

**Minutes**  
**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**WATERFRONT COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**  
**City Hall - Sister Cities Conference Room**  
**301 King Street**  
**7:30 a.m.**

**Commission Members**

***Members present at the meeting were:***

Jan Abraham, East of Washington St. and South of King St.  
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)  
Maureen Cooney, Historic Alexandria Foundation  
Marcee Craighill, Representative, Alexandria Commission for the Arts  
Stuart Fox, Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission  
Lawrence Gillespie, Citizen, East of Washington St. and north of King St.  
Charlotte Hall, Representative, Old Town Business (OTB)  
Nathan Macek, Representative, Alexandria Planning Commission, Waterfront Commission Vice-Chair  
Claire Mouledoux, Representative, VisitAlexandria  
Lebaron Reid, Commissioner At-Large and Commission Chair  
Debra Roepka, Alexandria Seaport Foundation  
David Robbins, Representative, Alexandria Marina Pleasure Boat Owners  
Louise Roseman, Citizen, Park Planning District I  
Clair Sassin, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce (remote)  
Sydney Smith, Representative, Founders Park Community Association  
Esther White, Alexandria Archaeological Commission (remote)

***Members excused:***

Patricia Webb, Citizen, Citizen, Park Planning District II

***Members unexcused:***

***Vacancies:***

Citizen, Park Planning District III  
Representative, Old Town Civic Association (OTCA)

**Staff:** Jamie M. Bridgeman (Captain, APD), Jack Browand (Commission Staff Liaison & Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs (RPCA)), Matthew Landes (Portfolio Manager/Division Chief, Project Implementation), Iris Portny (Commission Recording Secretary, RPCA).

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Reid at 7:30 a.m.

2. **Items for Action:**

a. **FY2025 Officer Nominations – Chair and Vice Chair**

The Commission nominated Lebaron Reid (Commissioner At-Large) to be chair and Claire Mouledoux, (Representative, VisitAlexandria) to be vice chair of the Waterfront Commission for the 2025 fiscal year. Additional nominations may be made at the June meeting, when the Commission will vote for the Commission officers for the upcoming year.

b. **Approval of minutes:** Deferred

3. **Items for Information:**

a. **Procedure for Virtual Attendance.** Jack Browand reminded members that virtual attendance for these meetings should be requested and approved prior to the meeting, and that there is a limited number of times an individual can participate virtually. Because the meetings are held in person, those attending virtually are not counted as a part of the quorum required to hold the meeting.

b. **Robinson Terminal North (RTN) Subcommittee.** A five-member RTN Subcommittee will be established, and those interested should email Chair Reid. The Subcommittee will follow a process similar to that used to evaluate an earlier proposal for the development of Robinson Terminal North and the proposal for the development of Robinson Terminal South. The previous working group had a checklist of what the Waterfront Small Area Plan called for at that specific site and the extent to which the development proposal aligned with the objectives of the Plan. The subcommittee will bring its assessment of the RTN development proposal to the full Commission for its consideration.

c. **Draft Letter to City Manager.** A draft letter was shared with the Commission members regarding the Commission's assessment of the progress on the Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation project, with a particular focus on flood mitigation. Members raised a variety of suggestions and questions regarding the proposed pump station that would be located in Waterfront Park, including whether alternate locations were considered. Matt Landes indicated that other options were considered but were not viable within the constraints of the City's capital budget. Several commenters stated that the letter should not be critical of a pump station in Waterfront Park if there are no viable, cost-effective alternatives and stressed the importance of incorporating amenities into the pump station, if it were to be built in the proposed location.

A member asked if a passive approach to water control was considered that would not entail a pumphouse but would create ponds or water features that would allow the flooding to exist as opposed to trying to manage it through pumps. Community feedback to using portions of parkland for ponds or other water features has not been favorable. Also, this approach would not address the frequent flooding on Prince Street, the Strand, and King Street.

A member suggested that it would be useful to provide information on the City website about the waterfront flood mitigation project, describing which mitigation initiative(s) will address each of different causes of flooding, and the timeline for the project.

Several members also suggested that the letter emphasize the importance of the City's waterfront to tourism, noting that the Portside festival would go on hiatus during the construction phase of the waterfront flood mitigation project. There was a suggestion that alternate locations for the festival should be considered.

Chair Reid said that the Commission's comments will be taken into consideration in redrafting the letter. Committee members asked that, in the future, draft letters from the Commission be shared with members in advance of the meeting to facilitate thoughtful input.

#### 4. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 am.