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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navy Pier Marina projected to produce over \$11 MM annually to local economy

CHICAGO – February 13, 2020. Navy Pier Marina, Lake Michigan’s first all-transient marina, will bring more than conveniences to the City of Chicago. According to an economic impact calculation tool generated by the University of Florida and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the new marina will produce over \$11 million annually to the local economy. New mooring tax revenues paired with incremental tax dollars generated by increased boating activity will produce significant revenue for city-funded projects and programs, positively impacting all residents of Chicago. The privately funded marina will also add more than 100 new employment opportunities.

“The impact of the marina is far reaching. Navy Pier Marina will serve the local boaters, create jobs, create new businesses and business opportunities, support existing businesses and generate tax revenue” says Randy D. Podolsky, project developer. The marina provides the City of Chicago with an opportunity to capture the boating community’s high consumer buying power. “Boaters, for the first time, will have an easy place to stop and spend their money locally, which will significantly increase revenue for both local businesses at Navy Pier and the City”, says Podolsky.

The all-transient marina will place Chicago on the map as a top boating destination, driving incremental tourism and revenue. “Boaters from Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana can now comfortably stay in Chicago for a weekend getaway or week long vacation” adds Podolsky, who’s vision for the marina was to provide local and visiting boaters with much-needed flexibility, convenient dining opportunities and direct access to Navy Pier and Chicago.

The local boating community is applauding Podolsky, Navy Pier and the City of Chicago for listening and responding to the wishes of the boating community. “Navy Pier Marina will be a great place for all boaters to bring their family and guests for an exciting venue offering food and fun” said Phil Stefani, President of Stefani Restaurants, longtime Chicago entrepreneur and owner of Riva Restaurant at Navy Pier. “Short term docking and easy access to restaurants and the city are long overdue. Kudos to Navy Pier, the City of Chicago and the developers for making this a reality.”

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P. 2

The marina will also provide a new unique venue for business to business activity in Chicago.

“SkipperBud’s is excited about the new Navy Pier Marina. It will be a fantastic destination for a weekend event for our boaters. We see this new marina as a perfect spot for Captain Lead Cruises and exciting new product debuts. Our boaters are excited to have a new facility in Chicago giving them more ways to experience boating and create memories with family and friends” said Mike Pretasky Jr., President and CEO of SkipperBud’s, the Midwest’s largest dealer with locations in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The marina will be located on the north side of Navy Pier and will offer hourly, daily and weekly mooring to vessels up to 130’. Plans to accommodate larger vessels are currently being considered. Guest amenities include concierge services, 24-hour access and staffing, advance online reservations, a boater’s lounge, ship store, WiFi, utilities (except fuel), bike racks and in-slip pump-out facilities.

The project is being developed for Navy Pier by NPM Venture LLC with design and engineering by world-renowned design and engineering firm, Edgewater Resources. The project received Chicago’s City Council in 2016 and received its permits for construction by IDNR and the USACE in August and December 2019, respectively. It will be constructed with private-funding and will host a grand opening at the opening of the 2021 boating season.

More information about the marina, and future updates, can be found at navypiermarina.com.

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Navy Pier Marina - The Newest Boating Destination on Lake Michigan

Navy Pier Marina is the first and only Lake Michigan dedicated transient marina offering exclusive access to Navy Pier and the City of Chicago

Immediate access to hundreds of dining, shopping and entertainment options with flexible, short-term docking options, offering luxury features and amenities in a 5-star marina experience.

Amenities include:

- Hourly, daily and weekly mooring (including meals and short visits)
- Accommodates vessels up to 130'
- No minimum boat size requirement
- Secured after-hours entry, 24-hour staffing, 24-hour access
- In-slip pump out, electricity and water service
- Advanced floating dock system with fixed docks at East end
- ~7,000 lineal feet of broadside mooring (see aerial view)
- 3-gangways providing convenient access to Navy Pier
- Advance online reservations
- 5-star service with concierge assistance
- Boaters services building with lounge, laundry, washrooms and showers
- Ship's store offering provisions and merchandise
- WiFi, grills, bike racks with bike repair station
- In discussions are Navy Pier attraction and restaurant discounts, room service, boat washes, grocery delivery and more
- Dog friendly

Sign up for updates on marina opening and other events at navypiermarina.com

Photo: Rendering of Navy Pier Marina

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The dedicated transient marina was conceived in 2015. Chicago City Council approved the marina in 2016 as part of a comprehensive Planned Development Amendment for Navy Pier, which also included the current hotel under construction and already completed Polk Bros Park.

A Joint Permit Application was filed with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and US Coast Guard by MPEA in 2017. Permits issued by IDOT in Aug 2019, and the USACE in December 2019. Only outstanding permit is CDOT Waterways Permit, which is currently pending developer submission of final engineering plans (expected by 5/1/2020).

The project is being developed by NPM Venture LLC, Riverwoods, IL with private funding on behalf of Navy Pier Inc, as an amenity for Navy Pier, the City of Chicago and the greater boating community. Randy D. Podolsky is the Manager of NPM Venture.

The project is projected to add significant incremental economic revenues to the City and local businesses, along with several fulltime, and more than a dozen seasonal, jobs.

Project designer & engineer is world-renowned Edgewater Resources, St Joseph, MI.

Project owner's representative is Riverwoods Development Partners.

Potential additional boating organization users may include fishing, sail, and/or yacht charters, and/or a shared boat club.

Wave attenuating dock structures will be incorporated into the dock design to mitigate wave action from Chicago Harbor inner break-wall boat traffic and winds.

Reservations & accommodations will be like reserving a hotel room. Pick your day/time or dates of stay - and your slip will be waiting for you!

Slip pricing and reservation system details will follow in the coming months.

Navy Pier Marina will NOT offer fuel service.

Fishing and public access from the marina will be allowed at specified times/seasons, subject to security and safety considerations.

Construction is scheduled to commence by Fall 2020.

Grand opening will take place at the start of boating season 2021.

Project POC:

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View of the future site of Navy Pier Marina.

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The render above shows conceptual design only and remains subject to improvement.

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