

**MINUTES - Draft**  
**ALEXANDRIA WATERFRONT COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, April 16, 2019**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Sister Cities Conference Room**  
**City Hall**  
**7:30 a.m.**

**Commission Members**

**Present:**

Charles Ablard, Historic Alexandria Foundation  
Cheryl Ahearn, Citizen, Park Planning District I  
Gina Baum, Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission  
Eldon Boes, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC)  
John Bordner, Citizen, west of Washington St  
Rich Brune, Citizen, Park Planning District III  
Susan Cohen, Alexandria Commission for the Arts  
Robert Cvejanovich, Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)  
Charlotte Hall, Representative, VisitAlexandria  
Trae Lamond, Representative, Old Town Business and Professional Association (OTBPA)  
Mark Ludlow, Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)  
Nate Macek, Alexandria Planning Commission  
Kleber (Skid) Masterson, Citizen, east of Washington St. and south of King St  
Mohamed E. "Mo" Seifeldein, Member, Alexandria City Council  
Kathy Seifert, Alexandria Seaport Foundation  
Stephen Thayer, Citizen, east of Washington St. and north of King St., and Chair  
Christa Watters, Citizen, east of Washington St. and north of Pendleton St.

**Excused:**

Dennis Auld, Citizen, Park Planning District II  
Beth Gross, Founders Park Community Association (FPCA)

**Vacant positions:**

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, representative  
Alexandria Marina Pleasure Boat Leaseholders representative

**City Staff**

Jamie M. Bridgeman, Captain, Alexandria Police Department (APD)  
Jack Browand, Commission Staff Liaison, and Division Chief, Park Planning, Design & Capital Development, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (RPCA)  
Lydia Durand, Department of Planning and Implementation (DPI)  
Anthony (Tony) Gammon, Acting Director, DPI  
Dirk Geratz, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning (P&Z)  
Jim Hixon, Dockmaster, RPCA  
Iris Portny, Commission Recording Secretary, RPCA  
Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, RPCA, Office of the Arts.

**Guests**

Christine Bernstein, resident  
Tom Church  
Hal Hardaway, resident

**Welcome and Introductions**

Thayer called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m..

**Call to Order** – Steve Thayer, Chair

Thayer called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**Action Items:**

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 19, 2019 MINUTES**

Hall moved and Macek seconded that March 19, 2019 minutes be approved. The motion passed by voice vote. Bordner abstained due not being at the meeting.

**FY 2020 CHAIR & VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS**

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/WCOfficerPolicyAdopted15May2016.pdf>

Hall nominated Steve Thayer as Commission Chair and Nate Macek as Vice Chair for terms of one year, beginning in July 2019. Brune seconded the nominations.

There were no other nominations. The Commission will vote on officer nominations at its May 2019 meeting.

**ANNUAL WATERFRONT WALK: JUNE 8 FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM**

- **Walk start** - Walk participants will assemble at 9 am at the foot of Pendleton Street and walk south along the Waterfront for the Commission's annual review of the Waterfront. The public is invited.
- **North End Waterfront** - Watters and Hall said it would be useful for the Commission to begin adding the area north of the Waterfront core area to its focus. especially as the power plant area develops in coming years. Hall requested a Commission briefing on current plans for the Waterfront's north end, including- the Robinson Terminal North (RTN) site and Canal Center. Watters said she'd be discussing the north end Waterfront at the North Old Town Independent Citizens Association (NOTICE) meeting in May. She noted NOTICE's interests include retaining its area's Waterfront, open space, and the linear park originally proposed for the top of the embankment.
- **Waterfront North Follow Up** - P&Z will brief Commissioners on new and pending Old Town North DSUP applications, including those related to the Canal Center, Crowne Plaza and MetroStage sites. Watters will send details of the NOTICE meeting to Browand for distribution to Commissioners.

