

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting

Chinquapin Recreation Center ~ 3210 King St.
Wednesday, January 18, 2024
7 p.m.

P&RC Members

Present: Dana Colarulli, Chair (Acting) (District II); Katy Matthews, Secretary (District III); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Stuart Fox (District I); David Brennan (District III); Paul Komelasky (District I); Tookie Organek (student member)

Absent: Steve Beggs, Chair (District II); Rania Shuster (student member); Phillip Voorhees (District III)

RPCA Staff: James Spengler, RPCA Director, Tiffany Marbury, Executive Assistant; Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner, Park Services; Lindsay Burneson, Division Chief, Rec Services; Jose Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Services; Phil Jubert, Urban Forester Manager, Park Services; Alexander Taylor, Urban Forester, Park Services.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dana Colarulli, Acting Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

City resident, Bill Pugh, addressed the Commission and shared his thoughts on the Urban Forestry Master Plan Update. He discussed the following ideas...

- Review the effects of development on the tree canopy.
- Work to combat the issue of invasive vines.
- Look at tree canopy inequity among City neighborhoods
- Coordinate with the Office of Climate Action.
- Look into leveraging partnerships with organizations in the City.

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner Assignments

Commission members continued to review available assignments and express their interest in these community initiatives. Members with existing assignments gave the following updates:

DISTRICT I: Stuart Fox gave an update on the Waterfront Commission. The new art exhibit at Founders Park will be “Interstellar Influencer”. He also gave an update on the City’s settlement with the Potomac Riverboat keepers. It has accelerated the timeline of

things that the City had already planned to do. The Waterfront Commission met with the team that will handle the waterfront flood mitigation. **Jeffrey Miller** did not have an update.

DISTRICT II: Dana Colarulli did not have an update on Zoning for Housing. **Stephen Beggs** was not in attendance. **Geoffrey Goode** gave an update that the CIP budget for schools was cut. School staff then allocated that budget to all CIP projects. George Mason received a cut of \$20 million (from approx. \$88 million to \$68 million). Through the budget process, schools asked that more money be allocated to George Mason and Leonard “Chick” Armstrong.

DISTRICT III: Katy Matthews stated that Minnie Howard remains on schedule. Drywall is complete in all areas; scaffolding will be removed from the pool this month, and gym lighting will be completed in January. Demolition has begun at Patrick Henry and should end in September. **Phillip Voorhees** was not in attendance. **David Brennan** shared that the Youth Sports Advisory Board met in December and had an awards and recognition night. The January meeting was canceled. The group will not meet again until feedback has been received on the mission/direction of the group in the future.

STUDENT MEMBERS: Tookie Organek did not have an update, and **Rania Shuster** was not in attendance.

b. New Commissioner Introduction – Paul Komelasky

Commissioner Komelasky has lived in Old Town North since 2017 and will be representing District I.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2023

ACTION: FY24.1.18.24A

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and Paul Komelasky seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Staff Reports – Commissioner Questions

Division updates (staff reports) are posted at:

https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/prc_staff_report_1.18.24.pdf

b. New Staff Introductions

Jack Browand introduced new staff members in Urban Forestry.

- Phil Jubert, Urban Forester Manager
- Alexander Taylor, Urban Forester
- Bryce Singer, Urban Forester (not in attendance)

c. Vulcan Project Development Updates

Ana Vicinanza introduced Ken Wire, City of Alexandria Zoning Attorney, who gave an update on the Vulcan Project development. The presentation can be found here:

https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/vulcanparkspresentation20240118_0.pdf

d. Potomac Yard North Update

Beth Znidersic gave an update on Potomac Yard North. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/northpotomacyardoverview18jan2024.pdf>

e. Youth Sports Advisory Committee Background & Next Steps

Laura Durham led a discussion about the Youth Sports Advisory Board. The board is a subcommittee created by the Commission. The board includes a representative from all the affiliate sports groups, as well as RPCA basketball, Wahoo Swim, and Titans football. Commission members stated that it would be great to have youth sports participant information. Useful information would include current leadership for each affiliate group, their policies, and data for each participant.

VI. NEXT MEETING

February 29, 2024 – Jerome “Buddy” Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY24.11.16.23B

Motion: Paul Komelasky moved, and Stuart Fox seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:27 pm. The motion passed by unanimous vote.