

**City of Alexandria  
WATERFRONT COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 18, 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  
Eldon Boes, Representative, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC)  
Marcee Craighill, Representative, Alexandria Commission for the Arts  
Stuart Fox, Representative, Park, and Recreation Commission  
Doug Gosnell, Alexandria Marina Pleasure Boat Owners (electronic participation)  
Kristina Hagman, Representative, Founders Park Community Association  
Charlotte Hall, Representative, VisitAlexandria  
Nathan (Nate) Macek, Representative, Alexandria Planning Commission, and Vice-Chair, Waterfront Commission  
(electronic participation)  
Brian McPherson, Citizen, Park Planning District III  
Lebaron Reid, Commissioner At-Large  
Deb Roepke, Alexandria Seaport Foundation  
Louise Roseman, Citizen, Park Planning District I  
Barbara Saperstone, Citizen, East of Washington St., and South of King St.  
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 (electronic participation)  
Esther White, Representative, Alexandria Archaeological Commission (electronic participation)

***Absent – Unexcused***

Robert Cvejanovich, Representative, Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)  
Maureen Cooney, Historic Alexandria Foundation  
Trae Lamond, Representative, Old Town Business (OTB)

**Staff:**

Jack **Browand**, Commission Staff Liaison/Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA);  
Michael **Durham**, Dock Master, RPCA; Matthew Landes, Division Chief, DPI, Waterfront Plan  
Implementation; Catherine **Miliaras**, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning (P&Z); Iris **Portny**, Commission  
Recording Secretary, RPCA

**Guests** - Christine **Bernstein**, resident; Bert **Ely**, Old Town Civic Association

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

Chair Thayer called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. He reported that, pursuant to the City's Electronic Participation Policy, he had approved the following Commissioners' requests to participate electronically for reasons authorized by the policy: Doug Gosnell, Nathan (Nate) Macek; Patricia Webb and Esther White

**Items For Action**

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2023 MINUTES**

**Motion:** Roseman moved and Reid seconded that the minutes be approved

**Vote:** Passed by unanimous voice vote

**FY2024 OFFICER NOMINATIONS – Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair Thayer invited officer nominations for the fiscal year beginning July 2023. He reported that his service will sunset in November 2023 and he will not be running for re-election. Additional nominations will be in order at the time of the vote on nominations at the May meeting. A nomination vote will be called at the May meeting.

- **For Chair:** Macek nominated and Roseman seconded Lebaron Reid as Chair.
- **For Vice-Chair:** Hall nominated and Hagman and Roseman seconded Nathan Macek.

**SET DATE FOR WATERFRONT WALK**

The annual Waterfront Walk, sponsored by the Commission and open to the public, was set for the morning of Saturday June 24 with the start time to be set later. Participants will assemble at Windmill Hill Park and walk northward to Tide Lock Park.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

- **Canal Center/Tide Lock Park** –Maintenance on the privately owned Tide Lock Park site needs to be improved. **Artemel** reported she will also talk to the owners of Trans-Potomac Plaza near Tide Lock Park and report to the Commission next month. She is also talking with the owner of nearby Canal Center about graffiti and other maintenance issues.

**Items for Information**

**TALL SHIP PROVIDENCE DOCKING & PROGRAM -- Clair Sassin, President & CEO, Tall Ship Providence Foundation.**

The Tall Ship Providence and the John Warner Maritime Heritage Center will be open to the public on their new Waterfront Park floating pier on June 17, the Portside Festival weekend, and have their Grand Opening on June 27-28 The ship, a project of the non-profit Tall Ship Providence Foundation, is a reproduction of the original Providence, the US Navy’s first ship during the Revolutionary War.

- Will be used as a floating classroom using storytelling to present the ship’s maritime Revolutionary War history. Tickets will also be sold for ship tours and private Potomac charters.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- **Sail frequency? A:** Public and chartered sales are planned with details on their website.
- **More public restrooms are needed for this area, especially during busy seasons.**
  - **Providence restrooms** - Will they be open to the public? A: Two bathrooms at the Providence Heritage Center are open to ticketholders, not the public.
  - **Commissioners recommended** - City should find ways to add more public restrooms for visitors to the Waterfront, both temporary and permanent. Businesses continue to be concerned that Waterfront visitors use a business’s restrooms without patronizing that business.
    - **Existing restrooms** - A: Staff is aware of the need, is considering options and noted that five public restrooms are located within three blocks of the Waterfront. Commissioners suggested that locations of public restrooms be posted on the website for the proposed Business Improvement Service District (BISD) along with garage parking locations.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- **No Wake Zone** - Actions are needed to make sure boaters on the river know the seawall in Waterfront Park area is a No Wake Zone.

**Follow Up** – Macek suggested the DC Harbormaster (Metro PD) be invited to brief the Commission on how they enforce harbor and river safety rules and regulations affecting boating on the Potomac since this is a DC responsibility.

