

FUTURE FOCUS OF THE WATERFRONT COMMISSION

RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 2025 SURVEY OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commission Charter and Membership. We should consider whether the Waterfront Commission's charter should be updated and if so how. The current charter, which was adopted by the City Council in 2012, states

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.*

For purposes of this article, the term "Alexandria Waterfront" shall include the area within 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.

We could also use this opportunity to determine whether changes to the Commission's membership are warranted.

Are you interested in serving on a Commission task force to consider possible changes to our charter and membership?

Yes: 8 **No:** 11

Commission Website. We also should review the content of the Waterfront Commission page on the City website with the objective of raising awareness of the Commission in the community and expanding the information/documents on the website.

Are you interested in serving on a Commission task force to recommend changes to the Waterfront Commission page on the City website?

Yes: 11 **No:** 8

Areas of Future Commission Focus. We would like to get the perspectives of the members of the Waterfront Commission on what the Commission's focus should be over the next year. For each issue, rank issues that you think the Waterfront Commission should focus on, and which of these issues the Commission should recommend that the City include in its budget for the next fiscal year, as input to our budget letter, which is due in early November. Also, indicate which of these issues would benefit from an ad hoc or standing subcommittee/task force of the Commission (which could be a joint subcommittee/task force with another City board or commission), and note which of the subcommittee(s)/task force(s) you'd like to participate in.

Rank each issue from 1 to 5.

5: Strongly agree that this should be a focus

1: Strongly disagree that this should be a focus

Note: Several respondents didn't respond to each aspect of the survey, which is why the total number of responses to each question varies.

Issue	Area of Waterfront Commission focus (Rank 1-5)	Recommendation that this issue be funded in the City's FY27 budget (Rank 1-5)	Issue would benefit from a Commission subcommittee/ task force (Yes/No)
Waterfront flood mitigation project: Project design; minimizing disruption to the waterfront during construction to the extent possible; future improvements to Pt. Lumley Park and Waterfront Park	Rank 5: 18 Rank 4: 1	Rank 5: 16 Rank 3: 3	Yes: 10 Maybe: 1 No: 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feels like this is for the full Commission to focus on but perhaps as-needed subcommittees created for specific issues Do we already have one? 			

Issue	Area of Waterfront Commission focus (Rank 1-5)	Recommendation that this issue be funded in the City's FY27 budget (Rank 1-5)	Issue would benefit from a Commission subcommittee/ task force (Yes/No)
Art in the parks: Installation of permanent art installations in the parks along the waterfront, as envisioned in Appendix 5 of the Waterfront Small Area Plan.	Rank 5: 7 Rank 4: 4 Rank 3: 6 Rank 2: 2	Rank 5: 8 Rank 4: 2 Rank 3: 5 Rank 2: 2 Rank 1: 2	Yes: 11 No: 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Envision art program developed in FY27 with artwork funded in FY28+ City shouldn't fund unless we start getting better art Combine with TFAC subcommittee Have a WC rep if multi-commission subcommittee 			

Issue	Area of Waterfront Commission focus (Rank 1-5)	Recommendation that this issue be funded in the City's FY27 budget (Rank 1-5)	Issue would benefit from a Commission subcommittee/ task force (Yes/No)
Torpedo Factory: Structural improvements to the building; improving the vitality of the TFAC; new mgt structure	Rank 5: 8 Rank 4: 5 Rank 3: 5 Rank 1: 1	Rank 5: 8 Rank 4: 4 Rank 3: 6 Rank 2: 1	Yes: 10 No: 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm particularly interested in something, finally something!, being done about TFAC, which has been languishing for far too long. I've tried to get different Councilmembers involved in addressing progress there, but each has thrown up their hands and said "oh no!". It's quite hard to understand why that 66,000 square-foot City-owned asset on the most valuable real estate in the City, with millions of dollars in deferred maintenance is allowed to sit virtually empty each day. Instead, the City has wasted an enormous amount of money on study groups and nothing has changed. As I ran a business next-door for some time, I saw the truth about what goes in in the building - virtually nothing as it's very often devoid of both visitors and the artists in their studios. Perhaps the Commission could be the catalyst for change. One can hope... Combine with Art in parks; strategic for arts district While improvements and vitality are important now I think greater impact for long-term vision and investment can be achieved as part of Tourism Master Plan development that is in Visit Alexandria's 5-year strategic plan for FY28/29. 			

