

**City of Alexandria**  
**WATERFRONT COMMISSION**

**February 17, 2026**

**Lee Center Gold Room**

**1108 Jefferson Street**

**7:30 a.m.**

**Draft Minutes**

**Attendance**

***Members present:***

Jan Abraham, Citizen, East of Washington St. and South of King St.

Michael Adams, Citizen, Park Planning District III

Agnès Artemel, Citizen, East of Washington St. and North of Pendleton St.

Sarah Bagley, Member, Alexandria City Council

Melissa Kuennen, Citizen, East of Washington St. and North of King St.

Eldon Boes, Representative, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission

Stuart Fox, Representative, Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission

Charlotte Hall, Representative, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Robin Jordan, Representative, Alexandria Commission for the Arts

Jody Manor, Representative, Alexandria Planning Commission

Claire Mouledoux, Representative, Visit Alexandria

Lebaron Reid, Commissioner At-Large

David Robbins, Representative, Alexandria Marina Pleasure Boat Owners, Vice Chair

Debra Roepke, Representative, Alexandria Seaport Foundation

Louise Roseman, Citizen, Park Planning District I, Chair

Sydney Smith, Representative, Founders Park Community Association

William Vesilind, Representative, Old Town Civic Association

Patricia Webb, Citizen, Park Planning District II (attended virtually)

Esther White, Representative, Alexandria Archaeological Commission

***Members Unexcused:*** Robert Lantane Montague, Representative, Historic Alexandria Foundation

***Vacancies:*** None

***Discontinued Representative:*** Old Town Business & Professional Association

***Other Attendees:*** Jason North, APD; Jack Browand, Commission Staff Liaison & Deputy Director, RPCA; Catherine Miliaras, Principal Planner, P&Z; Daniel Johnson, Assistant Dockmaster, RPCA; Daniel Straub; Steve Forehand; Bruce Catts

**Call to Order:** Louise Roseman, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 am.

## 1. Approval of the January 20, 2026 Minutes

Upon a motion by Sydney Smith, seconded by Agnes Artemel, the Commission approved unanimously the minutes of its December meeting.

## 2. City Updates

### a. Police Department Report

Captain Jason North provided an update on recent police activity in the waterfront area. Calls for service declined to 73 in January, compared to 83 in December. He mentioned incidents at the City marina where two trespassers boarded boats, and a telephone scam from someone pretending to be from the Sheriff's office demanding payments by bitcoin. Commissioners asked whether APD was addressing the long-standing concern that 911 cell phone calls originating close to the waterfront are often routed to DC or Prince George's County 911. Jason said he would look into the matter and report back to the Commission.

### b. Community Projects & Activities

Jack Browand discussed the substantial and ongoing City snow removal efforts, which were made more difficult due to the prolonged below-freezing temperatures following the January snowstorm; noted that the 2026 Site-See art project will be installed in Waterfront Park in March; and indicated that signs would be going up along the waterfront cautioning against going into the Potomac due to the recent large wastewater spillage. A Commissioner stated that while E.coli in the Potomac is far above the EPA's acceptable limit close to the spillage point in Maryland, it remains well within the acceptable range downstream, including in Alexandria.

A Commissioner asked about the plans to install a memorial in Rivergate Park to those who were killed in the January 2025 airplane/helicopter crash near National Airport. Jack said that many people are involved in the plans for the memorial, which has been proposed to be placed in the northeast corner of the City-owned portion of the park and will not affect the nearby volleyball court.

### c. Private Development Update

Catherine Miliaras reported that the DSUPs for two buildings and two components of the open space plan for the Potomac River Generating Station redevelopment will be considered by the City Council in April or May.

## 3. Items of Information and Action

### d. Discussion of How to Facilitate Use of the Waterfront from the Water Side

Dave Robbins, Vice Chair, provided an overview of opportunities to visit Alexandria by boat or other watercraft. He noted that there is currently no way for the public to visit Alexandria by non-motorized watercraft, such as kayak or paddleboard, anywhere other than the Washington Sailing Marina. Unlike DC, which has multiple kayak rental sites around the city, the only kayak rental in Alexandria is at the Washington Sailing Marina. He also indicated that there is no way for the public to visit Alexandria by power boat between the City Marina and the Washington Sailing Marina. There is no dinghy access for large boats and no piers for power boats. He then described the boating situation and opportunities along each section of the Alexandria waterfront and suggested that that

three-to-five watercraft access points be added along the waterfront to facilitate additional recreational opportunities.

Jan Abraham moved, which was duly seconded, that the Waterfront Commission send a letter to City recommending that it fund in the FY27 budget an update to the 2017 Marina Feasibility Study. The motion delegated approval of the final letter to Louise Roseman and Dave Robbins, after soliciting comments from the Commission members on a draft of that letter. The motion was approved unanimously.

**b. Review of Waterfront Commission Charter and Membership, and Development of Commission Bylaws**

Agnès Artemel, who is leading this project, highlighted the three prongs of this effort and invited the respective subgroups to provide a summary of their recommendations.

Bylaws. Agnès noted that some, but not all, of City boards and commissions have bylaws and that the City Clerk’s office has requested that those boards and commissions that do not have bylaws develop them. She and Jan Abraham used the bylaws of several other commissions and the Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Groups Member Handbook as input to the content of our bylaws. They noted that the draft bylaws will need to be updated as the work of the other two subgroup are finalized and the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Boards and Commissions, which were accepted by the City Council in September, are codified in the City’s ordinances.

Charter. Deb Roepke and Melissa Keunnen discussed their proposed new mission of the Waterfront Commission (“to serve as the primary advisory body to the City Council and City Manager on the stewardship, enhancement, and strategic management of the Alexandria waterfront”), and also a set of five core responsibilities that build on this mission.

Membership. Stuart Fox and Charlotte Hall discussed their recommendations to change the terms for members of the Commission from two years to three years, and to reduce the size of the Commission from its current 20 members to 13.

Commission Comments. Commissioners provided several preliminary comments on the recommendations of the subgroups, such as rewording several of the core responsibilities to remove references that the Commission will “ensure” certain outcomes and retaining the Commission at about its current size but perhaps with some minor revisions to the membership categories. Agnès requested that members of the Commission provide their written comments to her no later than Tuesday, February 24. She will share the comments with the relevant subgroups. The Commission will consider updated drafts of the bylaws, mission and purpose, core responsibilities, and membership at its March 17 meeting.

**4. Next Meeting**

March 17, 2026 (Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street)

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.