

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**WATERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 20, 2023**  
**City Hall Sister Cities Conference Room**  
**301 King Street**  
**7:30 a.m.**

**Commission Members**

***Present:***

Agnes Artemel, Citizen, East of Washington St. and North of Pendleton St.  
Sarah Bagley, Member, Alexandria City Council (electronic participation)  
Eldon Boes, Representative, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC)Maureen Cooney, Historic Alexandria Foundation (electronic)  
Marcee Craighill, Representative, Alexandria Commission for the Arts  
Kristina Hagman, Representative, Founders Park Community Association (electronic)  
Charlotte Hall, Representative, VisitAlexandria (6/20 - electronic)  
Nathan (Nate) Macek, Representative, Alexandria Planning Commission, and Vice-Chair, Waterfront Commission (electronic)  
Brian McPherson, Citizen, Park Planning District III (electronic)  
Lebaron Reid, Commissioner At-Large  
David Robbins, Alexandria Marina Pleasure Boat Owners  
Louise Roseman, Citizen, Park Planning District I  
Barbara Saperstone, Citizen, East of Washington St. and South of King St. (electronic)  
Clair Sassin, Representative, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce  
Stephen Thayer, Citizen, East of Washington St. and north of King St. and Chair, Waterfront Commission  
Patricia Webb, Citizen, Park Planning District II  
Esther White, Representative, Alexandria Archaeological Commission

***Unexcused***

Robert Cvejanovich, Representative, Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)  
Stuart Fox, Representative, Park and Recreation Commission  
Trae Lamond, Representative, Old Town Business (OTB)  
Deb Roepke, Alexandria Seaport Foundation

**Staff:**

Valerie Amor, Office of Climate Action (OCA), Jack Browand, Commission Staff Liaison and Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA); Michael Durham, Dock Master, RPCA; Ryan Freed, OCA, Iris Portny, Commission Recording Secretary, RPCA; Stephanie Sample (P&Z)

**Guests**

Gina Baum, citizen, Christine Bernstein, citizen, and Dan Straub, citizen

**Call to Order:** - Stephen Thayer, Chair

Chair Thayer called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and reported that, pursuant to the City’s Electronic Participation Policy, the following Commissioners were participating electronically: Cooney, on vacation (calling in from Nebraska), Hagman, in California on family business, Hall, calling from home due to a health issue, Macek, on personal travel, McPherson, in DC on business, and Saperstone, calling in while on vacation.

*New Commissioner* – Thayer welcomed David Robbins, the new representative of the Alexandria Marina’s Pleasure Boat Owners and thanked his predecessor, former Commissioner Doug Gosnell, for his recently completed 10 years of service on the Commission.

**Items for Action**

**APPROVAL OF MAY 16, 2023 MINUTES**

*MOTION:* Roseman moved, and Sassin seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. *VOTE:* Passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Items for Information**

**OFFICE OF CLIMATE** – Ryan Freed - Climate Action Officer, Office of Climate Action

*Overview:* Office of Climate Action (OCA) will be leading City efforts in a variety of areas, for example, energy efficiency, high performance buildings, renewable energy, climate change mitigation and reporting, electric mobility, business assistance, community engagement, and advocacy.

**Staffing** - OCA is still staffing up. Freed’s position (Climate Action Officer) was created to coordinate City actions related to climate action, two new positions were created, and five positions have been moved to OCA from GS, TES and P&Z. Freed joined OCA in January 2023. OCA’s sustainability coordinator starts the following week.

**OCA activities highlighted:**

- **Increase public awareness of existing programs** – Publicize the many City climate-related programs ongoing that are spread throughout the departments. Example: City has largest electric bus fleet in the Commonwealth.
- **Personal electric vehicles** – How to create an EV infrastructure so City residents can charge EV cars if they don’t have private driveways? (Electrical cords can’t cross City sidewalks to reach cars on the street.)
- **Expanding the Eco-City Academy** –recruiting participants from throughout the City, ensuring diversity and that each geographic area is represented.
- **Identify climate change’s impact on residents** - How climate change is affecting residents, for example, how many residents are risking health emergencies on super-hot days by cutting back on air conditioning to save money on their electric bills? How can this be mitigated?
- **Education**– Training people for good long-term careers
  - **Sustainable skills training for trades workers** - City teaming with Virginia Tech, local colleges, high schools and other organizations.

- **Federal grants** – City to apply for a federal grant to create an education program for trades employees.
- **Public schools** – Including sustainability in curriculums.
- **Business recognition program** – Recognize businesses that take climate-related action.
- **City’s Energy & Climate Change Action Plan** – OCA will follow up on its goals.
- **Federal Grants (for residences)** – Publicize to residents available federal grants to support residential actions.

**Commissioner comments**

- **Trades Training** – How will current trades workers have time to take off to participate in the sustainability training? A: City is applying for a federal grant to create a training program for those already working in the trades.
- **Certification** - Will OCA keep a list of contractors who have participated in the sustainability program? A: City is considering how to address this.
- **Business community outreach** - Hall urged OCA to reach out to Old Town Business and the City’s business community to identify activities they can help with.

