



Alexandria Waterfront Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

April 21, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

Subject: Future Role and Composition of the Waterfront Commission

In our [January 28 letter](#) to you, we indicated that the Waterfront Commission is undertaking a substantive review and evaluation of its functions and potential future value to the City's government and residents. This review has confirmed our belief that the Commission can play a key role in ~~the~~ advising the City on its ongoing management and continued enhancement of the waterfront, which is the crown jewel of Alexandria enjoyed by both residents and visitors, as it will be for many years to come. Therefore, we ask that the City Council not sunset the Commission in 2029 or 2030, as recommended by the Subcommittee on Boards and Commissions.

Future Areas of Focus for the Commission. Among the many issues for which the Commission can provide advice in the future are –

- How to improve accessibility to the waterfront by residents and visitors from the water, including expanding access for small watercraft (kayaks, canoes, paddleboards);
- Provisions that should be included in future licenses for commercial vessels at the City Marina;
- Improvements at the City Marina for private slip holders;
- Maintenance of and improvements to the parks along the waterfront, including the broader installation of public artwork;
- Actions that could lessen potential disruptions to access to and public enjoyment of the waterfront associated with the implementation of the waterfront flood mitigation project;
- In collaboration with the National Park Service, identify improvements that can be made to Jones Point Park (including the historic lighthouse), and the NPS-managed land on Daingerfield Island;
- Improvements that could be made to privately-owned and managed waterfront property, such as the Tide Lock Park at Canal Center; and
- Recommendations related to the Robinson Terminal North and Potomac River Generating Site developments.

Sec. 2-4-54 of the City Code sets forth the Commission's current functions as following:

The functions of the commission shall be to advise city council, the city manager, and appropriate city departments on matters pertaining to:

- *The use of the Alexandria Waterfront by commercial and private vessels; and*
- *Implementation of the Waterfront Small Area Plan.*

As discussed above, we believe that our Commission can also provide useful input to City management on the continued enhancement of the City’s waterfront and request that the City Council add a third function of the Commission that reflects this role.

- *The city’s stewardship, enhancement, and management of the Alexandria Waterfront.*

We believe it would also be useful to add to the Code the following paragraph, which provides useful context:

Acting from a broad perspective, the Commission shall consider varied public interests in the development of a forward-looking vision for the Waterfront. As one of the city’s most valued public assets, the Waterfront serves as a shared amenity for all city residents and a draw for visitors, and thus a vital economic driver. By advising on accessibility to the waterfront by watercraft, public artwork and other park enhancements, recreation and events that attract residents and visitors, the Commission helps the city ensure the Waterfront remains a resilient, well managed, and accessible destination that reflects Alexandria’s unique character and serves the collective interests of the entire community.

Commission Membership. We have also reviewed the membership of the Commission, which is currently comprised of representatives of various other City boards and commissions, representatives of other City organizations, and citizens of various parts of the City. We believe that the diverse perspectives the Commission members bring to consideration of the various issues pertaining to the waterfront help strengthen the recommendations we provide City management. At this time, we recommend that the City Council amend the composition of the Commission, as set forth in Sec. 2-4-52 of the City Code, as follows:

Current	Proposed	Member
Representative from the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association	Representative of Visit Alexandria	Claire Mouledoux
Representative of Old Town Business Association [OTBA ceased operations in 2024]	Representative of a retail store, restaurant, or commercial building east of Washington Street	Vacancy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One citizen who resides east of Washington Street and north of King Street ▪ One citizen who resides east of Washington Street and north of Pendleton Street 	Two citizens who reside east of Washington Street and north of King Street	Agnès Artemel Melissa Kuennen

Current	Proposed	Member
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One citizen who resides east of Washington Street and south of King Street ▪ One citizen from Park Planning District I 	Two citizens who reside east of Washington Street and south of King Street	Louise Roseman Jan Abraham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One citizen from Park Planning District II ▪ One citizen from Park Planning District III ▪ One at-large citizen member 	Three citizens who reside west of Washington Street	Patricia Webb Michael Adams Mark Villinger*

*Mark Villinger was appointed this month as the new at-large citizen member but does not live west of Washington Street. We recommend he be permitted to serve the remainder of his term.

Other members of the Commission would remain as currently specified. As we consider the range of background and skills needed to address various issues, we may propose additional changes to the composition of the Commission in the future.

If any member of Council would like to discuss their perspectives on the Waterfront Commission's future role and focus, please let me know. We greatly appreciate your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Louise L. Roseman
Chair

- c: Waterfront Commission Members
 Jim F. Parajon, City Manager
 Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
 Alethea Predeoux, Deputy City Manager
 Cheran Ivery, City Attorney
 Benjamin Naidorf, Assistant City Attorney
 Gloria Sitton, City Clerk
 Jack Browand, Staff Liaison, Waterfront Commission