

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2018

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER

DOCKET TITLE:

Proposal to amend and reordain section 2-4-190 (b), Article X, Chapter 4 of Title 2 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981.

ISSUE: To amend the Beautification Commission ordinance to add a few spots designated for a specific skill set.

PROPOSAL:

To amend the City ordinance which would allow to have qualified professional members with expertise in: 1) architecture, urban planning or a historian with architectural knowledge; 2) landscape architect or landscape design; and 3) a Master Gardener, Master Naturalist or Tree Steward. The City ordinance states in its section Sec. 2-4-190(b) that the Commission “*shall consist of 16 members to be appointed by the city council. All 16 members shall be citizens of the City of Alexandria*”. It is in the best interest of the Alexandria Beautification Commission with the number of projects we have, to have qualified professional members with expertise in the field above mentioned.

BACKGROUND:

In recent years the Beautification Commission has increased in the volume of projects that require qualified professional skills and technical expertise to effectively get the desired results. Areas such as sustainable landscaping and gardening, architecture, environmental design, and arts are becoming key elements of the new beautification projects. The selection process for the Annual Beautification Award is now a multidisciplinary process that require the participation of a broad range of expertise to properly assess all aspects of the beautification efforts. The Commission is considering that the actual composition could be improved by adding a few positions designated for a specific skill set, rather than all members being citizen-at-large. This will enhance internal processes and results.

ESTIMATED COST OF IMPLEMENTATION:

None

STAFF:

Adrienne Sakyi, Assistant City Attorney

Gloria Sitton, City Clerk

Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

James Spengler, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

ATTACHMENTS:

ABC membership amendment letter

2-4-190 Amendment Ordinance 4-17-18

ABC Transition Plan Memo

- **ARTICLE X - Alexandria Beautification Commission**

- **Sec. 2-4-190 - Creation, composition and organization.**

(a)

There is hereby established a commission known as the Alexandria Beautification Commission ("commission").

(b)

The commission shall consist of 16 members to be appointed by the city council. All 16 members shall be citizens of the City of Alexandria.

(c)

Members of the commission shall be appointed in the manner prescribed in article A of this title.

(d)

Members shall serve for a term of two years. Terms shall be staggered so that no more than half the commission will come up for reappointment in any year.

(Ord. No. 4646, 1/23/10, Sec. 1)

- **Sec. 2-4-191 - Functions.**

(a)

The functions of the commission shall be as follows:

(1)

to serve in an advisory capacity to the city council and the citizens of Alexandria on all matters related to the beautification of the city; and

(2)

to serve in an advisory capacity regarding the beautification of portals to the city.

(b)

The commission force shall hold at least four regular meetings each year, and as many special meetings as the commission may deem advisable.

(c)

The commission force is empowered to adopt rules and regulations in regard to procedure so long as the same are not inconsistent with the city code, including, but not limited to, the establishment of committees through which it may carry on its functions and purpose.

(d)

A commission chair, vice-chair and secretary shall be elected annually by the commission members at the organizational meeting designated by the commission.

(e)

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and such other departments of the city as the city manager may direct shall provide

(Ord. No. 4646, 1/23/10, Sec. 1)