

MINUTES
City of Alexandria, Virginia
OPEN SPACE STEERING COMMITTEE
Community Meeting – Patrick Henry Recreation Center
April 25, 2022
7:00 pm.

Call to Order

Kurt Moser called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Roll Call

Open Space Steering Committee Members

Present:

Kaitlyn Blume, Member-at-large
Tatiana Gutierrez, Member-at-large
Martha Harris, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission Member
Barbara Marvin - Park and Recreation Commission Member
Kurt Moser, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT)
Mike Olex, Environmental Policy Commission Member
Brandon Pinette, Member-at-large
Micheline Smith, One at-large member from the development community (Paradigm)
Denise Tennant, Beautification Commission Member

Vacancy:

One at-large member from the business community

Absent:

City Staff

Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Park Planning Division, RPCA
Melanie Mason, Principal Planner, Stormwater Management Division, T&ES
Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner III, Park Planning, RPCA

Guests

None

Call to Order

The co-chairman called the meeting to order noting that proper notice of the meeting had been given and that a quorum was present, and the meeting could proceed. Mr.

Moser directed the Committee's attention to the minutes from the meeting of March 3, 2022, which had been provided to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

The meeting's focus was to discuss committee task updates regarding methods of pursuing open space, the Open Space Fund, and city acquisition criteria.

Presentation PPTs are posted to:

<https://media.alexandriava.gov/docs-archives/recreation/parks/open-space-steering-committee-meeting---3.3.2022.pdf>

Presentation details are posted online at the above link. Highlights included:

AGENDA ITEM 1: Administrative - Ana (RPCA)

Review and Adoption of December Open Space Meeting Minutes

- Mr. Moser directed the Committee's attention to the minutes from the meeting of January 18, 2022, which had been provided to the Committee in advance. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, Brown and Olex abstain; the Committee approved the minutes of the January 18, 2022, meeting. It is advised that staff will send draft meeting minutes as they become completed. Any comments should be sent to Ana and then forwarded to the consultant.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Evaluate the open space ratio_– Vicinanzo & Lo (RPCA)

Task 2. A: Open Space Acquisitions: Vicinanzo, Urban Planner.

- Vicinanzo: Proposed changes add categories to evaluate the liabilities and constraints of the site and reimagine the potential accommodations of redevelopment.
- Lo: postulated an overview criteria (OSAC) of the twelve measures to implement, modify or remove. In conjunction with reviewing the goals and objectives to adopting the best practice framework that is most likely to impact achieving numerous benefits. The overview of the commission's proposed changes to the OSAC from the meeting held on January 18, 2022. The changes consist of modifying the OSAC framework structure to integrate metrics to mitigate the risk at all levels. And integrating natural resources, wildlife corridors, refuges, and reduction of heat islands; site redevelopment; and strategies implementation to close the recreational gap, a socio-economic deterrent.

- Data survey of four to six months of engaging local academia.
- Vicinanza clarified the "goals" specifically for what the space is used for and the condition of the area.

Questions Addressed:

- **Q.** Judy to follow up with the Commission assessments to measure and track below grade areas.
- **The task for Staff:** Develop and implement strategies to produce a quality assessment to the committee that measures according to the purpose and conditions.
- Develop a cost-effective way to collect data of foot traffic.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (continue):

Task 2. B: Revisiting Metrics & Goals: Evaluate the open space ratio

- Vicinanza conducted a quantitative data assessment on the amenities needs and the conditions.
- **Q:** Condition of the field area
- **Q:** Lighting in the play area
- **Q:** The condition of the basketball area

Questions posed to the group regarding Task 2 that require feedback by the next meet:

- Q:** Provide a sense tracking for population density?
- Q:** Compare and contrast the addresses with the cense track.
- Q:** Provide qualitative and quantitative population race data analysis.
- Q:** Create a system to collect data from APD.
- Q:** Provide a list of each park amenities

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comments

No (Community Representative)

AGENDA ITEM 4: Next Steps

Questions needed addressing for the next meeting Task 2B:

- An assessment of poverty levels and lines.

- Evaluate the metric to measure social stratification and the national origin of the population
- What are the types of open spaces other than public?
- What statistical measure can be implemented to measure the demographics?
- Conduct a data survey to analysis the need of the city and the pain points.
- Compare and contrast qualitative and quantitative data calculations from 2019 survey data by zip codes.
- Create a framework of planning to understand the gaps on the survey of trails, pathways, and connections to the nature.
- What social media platforms can we use to collect data?
- How reliable is the data source?
- Conduct a sample/survey needs assessment of focus group characteristics.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2022, at 7 pm.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.