Issue	Area of Waterfront Commission focus (Rank 1-5)	Recommendation that this issue be funded in the City's FY27 budget (Rank 1-5)	Issue would benefit from a Commission subcommittee/ task force (Yes/No)
Making the waterfront more accessible to small watercraft: Kayak and paddleboard rentals; places to store personally-owned kayaks and other small watercraft while visiting the waterfront	Rank 6: 1 Rank 5: 6 Rank 4: 2 Rank 3: 8 Rank 2: 1 Rank 1: 1	Rank 5: 6 Rank 4: 2 Rank 3: 6 Rank 2: 3 Rank 1: 2	Yes: 7 Maybe: 2 No: 8

Issue	Area of Waterfront Commission focus (Rank 1-5)	Recommendation that this issue be funded in the City's FY27 budget (Rank 1-5)	Issue would benefit from a Commission subcommittee/ task force (Yes/No)
Monitoring progress of and making recommendations regarding the RTN and HRP developments	Rank 5: 9 Rank 4: 5 Rank 3: 4 Rank 2: 1	Rank 5: 4 Rank 4: 2 Rank 3: 4 Rank 2: 1 Rank 1: 7	Yes: 10 Maybe: 2 No: 4

Issue	Area of Waterfront Commission focus (Rank 1-5)	Recommendation that this issue be funded in the City's FY27 budget (Rank 1-5)	Issue would benefit from a Commission subcommittee/ task force (Yes/No)
Increase frequency of debris removal	Rank 5: 5 Rank 4: 4 Rank 3: 4 Rank 2: 3 Rank 1: 2	Rank 5: 7 Rank 4: 4 Rank 3: 4 Rank 2: 2 Rank 1: 1	Yes: 2 No: 13

Issue	Area of Waterfront Commission focus (Rank 1-5)	Recommendation that this issue be funded in the City's FY27 budget (Rank 1-5)	Issue would benefit from a Commission subcommittee/ task force (Yes/No)
Explore opportunities to work collaboratively with the National Park Service: e.g., Mt. Vernon Trail; Jones Point Park	Rank 5: 6 Rank 4: 4 Rank 3: 5 Rank 2: 2 Rank 1: 1	Rank 5: 4 Rank 4: 1 Rank 3: 3 Rank 2: 3 Rank 1: 7	Yes: 10 Maybe: 1 No: 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider as part of HRP work; could expand to Jones Point ▪ Staff should pursue this, rather than a Waterfront Commission task force 			

Issue	Area of Waterfront Commission focus (Rank 1-5)	Recommendation that this issue be funded in the City's FY27 budget (Rank 1-5)	Issue would benefit from a Commission subcommittee/ task force (Yes/No)
Further activation of select waterfront parks: e.g., concert series; outdoor movies; games; yoga (taking inspiration from Bryant Park)	Rank 5: 5 Rank 4: 3 Rank 3: 8 Rank 2: 1 Rank 1: 1	Rank 5: 5 Rank 4: 4 Rank 3: 6 Rank 2: Rank 1:	Yes: 5 Maybe: 2 No: 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I'd need to know more about what we'd want the Commission's role to be. ▪ Recommend funding for staff to create activations of parks that will NOT be closed during flood mitigation construction. ▪ Not now (Larger activation planning/infrastructure/staffing can be part of Tourism Master Plan). 			

Please list other any areas not listed above that should be a key area of focus for the Commission during this coming year

- Landscaping and visitor amenities on the waterfront, including mitigating foot and motorized transportation conflicts, improved landscaping, shade, and amenities (including restrooms), and lightening the load by spreading people along the waterfront.
- Balance between economic development, visitor amenities, and resident wants, being conscious of the issues and needs of the small businesses, both retail and food and beverage, along the waterfront. They are essential to the tourism experience, and is there a way without being in the weeds to ensure the merchants are viable and their offerings resonate with the visitors? What is our role in problem solving, who else is doing it? This obviously would not be our main focus, but where we can be of assistance, or at least be available to endorse or reinforce a point and be helpful, that would be positive.
- Any other development or redevelopment projects relevant to the waterfront that come to light
- Pedestrian traffic and safety at intersection of King and Union

Review of

- Pier Bar at Waterfront Park
- Commercial Vessel Activity and active use of the dock space, vs. passive use of the dock space
- Trash removal, especially on busy weekends
- New vendors popping up in waterfront parks selling food, beverage, and tchotchkes
- Nature Conservancy and Doctors without Borders asking and trolling for money, nuisance to visitors, residents and businesses along the waterfront
- Motorcoaches - there used to be a program for buses along the waterfront, no longer enforced.
- The rotating art in Waterfront Park; how it's chosen, what becomes of it
- Use the Waterfront Commission to help local businesses drive additional business
- QR code panels throughout the waterfront to spotlight history
- Better signage for bathrooms
- Culinary arts and working restaurant included in the TFAC or one of the upcoming Old Town North building developments