



P. O. Box 838
St. Petersburg, FL 33731

727/824-7802
www.stpetepreservation.org

Project Update May 2009

- **Waterfront Parks Centennial.** Saint Petersburg Preservation is the organizing sponsor for the Waterfront Parks Centennial. The Waterfront Parks are St. Petersburg's most precious asset. Downtown waterfront property was set aside by city leaders for public parkland 100 years ago. Since then much additional waterfront property has been also designated for public parkland. Today St. Petersburg has 3.21 linear miles and 106 acres of downtown parkland facing the water. Additional waterfront parkland may be found in other areas of the city. The celebration will begin in December and continue through 2010. For more information contact SPP at 824-7802. SPP VP Peter Belmont serves as Chair of the SPP Centennial Committee.
- **Designation of Al Lang Stadium as Parkland.** Al Lang Stadium, originally called Waterfront Park Baseball Field, has long made up an important part of our downtown waterfront park system. Nevertheless it was not zoned as parkland when the recent zoning changes were made and park appropriate height limitations were not provided for. The City Council will be considering designation of Al Lang as parkland on June 18, 6PM. Also more appropriate height limitations will be considered reducing allowable heights at Al Lang from 300 to 75 feet (consistent with all other downtown parks) and at the land just south of Al Lang from 300 to 200 feet. Please contact your City Council Member or email the City Council at council@stpete.org. advocating for these changes.
- **Landmarking of Detroit Hotel.** SPP will be again meeting with owners of the Detroit Hotel in the near future to discuss the designation of the hotel as a local landmark. The Detroit is St. Petersburg's oldest and most historic significant landmark. It dates from 1888, the year our city was founded.
- **Proposal to Establish an Even Playing Field for Historic Preservation.** SPP has submitted a proposal to the City Council for making the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) as they relate to preservation of historic buildings more user friendly. (Now being reviewed by the City Council Public Service & Infrastructure Committee).
- **Rebuilding of the Pier.** The Pier is a city icon and probably the most recognizable building in St. Pete. It originally dates from 1913 when a "Municipal Pier" was constructed by the city. This first pier was replaced in 1926 with the "Million Dollar Pier" with its Mediterranean Revival "Casino" building. The current Pier building, the inverted pyramid, dates from 1973. But while the Pier building dates from the 1970s, the pilings holding up the roadway to the Pier date from 1926 and are deteriorating

and must be replaced by 2014. Some \$50 million has been earmarked by the county and the city for the Pier's repair and possible replacement. A City Task Force has been established to research alternatives for the Pier's repair and/or replacement. Various alternatives are being considered including simply replacing the pilings on the current Pier complex, shortening the Pier, and possibly constructing a new Pier building at water's edge with a new pier extending to the east. Several public visioning sessions have already been held. Additionally the public may express their opinion through an on-line survey at the City web site (stpete.org). The Task Force will also be holding hearing. A final report is scheduled for the City Council in February, 2010. SPP President Will Michaels is a member of the Pier Task Force and serves as Chair of the Design and Location Committee.

- **Landmarking of St. Peter's Cathedral.** St. Petersburg Preservation is pleased to have worked with St. Peter's Cathedral to designate the 1899 Florida Late Gothic Revival church as a local landmark. Coupled with this action is the incorporation of the adjacent facade and towers of the 1924 Neoclassical First Baptist Church as a part of the renovated St. Peter's Cathedral complex.

**Will Michaels,
President**