

Draft Changes to Alexandria Waterfront Committee Functions and Membership For Waterfront Committee Discussion March 1, 2012

Proposed Committee Functions

Underscore and ~~strike-through~~ text represents proposed changes to §2-4-54 of the Alexandria City Code, which specifies the functions of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee:

The functions of the committee shall be to advise City Council, the City Manager, and appropriate City departments on matters pertaining to public, private, and commercial uses ~~the use of the Alexandria Waterfront and the immediate area by commercial and private vessels, including implementation of the Waterfront Small Area Plan.~~

For the purposes of this article, the term "Alexandria Waterfront" boundary shall be the boundary of the Waterfront Small Area Plan and shall include all waters of the Potomac River located within the boundaries of the City and all piers, docks and other structures located on such waters which are or may be used for the docking of commercial or private vessels.

(Ord No. 3382, 5/23/89, Sec. 4)

Effect of Change

With the above change, subjects about which the Waterfront Committee could be asked to review and advise the City Council, City Manager, and staff could include:

- Public improvements, including flood mitigation, new parks and improvements to existing parks, utilities, piers and the marina, and shoreline improvements.
- Design guidelines or standards for new buildings and for the public realm (including parks, plazas, and other public spaces).
- Recommendations related to implementation of the waterfront public art and history plans.
- Proposals for commerce, private redevelopment, and public-private partnerships.
- Studies and recommendations related to transportation, parking, and circulation, including vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, and marine travel.
- City management, maintenance, operations and programming of new and existing Waterfront facilities, including the Alexandria City Marina.
- Operating budgets, capital improvement programs, and funding for new and existing infrastructure, including phasing of planned improvements.
- Public safety and security issues.
- Environmental quality of the Potomac River, along its shores, and on adjacent land in Alexandria.
- Governance and/or fundraising organizations or activities, such as they affect the Waterfront.

This detailed list is not appropriate for inclusion in the ordinance itself, but the Waterfront Committee could have administrative rules, procedures or by-laws that specify this level of detail. Notably, the Committee already advises in most of these areas.

Proposed Membership Changes

To facilitate the mission of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee, several new members are proposed:

- 1 representative of the Alexandria Planning Commission
- 1 representative of the Alexandria Commission for the Arts
- 3 new residential representatives:
 - 1 from Park Planning District I, which generally encompasses Old Town and the Eisenhower corridor to a point just south of Quaker Lane
 - 1 from Park Planning District II, which generally includes portions of the City west of the Metrorail tracks, north of Duke Street, and east of Quaker Lane
 - 1 from Park Planning District III, which generally includes portions of the City west of Quaker Lane

The existing at-large citizen representative other than from any group or area currently represented on the committee would be transitioned to one of the new residential representative seats.

Existing membership, as specified in §2-4-54 of Alexandria City Code, includes:

- 1 representative from the Alexandria City Council;
- 1 representative from the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association;
- 1 representative from the Alexandria Parks and Recreation Commission;
- 1 citizen representative from the Old Town Civic Association;
- 1 citizen representative from the Founders' Park Community Association;
- 1 citizen representative who resides east of Washington Street and south of King Street;
- 1 citizen representative who resides east of Washington Street and north of King Street;
- 1 citizen representative who resides east of Washington Street and north of Pendleton Street;
- 1 representative from the Old Town Business Association;
- 1 representative from the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce;
- 1 representative from the owners of pleasure boats leasing space at the Alexandria Marina;
- 1 representative from the Alexandria Archaeological Commission;
- 1 representative from the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission;
- 1 representative from the Alexandria Seaport Foundation; and
- 1 at-large citizen representative other than from any group or area listed above.

Procedure for Adopting Changes

The Waterfront Committee, in its advisory role to City Council, may recommend potential changes in Committee form and function. Council will have final say in any and all changes, and must pass an ordinance modifying the function and membership of the Committee, which are specified in City Code.