

ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

Monthly Meeting

Sister Cities Conference Room

City Hall

7:30 a.m.

Commission Members

Present:

Agnes Artemel, East of Washington St. and North of Pendleton St.
Sarah Bagley, Member, Alexandria City Council
Eldon Boes, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC)
Robert Cvejanovich, Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)
Stuart Fox, Representative, Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission
Doug Gosnell, Alexandria Marina Pleasure Boat Owners
Kristina Hagman, Founders Park Community Association
Charlotte Hall, Old Town Business and Professional Association (OTBPA)
Judy Heiser, Alexandria Commission for the Arts
Trae Lamond, Representative, VisitAlexandria
Brian McPherson, Park Planning District III
Lebaron Reid, Commissioner At-Large
Louise Roseman, Citizen, Park Planning District I
Kathy Seifert, Alexandria Seaport Foundation
Stephen Thayer, Citizen, east of Washington St. and north of King St. and Chair, Waterfront Commission

Electronic Participation (by phone):

Nathan (Nate) Macek, Alexandria Planning Commission, and Vice-Chair, Waterfront Commission

Excused:

Barbara Saperstone, Citizen, east of Washington St. and south of King St
Patricia Webb, Citizen, Park Planning District II
Robert Weinhagen, Historic Alexandria Foundation

Absent:

Scott Shaw, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce
Esther White, Alexandria Archaeological Commission

City Staff

Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist, Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA)
Jack Browand, Commission Staff Liaison, and Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA)
Mike Durham, Assistant Dockmaster, RPCA
Matthew Landes, Division Chief, Waterfront Program Manager, Department of Project Implementation (DPI)
Catherine Miliaris, Planning and Zoning (P&Z)
Iris Portny, Commission Recording Secretary, RPCA
Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, RPCA, Director, Office of the Arts
James Spengler, Director, RPCA

Terry A. Suehr, Director, Department of Project Implementation (DPI)

Guests

Christine Bernstein	Yvonne Callahan
Matthew Carroll	Bert Ely
Bhaumik Hotha	Stephanie Landrum (AEDP)
Jeff Lipsky	Christina Mindrup,(AEDP)
Amy Morton	Jeffrey Scott
Carole Sieling	Dena Stoner
Daniel Straub	Patricia Washington
Ivy Whitlatch	

Call to Order – Stephen Thayer, Chair

Chair Thayer called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and welcomed Stuart Fox, the Waterfront Commission’s new representative from the Park and Recreation Commission.

Discussion Items for Action and Information

ITEM 1 - Approval of April 19, 2022 Minutes

Approval of the April 2022 minutes was deferred to June 2022 Commission meeting.

ITEM 2 - Election for the Offices of Commission Chair and Vice Chair (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Thayer invited additional nominations beyond those of Thayer and Macek who were nominated at the April 19, 2022 meeting. There were none. Hall chaired the meeting for the nomination discussion.

Thayer nomination - Lamond moved and Cvejanovich seconded that Thayer be re-elected as chair. The motion was approved by voice vote with Bagley abstaining.

Macek nomination - Artemel moved and Lamond seconded that Macek be re-elected as Vice Chair. The motion was approved by voice vote with Bagley abstaining.

ITEM 3 – Torpedo Factory Art Center (TFAC) Action Plan Update - Julian Gonsalves, Assistant City Manager for Public-Private Partnerships (P3), and Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, RPCA, Office of the Arts

City Manager’s April 7, [2022 Memo to Council](#) reviewing recent and anticipated actions regarding TFAC.

May 17, 2022 Presentation on the [TFAC Stakeholder Task Force](#):

- Gonsalves reviewed the process being followed in response to Council’s direction in December 2021 to appoint a TFAC Stakeholder Task Force to develop and implement a coherent approach to expanding the Torpedo Factory’s vibrancy and sustainability. Community outreach and input will be an important part of the process.
- Gonsalves is working with Diane Ruggiero (RPCA) and Matt Landes (DPI) on the

stakeholder process. The Task Force will begin work in summer 2022 and is expected to complete its recommendations in 2023. The consultant facilitator will be hired by June 2022.

