



City of Cambridge

17.

IN CITY COUNCIL
March 7, 1994

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR BORN

WHEREAS: Boston International Sports Promotions has proposed the staging of Thunder on the Charles Unlimited Hydroplane Races for the Charles River Basin for August 19, 20 and 21; and

WHEREAS: The proposed 10-mile race would be run in oval laps between the Longfellow and Massachusetts Avenue bridges, which are slightly less than nine-tenths of a mile apart; and

WHEREAS: For the river event, the Charles River would be closed during time trials and races for much of the day, with occasional periods for recreational boat traffic to pass; and

WHEREAS: These 30-foot, 6,000-pound boats are powered by jet turbines and skim over the water on foils; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council declare its emphatic opposition to this proposal because it is antithetical to the community recreational uses which have traditionally characterized the Charles River, because the noise generated would be disturbing to nearby residents and institutions, because fish and plant life in the river would be destroyed, and because congestion along the river banks would be undesirable; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this statement of opposition be sent to the Metropolitan District Commission, Cambridge state legislators, the Boston and Cambridge Conservation Commissions, and the United States Coast Guard.

In City Council March 7, 1994.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

D. Margaret Drury

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

have consent.

17

Duehay

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Whereas these 30-foot, 6,000-pound boats are powered by jet turbines and skim over the water on foils;

Resolved that the Cambridge City Council declare its emphatic opposition to this proposal because it is antithetical to the community recreational uses which have traditionally characterized the Charles River, because the noise generated would be disturbing to nearby residents and institutions, because fish and plant life in the river would be destroyed, and because congestion along the river banks would be undesirable;

Further resolved that this statement of opposition be sent to the Metropolitan District Commission, Cambridge state legislators, the Boston and Cambridge Conservation Commissions, and the United States Coast Guard.

'It's crazy, totally inappropriate.'

STU SCHMILL
MIT crew director

Race by jet-powered boats is

By David Arnold
GLOBE STAFF

A race by a dozen jet-powered, 3,000-horsepower boats capable of reaching speeds of more than 200 miles per hour has been proposed for the Charles River this summer.

While the prospect of the three-day event promises wails of excitement from spectators, it's eliciting wails of opposition from advocates of more peaceful uses of the river.

"It's crazy, totally inappropriate for the river," said Stu Schmill, director of crew for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Patrick Healy of Reading, a powerboat enthusiast who frequently cruises on the Charles, had a differing

opinion. "It'll be the thrill of a lifetime; the city will rock," said Healy.

About two weeks ago, the Metropolitan District Commission received a proposal to stage the Thunder on the Charles Unlimited Hydroplane Race from Boston International Sports Promotions. At this point, "it's by no means a done deal," said MDC chief of staff Samantha Overton.

Boston International Sports Promotions must get an approving nod from several groups, including the Boston and Cambridge conservation commissions, the Coast Guard, and other river-user organizations before the MDC grants it a special permit, Overton said.

The proposed 10-mile race, according to Overton, would be run in oval laps between the Longfellow and Massachusetts Avenue bridges, which are slightly less

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1994

'It'll be the thrill of a lifetime.'

PATRICK HEALY
Powerboat enthusiast

s proposed for Charles River

than nine-tenths of a mile apart.

The proposal calls for two days of time trials, Aug. 19 and 20, and a third day of races to be held on Sunday, Aug. 21. Boston International Sports Promotions also hopes to host an Offshore International Grand Prix July 28-30 in Boston Harbor and the outer islands, using smaller boats.

For the river event, Overton said, the Charles would be closed during time trials and races for much of the day, with occasional periods for recreational boat traffic to pass.

The races would be sanctioned by the Unlimited Racing Commission, the Seattle-based body that oversees competition in the unlimited hydroplane class. These 30-foot, 6,000-pound boats are powered by jet turbines and skim over the water on foils. Officials

from the body have visited Boston and determined the site is safe, according to racing commissioner Don Jones.

Jerry Fitzpatrick of Boston International Sports Promotions declined comment. He said he regretted plans for the event had become public before he had a chance to meet with some recreational groups.

One group apparently ready to oppose the plan is the Charles River Watershed Association, a 29-year advocate for shared accessibility, preservation and enjoyment of the river.

"It's an absurd idea for an urban river known for its relief from noise," said Anne Blackburn, environmental affairs coordinator for the association. "It's off the Richter scale."



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Born
Non-Consent Order #17 S-93

Councillor Duehay re: Opposition
to the staging of Thunder on the
Charles Unlimited Hydroplane Races
for the Charles River Basin.

Order Adopted

In City Council,

March 7, 1994