEP and ACE.

We also disagree with the contention that the DEP’s approval means that the marina won’t have a negative impact on public boat launch users. The DEP’s Land Use Office didn’t even tell LSP officials, let alone FOLSP, about the application before its approval, and this is the same DEP that approved, without any public input, the LSP “Empty Sky” 9/11 memorial with its New York City skyline view-blocking 10 foot hill and planned steel walls, 30 feet high by 200 feet long.

In order to protect those who boat and fish at LSP, the marina plan should be fully explored before more approvals are granted

Sam Pesin
president of Friends of LSP

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