**TIDE LOCK PARK & CANAL CENTER UPDATE -Agnes Artemel, Waterfront Commission,**  
(East of Washington St. and North of Pendleton St. rep)

**Presentation:** “North Waterfront Old Town North Arts District”

- For details, photos and maps see the [presentation](#) uploaded to the Commission’s web page:

Artemel reviewed Tide Lock Park and Canal Center in the context of opportunities, activities and issues related to the North Waterfront Old Town North Art District.

- **Areas covered** - Robinson Terminal North site, Oronoco Bay Park, Rivergate Park, Canal Center, Canal Center events, the former GenOn power plant site (Potomac River Generator Station/PRGS) and the Old Town North Small Area Plan Arts and Cultural District planned.
- **Activation** - area is slowly activating with Café 44, the Bike Bar, a planned Art Gallery and music and food trucks.
- **Maintenance** - needs improvement for the privately owned areas – especially Tide Lock Park. Also, graffiti needs to be removed more promptly.

**Commissioner Comments**

Will power lines be undergrounded?? A: Slowly. It’s expensive. It would probably be bit by bit.

**COMMISSION DISCUSSION - FOOD TRUCKS**

- The current City-wide food truck ordinance was approved in 2015 after lengthy, sometimes contentious, debate. Currently no City entity has proposed the City ordinance governing food trucks be amended.
- What is expected in coming months is for the Planning Commission and Council to consider a process for reviewing any changes to the food truck ordinance that might be proposed.
- Macek (Planning Commission) and Bagley (Council) explained that what will be discussed this summer is the City’s long-range inter-departmental planning program.

- Macek proposed the Commission should be part of the City-wide discussion if the idea of changing the food truck ordinance is considered by any City entity.
- Thayer reported that some informal ideas have been floated for possible food truck locations in the Waterfront area, e.g., Union Street near **Founders** Park, Strand Street near Waterfront Park, near **Windmill** Hill Park, and perhaps **Market** Square.
- Bagley emphasizes that Planning Commission and Council will not be voting this summer on any proposals to modify the City ordinance governing food trucks – only the process for considering any proposed modifications.

**Commissioner concerns raised included**

- Improved enforcement of food truck regulations is needed.
- Commissioners need to have time to consult their constituencies before the Waterfront Commission discussion of the issue. Hagman reported the Board of Founders Park Community Association opposes having food trucks near Founders Park and Hall emphasized that restaurants and other food businesses should be consulted.
- Commissioners should consider any potential food truck changes in the context of public engagement on a variety of Waterfront-related issues.
- The experiences of other local jurisdictions in managing their food trucks should be reviewed.

**Public Comments**

Bernstein suggested Commissioners visit an existing food corral to see what they look like.

**City Updates**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – Jack Browand (for Captain Jamie Bridgeman, APD)**

Browand said Bridgeman’s reported that APD has made no changes to their plans for summer Waterfront operations since the May meeting report.

**Commissioner comments**

***Parking enforcement***

- Council Member Bagley reported that she is working out the details of an agreement with a third party vendor to provide staff to back up the City’s Parking Enforcement Officers as needed.
- Thayer reported that Katie North (T&ES) has responded quickly to resident reports of illegal parking on the 100 block of North Lee Street.
- Saperstone: A resident suggested the City designate residential streets as ‘resident only’ parking if large scale special events are allowed to take place more frequently in the Old Town/Waterfront area. A: Previous parking studies took the position public streets should be open to all members of the public.
- Could a traffic guard be added at King/Union intersection to help manage pedestrian/vehicular congestion? Thayer/: A: Options are being considered.
- ***Lower King Street activation*** – Hall: Old Town Business merchants are working with City staff on additional activation ideas for the Unit block and 100 block and on ideas to manage King/Union congestion. OTB favors adding a pedestrian signal, but not a traffic signal.

**Public Comments** - None

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES** – Jack Browand, Deputy Director, RPCA

- **City Birthday Celebration** - July 8<sup>th</sup>, Oronoco Bay Park
- **Waterfront Park charging stations** – Staff is considering how to keep them available for visitors’ personal use but not to support buskers and deejays. City code requires sound-making devices in City parks to be used with headphones.
- **Parking near City parks** – RPCA is working with the Park and Recreation Commission on how to ensure on-street parking adjacent to City parks and rec centers stays free.

**Public Comments** – None.

**PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES** –Stephanie Sample P&Z

- **10 Duke Street** – Noe Landini, tenant for the site, is making good progress.
- **101 Duke Street (Solo Parking Garage)** – Developer is trying to sell their approved DSUP to another developer.
- **99 Canal Center** –On June 22 the Planning Commission will consider the Bike Club’s request for an SUP to add food, beverages and music at the location.

**Commission Reports / Subcommittee Reports / Announcements**– None.

**Proposed Discussion Topics / Items of Information – Next Meeting**

- **Federal BRIC flood mitigation grant update** – To be provided when available.
- **TFAC update** – Bagley noted the City Manager’s report at Council’s June 13 meeting included a brief presentation summarizing the TFAC Stakeholder Group’s report.

**Next Meetings**

- June 24, 2023 (Waterfront Walk) – Participants will assemble at Windmill Hill Park and walk north through the parks to Oronoco Bay Park, near RiverRenew site.
- September 19, 2023 (Regular Meeting)

**Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 9 a.m.