Waterfront Park

MINUTES

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Board of Directors Meeting

August 5, 2026

Members Present

Chris Jones, Chair
Inga Arvin (Virtual)
Ollie Barber (Virtual)
Secretary Lindy Casebier (Virtual)
Terri Connolly
Kevin Fields
Councilman Ken Herndon
Kris Kiser
Lt. Col. Brian Meurer
Troy Miles
Ted Nixon (Virtual)

Members Absent

Pat Miller
Susan Moss
Kerry Stemler
Purna Veer

Staff Present

Deborah Bilitski
Emily Clayton
Alex Laughlin
Cordell Lawrence
Catie Nelson
Kelley Runyon
Ashley Smith
Alex Vega

Others Present

Wes Johnson, Wescott Construction
Scott Jacobs, Wescott Construction
Crystal Rosenberg, Wescott Construction
Marcus Green, Greenlight Projects LLC

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Jones at 4:00 p.m. on August 5, 2026. The meeting was held at Waterfront Development Corporation, 129 River Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the June 3, 2026, meeting were approved.

Closed Session

At 4:02 p.m., a motion was made by Board member Kevin Fields and seconded by Kris Kiser to enter closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(f) and KRS 61.810(g). The Board reentered open session at 5:04 p.m. and Chair Jones announced that no action was taken during the closed session.

In open session, a motion was made by Board member Kevin Fields and seconded by Kris Kiser and the Board of Directors voted unanimously to extend Deborah Bilitski's employment contract for four years.

Executive Director's Report:

Financials

Cordell Lawrence presented the financials for FY2026. The spending policy calculations for the Foundation were also presented ahead of the Park Maintenance Foundation request.

Additionally, the Board unanimously adopted a Master Resolution and Authorization needed to maintain our PNC Capital Markets accounts.

Park Maintenance and Foundation Request

Alex Laughlin reported that the park maintenance crew gained a new employee, Kayla Padgett. Alex presented his Foundation request for this year focusing funds on renovation of the Adventure Playground and surrounding area. A full presentation will be provided to the Board in October.

Kris Kiser made a motion to request a distribution from the Waterfront Park Foundation as set forth in the spending policy calculations, seconded by Terri Connolly The motion passed unanimously.

Board Secretary Kevin Fields chaired the remainder of the meeting as Chris Jones needed to leave.

Development/ Fundraising

Ashley Smith announced Give for Good will take place this year on September 10th with early giving starting on September 7th. She requested that each Board member solicit five people to donate to this year's campaign. Our goal is to raise $100,000 from 270 unique donors.

Events

Catie Nelson gave an update on events. Our July 4th was a great success celebrating America250 on the TurfMutt Great Lawn. We're more than halfway through the Waterfront Wednesday season and will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2027. Sailing Into Summer, Friends of Waterfront Park's event, was a great night in the Brown Forman Amphitheater, we were able to secure a generous sponsorship from ADP. Cuba Mia Louisville was a new music festival on the TurfMutt Great Lawn. The Kentuckiana Pride Festival moved their event from the Big Four Lawn to the TurfMutt Great Lawn South and seemed to like the new venue. Coming up, we have Sky Soul Festival and Humana Community Day.

Phase IV Update

Ted Nixon provided an update to the Board regarding conversations with Norfolk Southern property. Deborah announced Pumpkins at PlayPort will return October 10th.

Friends of the Waterfront

Lt. Col. Brian Meurer echoed Catie's comments about Sailing Into Summer being a successful event for the Board and the park.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.