Commission comments:

Thayer thanked the City Manager for including a representative from the Waterfront Commission on the TFAC Stakeholder Task Force.

ITEM 4: Commissioner Appointment to TFAC Task Force - Stephen Thayer, Chair

Thayer invited Commissioners to advise him by email the coming Friday if they are interested in representing the Commission on the TFAC Task Force.

Commission discussion

- Will the group hold hybrid meetings to enable both Zoom and in-person participation? A: Staff plans to hold meetings in-person with an option for electronic participation for those who need it.

City Updates

PUBLIC SAFETY – Jamie M. Bridgeman, Captain, APD

In Captain Jamie Bridgeman's absence, Browand conveyed Bridgeman's information that there were no significant incidents to report.

Commission discussion:

- Hall: The pilot project closing the unit block of King Street to vehicular traffic begins on Memorial Day and ends on Labor Day. Improvements to the pedestrianization of King Street's 100 block are still being "tweaked". Community and Commissioner feedback on the impact of the two blocks' pedestrianization will be important.
- Thayer: The pattern of pedestrian crossings at Union/King will also be watched.

COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATES – Jack Browand, Deputy Director, RPCA

- Staff is cleaning up the parks after large amounts of debris were deposited by last week's storm.
- Robinson Landing (near Chadwick's parking lot) path improvements are being made.
- Two staff have been hired for the Marina and additional staff is being sought. The dockmaster position will be advertised shortly.
- RPCA is actively seeking lifeguards and camp staff to support current recreational activities.
- Cameras will be installed for the floating docks. Due to supply chain problems, staff has been working hard to find affordably priced models.
- Details are still being developed for Robinson Landing's permanent railings for the pier. Temporary barriers remain in place.

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES – Catherine Miliaras, Principal Planner, P&Z

- Miliaras reported that Hilco/HRP's rezoning application for a Comprehensive Development District (CDD) is the only current pending application. Hilco's application for CDD zoning and its conceptual design plan will be considered by the Planning Commission on June 23 and Council on July 5.

Commission discussion

- ***Council action July 5*** - Bagley said Council's approval will be on broad design details. Council is looking for community feedback on the Hilco design's residential/commercial mix, even though Council will not vote on this element of the plan July 5.
- ***Solo parking garage*** – When will the garage be closed for parking? A: Miliaris will find out.

Commission Reports / Subcommittee Reports / Announcements

- **Boes** - EPC is focusing on climate change-related issues, especially for the Hilco power plant site project. EPC plans to be working with the Planning Commission on oversight of the project.
- **Hagman** – FPCA would like to have the Waterfront Walk stop at the Founders Park Grove, the area of tall trees in the park's center. FPCA changes plantings monthly in The Grove.
- **Gosnell** – Thanked Thayer, Macek, Browand and others for keeping the Commission's work running smoothly through the COVID period's Zoom meetings.
- **Hall** - Old Town Business (oldtownbusiness.org) is resuming its monthly Art Walks in May. They are held on the third Thursday of the month from May through October. Specific dates on the Old Town Business website.

June 2022 Meeting - Proposed Discussion Topics / Items of Information

- ***Parking*** - update for Waterfront's southern area.
- ***Annual Waterfront boat trip*** - Commission needs to schedule its annual boat trip to review the status of actions along the Waterfront.
- ***Potential kayak launch*** – Commissioners discussed the possibility of the Commission recommending to Hilco that a kayak launch be included in its planning for the Hilco site.

Next Meetings

- May 21, 2022 – Waterfront Walk – Meeting 9 a.m. at Oronoco Bay Park (Pendleton and Union)
- June 21, 2022 – Regular Meeting
- No Commission meetings are planned for July and August unless issues arise that require attention.

Adjournment

At 8:25 a.m. Lamond moved, and Reid seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.