**Presentations & Information**

**WATERFRONT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - - Tony Gammon, DPI**

**Waterfront Utility Relocation Project: Test Pit Drilling**

[https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/WCWF\\_Test%20Pit\\_Drilling\\_Update.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/WCWF_Test%20Pit_Drilling_Update.pdf)

- Preparation work continues on undergrounding the last of the utility wires along Strand Street, including the poles along the Strand near Chadwicks. Work is planned for April 17 to May 3, 2019, weather permitting. Decisions on how to contract the work will be made as the design/build work continues. Wires have already been undergrounded for the Robinson Terminal South area.
- The test pit drilling area covers Prince Street to King Street, beginning on Prince Street and working towards the Old Dominion Boat Club and Waterfront Park. The City and Dominion Power will work together to minimize power disruptions as power is switched over from above-ground to below-ground wires. Staff will work to minimize disruptions to parking and pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
- DPI will keep residents and local businesses advised of the work schedule. Questions on the project should be directed to DPI's Lydia Durand.

**WATERFRONT PARK PUBLIC ART UPDATE - Diane Ruggiero, RPCA**

Thayer commended Ruggiero for Waterfront Park's successful opening reception and ribbon cutting. He noted the park is already being actively used throughout the day.

- Ruggiero reported that the City has commissioned an original sound composition and a dance piece that will be performed near the "Mirror Mirror" art work through October 2019. The City will soon announce the artist for Waterfront Park's temporary public art piece next year. The artist will visit the City in May/June.

***Commission Discussion:***

There was a brief discussion of security planning for the park.

**City Updates**

**PUBLIC SAFETY – Jamie M. Bridgeman, Captain, APD**

- Capt. Bridgeman reviewed statistics for violations for which tickets had been issued during the March 1 through April 15, 2019 in the Waterfront area. He noted there were no violent crimes.
- Two APD officers will be walking King Street on Friday and Saturday evenings and focus on Waterfront Park due to its large number of visitors.
- APD is working with T&ES on a traffic plan for the METRO shutdown period.
- People are reminded to contact Call/Click/Connect to report problems.

***Commission discussion:***

***Dockless mobility devices (scooters)*** - Commissioners encouraged APD to take all actions within their authority that could encourage safer scooter use. In response to questions, Bridgeman said it

is illegal to operate a scooter on sidewalks. Browand said T&ES will brief the Commission on the City's pilot scooter program in May or June.

**COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATES – Jack Browand, RPCA**

- **Tall Ship Providence** - Council has approved the City's agreement with the Tall Ship Providence Foundation for docking the Providence at the Marina's G/H pier temporarily.
- **Waterfront Park** - Work is substantially complete. Waterfront common elements such as the promenade lights have been installed and the new Gadsby lights will soon be installed along the Strand side of the park. Fencing will be taken down after utilities work is done.
- **Windmill Hill Park** - Work on the park is substantially complete. The contractor will continue to monitor portions of the park during the coming year. Browand reported the quantity of shoreline debris is the same this year as in previous years but more debris is being held near the shoreline by the goose deterrent measures installed to protect the new shoreline until it is stabilized. The shoreline's natural flushing will not resume until after the goose deterrent measures are removed, perhaps in a year. The contract for Windmill Hill's Park's northern pier will likely be awarded during summer 2019.
- **Dockless Mobility Devices Pilot (e.g. scooters and bicycles)**  
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=106050>
  - T&ES is compiling information on how well the pilot program is working for its report to Council in May 2019. It will then brief the Commission. The City's website for the Dockless Mobility pilot is at the link listed above.
  - **Reporting scooter violations** - Comments can be made directly on City Council's Call/Click/Connect and to the general Call/Click/Connect contact. The terms of companies' MOU agreements with the City require each scooter to display a company phone number to call for reporting problems. Browand encouraged people to take photos of scooters that do not display a such a phone number and email the photos to Call/Click/Connect (CCC). T&ES will incorporate problems reported via CCC into the T&ES report to Council this spring that will cover safety (e.g. traffic-related violations and accidents), usage, parking and other issues related to the pilot program.

**Commission discussion:**

- **How to encourage safe scooter use** - Commissioners discussed at length the need for the City to find ways to encourage safer use and parking of motorized scooters. Macek encouraged Commissioners to consider actions the City could take to encourage safer scooter use since their use is an option for reducing the City's parking and traffic problems related to cars. Commissioners urged the City to require electric scooters to have lights that make them more visible to drivers. Boes urged T&ES to include the program's benefits in their report on the pilot and not only its problems.

**PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES – Dirk Geratz, P&Z**

- **Downtown Frederick Partnership delegation visit to City** - Geratz reported he and the City's Economic Development staff had met recently with a delegation from Frederick,

MD to review King Street and Old Town North as they consider ways to improve downtown Frederick. He noted Frederick's City Council has also been considering how to regulate motorized scooters to ensure their safe operation. During the delegation's tour they were especially impressed by the clarity of the City's Wayfinding signage, and by the King Street Trolley, maps posted on light poles, pedestal corner signs and plentiful trash cans.

- **Watermark Condominiums** (211 Strand Street) - Work continues.
- **Robinson Landing** (formerly Robinson Terminal South) - Work continues on the condominiums and townhouses.
- **Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO) (RiverRenew project)**- Staff is planning a RiverRenew briefing for the Commission in May. RiverRenew's Planning Commission public hearing will be June 25 and its Council public hearing will be in July 2019.

**Commission Discussion:**

- **Signage** - Macek asked when the City's old highway-style signs will be taken down now that the new Wayfinding signs have been installed. Also, have any lessons been learned from the color fading on the streetscape signs installed near on South Washington Street near Wilson Bridge six years ago. Geratz said the newer signs seem to be holding their color but they will be watched.

**Liaison Reports**

**AD HOC MONITORING GROUP ON WATERFRONT CONSTRUCTION** - John Bordner, Ad Hoc Group chair

**Information posted to:**

**<https://www.alexandriava.gov/special/waterfront/default.aspx?id=86800>**

- The next meeting is May 6, 2019.
- Bordner reported Ad Hoc Group members had voiced support for the City's commitment to maintaining the Waterfront, including debris removal at Windmill Hill Park. Bordner had advised the Ad Hoc Group members this is a Waterfront Commission issue since it is not related to construction. Browand said the goose deterrent fence posts which currently capture the debris will stay in place until the shoreline's short plants are established. He noted the City Manager has requested an additional \$50,000 for waterfront maintenance this year.

**Commission discussion**

**Waterfront Park kayaking ramp** - Thayer asked staff to look at the kayak ramp at the foot of King Street in Waterfront Park since the ramp becomes dangerously slick during low tide in the summer when algae grow on it. He urged staff to consider if there is a way to mitigate the slickness or at least warn people of it. Browand said he would review it and see how signage could help address the problem.

**SUBCOMMITTEE on RIVERRENEW STAKEHOLDERS ADVISORY GROUP** – Skid Masterson and Christa Watters, Co-Chairs  
<https://riverrenew.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/mm-2019-0326-Meeting-Minutes-SAG-Meeting-02.pdf>

Watters reported the well-attended and lengthy March 26 meeting of the RiverRenew Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG) covered much information and detailed plans have been posted to their website. The goal is to present the RiverRenew plan at the Planning Commission's June 25 public hearing and to Council at its July 9 meeting. The draft environmental assessment was submitted March 11 and it is hoped that the National Park Service might publish its final environmental assessment by late April.

Among the issues discussed at the meeting were haul routes for removing contaminated soil and the volume of trucks that would be needed to remove the soil. Some citizens urged soil removal by barge. Plans to mitigate the impact on the community were also discussed, as was the likely rate rise that is expected to continue for a number of years.

The next SAG meeting is May 1, 2019 at the AlexRenew Environmental Center.

#### **Commissioner Announcements/Reports**

- ***Siefert*** (Alexandria Seaport Foundation) - Siefert thanked everyone for their support after the fire at the Seaport Foundation. The north side of the building sustained most of the damage and smoke damage was confined to the first floor. Volunteers, staff and apprentices will likely to do most of the reconstruction work.
- ***Boes*** (Environmental Commission) - City's 26th annual Earth Day celebration is April 27 the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park
- ***Lamond*** (Old Town Business and Professional Association) - OTB&PA is hosting its first Cocktail Week. It will start May 3 and include 20 different activities. Information is posted at VisitAlexandria.com . Later in May OTB&PA is playing the Del Ray Business Association in a charity softball game whose proceeds will support the Baroody Foundation's programs for youth sports.
- ***Browand*** - In a pilot project, the City will begin installing in May trash compactor cans in a Waterfront Park and the Marina to increase the amount of trash that each can holds.
- ***Next meeting*** - Thayer announced the next meeting will be May 21, 2019.

#### **Adjournment**

Thayer adjourned the meeting at 9 a.m.