

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

**Patrick Henry Recreation Center**

**Thursday, January 15, 2026  
7 p.m.**

**Commission Members**

**Present:** Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Katy Matthews, Vice Chair (District III); Joseph Fray (District II); Paul Komelasky (District I); Asa Orrin-Brown (District III); David Brennan, (District III); Cooper Hughes (Student Member); Eli Hurley-Fathelbab (Student Member).

**Virtual Attendance:** Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I)

**Absent:** Jeffrey Miller (District I).

**RPCA Staff:** Hashim Taylor, Director; Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Judy Lo, Principal Planner.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dana Colarulli, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Kurt Moser, President of the Four Mile Run Conservancy, shared an update on the Four Mile Run kayak launch project. The project was supported by a Community Matching Fund. He reported that the kayak launch is now complete, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for the spring. The total project cost was \$628,000, of which the City contributed approximately 11%. He noted that his next focus will be launching adaptive paddling programs.

Invited guest, **Vice Mayor, Sarah Bagley**, shared a few updates as they relate to City Council.

- **City Hall Renovations** – The last council meeting (January 13<sup>th</sup>) included a long discussion on the City Hall renovation project. Details and timelines can be found online.
- **Housing 2040** – The next Council meeting will include a discussion on the housing masterplan. Transit and transportation issues are a state-wide and local concern. There will be a discussion by the legislative subcommittee on what the council will be supporting in the General Assembly session.
- **Green Building Policy** – The public hearing held in January will address the Green Building Policy. There are strong perspectives on both sides of the issue, and the Vice Mayor is eager to advance and adopt an updated Green Building Policy. The previous policy was adopted in 2019.

- **City Budget Presentation** – The City Manager will present the budget at the end of February.
- **Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) vacancy** – Deputy City Manager Emily Baker is currently serving as the Acting Director of T&ES. The Vice Mayor shared that she looks forward to the position being permanently filled, as the department’s work aligns closely with many RPCA projects and the Commission’s interests.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Spaces** – The Vice Mayor serves on several community groups focused on gang prevention and children, youth, and families. A recurring topic in those discussions has been the need for “third spaces” — safe, supportive environments such as after-school programs and mentorship opportunities, particularly for middle school students. She highlighted [ALX Beyond](#), a web portal that serves as a centralized hub for youth activities offered in Alexandria, and invited the Commission to visit the site and provide feedback on its usability.
- **Waterfront Flood Mitigation Project** – There was a request to review alternative locations for the pump stations needed for this project. The Council is currently awaiting the results of that study.

Vice Mayor Bagley thanked the Commission for the invitation and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to attend. She shared that she would be happy to participate in future meetings. Additionally, she encouraged the Commission to designate a representative to attend the Saturday public hearings during budget season, noting that it would provide an opportunity to highlight and reinforce the budget priorities previously submitted to City Council in November.

### III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### a. Commissioner Reports

##### District I

**Commissioner Fox** did not have an update

**Commissioner Miller** was not in attendance.

**Commissioner Komelasky** did not have any update.

##### District II

**Commission Chair Colarulli** stated that we will survey other commissions and community groups to determine where we need representation. Some commission members may be reassigned based on need.

**Commissioner Goode** stated that demolition is almost complete. Everything seems to be on schedule. He inquired about the Duke Street Corridor and land use plans. The Planning and Zoning Department will have a community meeting next week. There will be an update given to this Commission within the next few months.

**Commissioner Fray** did not have an update.

### **District III**

**Commissioner Matthews** did not have an update.

**Commissioner Orrin-Brown** gave kudos to RPCA for the recent snow removal efforts.

**Commissioner Brennan** updated the commission about the last Youth Sports Advisory meeting. Soccer, lacrosse and little league were in attendance. All the leagues are doing great and ASA has had several recent tournaments. The recreation basketball league has started its season.

**Student Members: Eli Hurley-Fathelbab** shared that he applied for the Community Matching Fund to support minor renovations at the skate park. **Cooper Hughes** noted that several school band and choir events took place over the holidays. He also mentioned that the Minnie Howard field continues to see consistent use, despite the recent low temperatures. Senior Hockey Night was a success. Additionally, the head coach of the ACHS crew team has recently stepped down. A *Rock of Ages* concert is scheduled for tomorrow in Del Ray.

#### **b. RPCA Staff Updates**

Laura Durham introduced Katie Stohs as the new Partnership and Development Manager in RPCA. She will be working on growing our partnerships, alternative funding, and volunteering. Katie has lived in Alexandria for 19 years and has a child at Alexandria City High School.

Jack Browand gave the following project updates:

- Commission Evaluations – A subcommittee was formed to evaluate all Commissions and provide recommendations as needed. City Council has accepted the following recommendations.
  1. The Waterfront Commission with sunset in approximately 2030.
  2. All terms limits will be extended from 10yrs to 12yrs.
  3. Elimination of excused absences. Attendance should be 75% or higher.
- Hensley Park is complete and ready for spring.
- Active construction is currently at Fort Ward Park, Holmes Run Trail, Colosanto Park and Simpson Park.

Hashim Taylor gave the following update:

- Great team effort from multiple departments for the First Night Event. This is the first year that the City planned the fireworks show.

Laura Durham gave the following updates:

- January is National Mentoring Month. Many programs were recognized in the commission report as well as recognized by City Council at the last Council meeting.

#### **IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2025**

**ACTION:** FY26.1.15.26A

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

#### **V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

**a. Community Matching Fund Presentation**

Judy Lo shared the Community Matching Fund Presentation with the Commission. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/media/32144>

**ACTION:** FY26.1.15.26B

**Motion:** Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Orrin-Brown seconded the motion to move forward with the public hearing on February 19. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**b. Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy**

Laura Durham briefed the Commission on the Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy. The policy was first adopted by City Council in 2014. It provides guidance on when tax dollars should be applied to programs and services and when user fees should be assessed. The framework is based on community benefit (with more tax dollars applied) versus user benefit (with more user fees applied).

Community sorting exercises are used to gather feedback on how programs and services are categorized. During the current review process in 2025, community feedback was collected through six public meetings or focus groups and an online survey of over 500, and those findings will be shared with the Commission at an upcoming public hearing.

She also discussed updates to the Sports Affiliate Policy. The Youth Sports Advisory Board will review the current affiliate policy at its next meeting. Proposed changes will begin with findings from the Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy. Any updates to the policy will be open for public feedback and will include at least one public forum, followed by a recommended joint meeting with the Youth Sports Advisory Board.

#### **VI. NEXT MEETING**

February 19, 2026 – Charles Houston Recreation Center

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** FY25.1.15.26C

**Motion:** Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Goode seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:57 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.*