**CITY EXPERIENCES OPERATIONS UPDATE** -- Kelsey Mccarthy, General Manager, City Experiences, Alexandria

McCarthy reviewed operations of the Potomac Water Taxi, sightseeing cruises and charters running out of Alexandria’s City Marina, DC’s Wharf, Georgetown, and National Harbor. Operations will be fully staffed 7 days a week. Baseball cruises and cruises to Mount Vernon are not operating for the time being, with DC docking issues preventing the baseball cruises.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- Residents have had problems getting Water Taxi information via the company’s phone line.

**City Updates**

**PUBLIC SAFETY** – No report.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- Asked staff to verify the start date for assigning additional APD officers along the Waterfront on Sundays.

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

- **Upcoming turf renovations** - Waterfront Park, Founders Park, and Windmill Hill Park dog parks.
- **Robinson Landing Railing** – Work should be finished by fall on the City portion of the railing. The railing’s private portion is finished.
- **King Street pedestrian area safety bollards** –T&ES will be installing bollards at both ends of King Street’s 100 block and unit block pedestrian zones to block vehicles from entering them.
- **King Street 100 block lighting** – Tree trunk lighting planned.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- **Pedestrian zone signage** – Recommended wording on signage barring cars be made more friendly, e.g., barring cars, welcoming pedestrian visitors. **Follow-up** – Browand will recommend to T&ES.
- **Scooters on sidewalks** - Scooters being left on sidewalks continue to be a problem. **Follow-up**: Browand to report to T&ES and urged people to report scooter violations to T&ES via 311.

**WATERFRONT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION** – Matthew Landes, Division Chief, DPI, Waterfront Plan Implementation

**Overview:**

- **RFP responses**- Responses received in response to the City’s RFP for the design/build procurement contract are being reviewed by the City’s Selection Advisory Committee.
- **May 13/Council** –Public hearing at City Council Chambers on the proposal procurement process being used for selecting a qualified design/build team. **Note**: Public engagement on the substance of the proposed design elements will follow the award of the contract.

- **June 13/Council** – Staff submits for Council’s review and approval the contract for the award for the first step of the two-step design process that will build toward a guaranteed price from the contractor.
- **Public outreach** – May 13 and June 13 meetings will be publicized electronically. Staff encouraged Commissioners to publicize these Council meeting dates to their constituents.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- **FPCA/** bioretention tanks – FPCA restated its opposition to including such surface tanks in Founders Park.
  - A: Full details on procurement process, technical memos on options are posted on website
- **FEMA flood mitigation grant** –How would the City’s \$50 million grant request affect timetable for flood mitigation design and planning?
  - A: A FEMA decision might be this summer. City’s design/build planning will factor in the potential FEMA grant’s scope and timing.
- **TFAC Stakeholders Task Force – timetable?** A: The City Manager is actively reviewing recently completed Task Force recommendations. Decision timetable not set.

**Private Development Updates – Catherine Miliaras, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning (P&Z)**

- Hilco Redevelopment Partners (HRP) - GenON power plant site
- Details at: [HRPAlexandria](#)
  - **Public Site Tours** – to be conducted again in May.
  - **Hilco Park Planning Process** – April 20 Park and Recreation Commission briefing.
  - **Slaters Lane gate/Mount Vernon Trail** - Locked gate blocking access to Trail has been removed.
  - **Public outreach/Early May** – Hilco/HRP Survey launch re parks and amenities preferences.
  - **Public briefing/ late May** - Hilco Open Space planning

**Commissioner Comments**

- **10 Duke Street status?** Concern that only Robinson Landing residents were advised of the community meeting re 10 Duke Street plans re construction, parking, etc. not neighbors in the broader area.
- **Status of townhouses at Solo Garage site** – Garage will stay open while owners re-evaluate the project.

**Commissioner Reports / Subcommittee Reports / Announcements**

- **Sassin/ VisitAlexandria** – Reviewed upcoming events. Details at: [visitalexandria.com](#)
- **Hall/Old Town Business (OTB):** Reviewed upcoming events. Details at [oldtownbusiness.org](#).
  - King Street - OTB is working on short- and long-term plans for 100 block and unit block.
  - Parking- Reminded residents and businesses of \$5 parking under City Hall weeknights/weekends.
  - BISD - Virtual Old Town Business Service District (BISD) forum to be held the following Friday at [oldtownbusiness.org](#). Pro-BISD petitions to be submitted to Council at the end of May.
- **Hagman/Founders Park Community Association** – May 21 FPCA block party is open to the public (on Quay Street 2-5 p.m.)
- **Deb Roepke/Seaport Foundation** – Will be participating in Spring2Action.

**Next Meeting: May 16, 2023**

**Adjournment** – **Motion:** At 9:30 a.m. Hagman moved and Saperstone seconded that the meeting adjourned. **Vote:** Passed by unanimous voice vote.