



MINUTES

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board of Directors Meeting

February 4, 2026

Members Present

Chris Jones, Chair
Susan Moss, Vice Chair
Kevin Fields, Secretary
Inga Arvin (Virtual)
Ollie Barber (Virtual)
Secretary Casebier (Virtual)
Terri Connolly (Virtual)
Ken Herndon
Kris Kiser
Troy Miles
Brian Meurer
Ted Nixon

Members Absent

Mayor Greenberg (Excused)
Kerry Stemler, Treasurer
Purna Veer

Staff Present

Deborah Bilitski
Emily Clayton
Alex Laughlin
Cordell Lawrence
Catie Nelson
Kelley Runyon (Virtual)
Ashley Smith
Krista Snider (Virtual)
Alex Vega

Others Present

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Jones at 4:02 p.m. on February 4, 2026. The meeting was held at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the December 3, 2025, meeting were approved.

Chair Jones then stated that a few agenda items will be taken out of order to ensure we have a quorum present to take action.

Phase IV Update

Motion was made by Member Susan Moss, seconded by Councilman Member Ken Herndon to approve a resolution authorizing Executive Director Deborah Bilitski to enter into contract with the Commonwealth of Kentucky through the Department for Local Government for the Waterfront Park Phase IV-B ORLP Project. The board voted unanimously to approve the action.

Closed Session

At 4:04 p.m., a motion was made and seconded to enter closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(b) to discuss a prospective real estate transaction. The motion passed unanimously. The Board reentered open session at 5:13 p.m. and Chair Jones announced that no action was taken during the closed session.

Financials

Cordell Lawrence gave an update of the Waterfront Park Balancing Sheet and Income Statement reflecting a two-year comparison. Cordell presented the financials for the second quarter of FY2026. Donations in 2025 have increased in response to the flood appeal and the establishment of the Patty & Jim Williamson endowment fund.

Events

Catie Nelson reported that we're in the midst of the busy planning season for the 2026 event season. Dates for Waterfront Wednesdays and Sailing Into Summer have been solidified. The former restaurant building, 1201 River Road, has been rented out for Thunder over Louisville and the David K. Karem Building is still available for rent during the event. She is working with the Kentucky Derby Festival on how to program the new PlayPort area during Thunder.

Development/ Fundraising

Ashley Smith reported that the 2025 Impact Reports have been created and are ready for the public. She provided an update on the annual Board Giving Challenge and she will email the board regarding this aiming for 100% participation.

Park Maintenance

Alex Laughlin reported that the park is currently still full of snow and the maintenance team has been working on clearing parking lots. The team is wrapping up their 2025 Foundation request projects, dredging being delayed due to weather conditions. Deborah Bilitski mentioned how Alex Laughlin has been working on a lobby remodel starting with a new ceiling, following will be new tiling laid and painting the walls.

Belle of Louisville Riverboats

Krista Snider reported how the Belle of Louisville team has been planning for the 2026 season.

Friends of the Waterfront

Lt. Col. Brian Meurer reported that Alexander Vega will be filling in for Emily while she is on leave. The Waterfront Park webstore is now live. Waterfront social media team will be doing more social posts and marketing of the webstore more in March.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.