

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting**

Mount Vernon Recreation Center

**Thursday, October 16, 2025
7 p.m.**

Commission Members

Present: Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II); David Brennan, (District III); Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I). Jeffrey Miller (District I); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Katy Matthews, Vice Chair (District III); Joseph Fray (District II); Paul Komelasky (District I); Asa Orrin-Brown (District III)

Absent: None

RPCA Staff: Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant; Jose Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Services; Hannah Kemp, Urban Planner, Park Services.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dana Colarulli, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He noted that two new student members, Eli and Cooper, will begin serving on the commission in November. He also emphasized the importance of establishing a clear process to ensure student member recruitment aligns with the conclusion of current students' terms.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner Reports

District I

Commissioner Fox stated that the Waterfront Commission meets next week. On September 30, City Council directed staff to study the cost implications of locating the waterfront flood mitigation pump stations at 1 Prince Street. They approved \$150,000 for the study.

Commissioner Miller mentioned that he attended Art on the Avenue and there was a great turnout. Many people were peeking through the fence looking at the construction of the new splash park.

Commissioner Komelasky did not have any update.

District II

Commission Chair Colarulli suggested that current commissioner assignments are reviewed during the November meeting. New opportunities should be identified. While there are fewer advisory boards, there are existing commissions that may need representation.

Commissioner Goode stated that the George Mason Modernization meeting will be held on October 29. The meeting will share an update on its progress.

Commissioner Fray shared his daughter's request for a waterslide at Old Town Pool.

District III

Commissioner Matthews stated that the fields at Minnie Howard are open and in use. She also thanked Jack Browand and Beth Znidarsic for their assistance in scheduling meetings with Alexandria Little League and ACHS baseball and softball coaches to discuss field usage.

Commissioner Orrin-Brown stated that he's heard many positive remarks about the re-opening of Holmes Run Trail.

Commissioner Brennan reported that Bill Campbell is now serving as the chair of the Youth Sports Advisory Board, with the first meeting scheduled for Monday. He noted that the RPCA staff representative has transitioned from Tamika Coleman to Calvin Simpson and asked the commission for guidance on key items the board should address. Chair Colarulli highlighted the Affiliate Policy as a priority and emphasized the importance of giving the Youth Sports Advisory Board a voice at Commission meetings. This would include providing each affiliate with the opportunity to address the Commission at designated meetings.

Laura Durham provided an update on the Affiliate Policy, which governs youth sports groups that partner with the City to offer programs. The policy outlines several requirements, including that at least 80% of participants must be City residents and that financial assistance must be offered to those who meet the City's eligibility criteria. She noted that the Field Allocation Policy works in tandem with the Affiliate Policy, and both are currently undergoing updates.

Student Members: Commission seats are currently vacant.

b. RPCA Staff Updates

Jack Browand gave the following updates:

- The Fort Ward playground project is progressing and is expected to be completed by mid to late spring.
- The new kayak launch at Four Mile Run, a Community Matching Fund project, is nearing completion.
- Holmes Run (Site 1) is currently under construction, with work anticipated to continue for approximately one year.

Laura Durham gave the following updates:

- Lights On After School will take place on October 23, with several special guests, including elected officials, expected to attend. The event celebrates the value and impact of after-school programs.

- The Spooky Mad Science Expo is scheduled for this Saturday at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center. This popular event typically attracts more than 1,000 participants.

ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2025

ACTION: FY26.10.16.25A

Motion: Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

IV. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Introduction of Hannah Kemp

Jose Ayala introduced RPCA's new Urban Planner, Hannah Kemp. Hannah shared that her professional background is in urban planning with a focus on urban design. She has worked throughout Virginia as well as internationally, including with the World Resources Institute (WRI), where she supported health and growth safety initiatives in developing countries.

b. Potomac Yard Landbays G-B/E Update

Jose Ayala introduced Cathy Puskar of Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh. Ms. Puskar along with Will Talero from Land Design, gave an update on Potomac Yard. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/media/30591>

c. FY 2027 Operating & CIP Budget Priorities

The annual budget letter is due to the City Manager's office November 3. The Commission discussed many items of interest and decided on the following priorities:

1. Ensuring the availability of sports fields and open space.
2. Updating the City-wide Park Improvement plan.
3. Increasing the RPCA maintenance budget
4. Supporting RPCA employee and administrative needs
5. Exploring creative new non-traditional revenue generation opportunities to supplement budget
6. Starting community engagement to discuss Cameron Run Park

Commissioner Orrin-Brown highlighted the need for increased trail maintenance and the funding required to support it. He also referred to the Duke Street Area Plan and the resources needed for open space activation. Chair Colarulli asked Commissioner Orrin-Brown to draft language on these topics for inclusion in the budget letter. Additionally, the Commission discussed the importance of securing funding for neighboring parks when new developments increase usage and subsequently require additional maintenance.

ACTION: FY26.10.16.25B

Motion: Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded, to authorize Chair Colarulli to draft a letter to City Council outlining the Commission's budget priorities. The motion passed unanimously.

V. NEXT MEETING

November 20, 2025 – Charles Houston Recreation Center

VI. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY25.9.18.25B

Motion: Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

These minutes are intended to serve as a summary of the meeting and do not represent a verbatim transcript. A complete audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.