

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

**2900 Business Center Drive**  
**Thursday, March 19, 2026**  
**7 p.m.**

**Commission Members**

**Present:** Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II); Jeffrey Miller (District I); 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).

**Absent:** Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Eli Hurley-Fathelbab (Student Member).

**RPCA Staff:** Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Judy Lo, Principal Planner; Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dana Colarulli, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He noted that he attended the second City Council budget hearing and emphasized the items the commission addressed in their letter to Council last November. He also invited Council member to the Commission meetings. Mayor Gaskins made the following request to the commission...

1. Discuss the development project at the corner of Duke and Quaker, across from the skatepark.  
*The development will include town houses and there is a requirement in the agreement for a public art contribution. RPCA and Planning & Zoning will work together to determine the best use of the contribution. Public art is limited to the small area plan that the development is in, so it will be close to the project.*
2. Please provide comments on the four fee increases proposed in the FY27 Budget.  
*This will be discussed later in the meeting during Commissioner Reports.*

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

Michael Foley requested field hockey practice space from RPCA and City Council, proposing two two-hour sessions per week on either a half or full field. He shared data on current field usage, cited concerns about potential policy violations, and raised possible conflicts of interest, noting Alexandria Soccer's presence at Lee Center and that approximately 60% of field use appears allocated to ASA, with about 20% designated for recreation teams.

**III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**a. Commissioner Reports**

**District I**

**Commissioner Fox** was not in attendance.

**Commissioner Miller** stated that the new Site and See public art unveiling is scheduled for this Saturday. He also noted that there has been an increase in bike traffic since the work done to Abington Drive.

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

**District II**

**Commission Chair Colarulli** listed the following proposed fee increases and asked that the Commission give their feedback:

1. Marina Fee – Commission supports the increase
2. Party Packages – Commission supports the increase
3. Parking Fee (Chinquapin loop) – Commission supports the increase
4. OSTP Powerful Fun Day Program – Commission supports the increase
5. Film Fee – Commission supports the increase but suggests that language is adjusted to show that the fee includes an area of the park being closed to the public.

**Commissioner Goode** was not in attendance.

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

**District III**

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

**Commissioner Orrin-Brown** reported that there was a sexual assault near Tarleton Park. APD and RPCA are working together to determine what can be done to make that area safer.

**Commissioner Brennan** stated that the next Youth Sports Advisory meeting would be open to the public. Community feedback will be used to draft the new affiliate policy.

**Student Members: Eli Hurley-Fathelbab** was not in attendance. **Cooper Hughes** reported an increase in injuries on Minnie Howard Field, raising concerns that the new surface material may be a contributing factor.

**IV. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2026**

**ACTION:** FY26.3.19.26A

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

**V. Items for Information**

**a. FY 2027 Proposed Budget Brief**

Laura Durham gave a presentation on the FY 2027 Proposed Budget. The presentation can be found here: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/FY27%20Budget%20Presentation%20PowerPoint\\_RPCA.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/FY27%20Budget%20Presentation%20PowerPoint_RPCA.pdf)

**b. Ewald Renovation Process Timeline and Update**

Judy Lo gave a presentation on the Ewald Renovation project. The community matching fund applications can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/Ewald%20Park%20Improvements%20Update%20-%20PRC%20031826.pdf>

**c. Torpedo Factory Update**

Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director of Cultural Activities, provided an update on the Torpedo Factory RFP. Following last year's request for interest, sufficient responses led to the release of a formal RFP, which is open through April 27. Due to the upcoming transition, staffing has been reduced to one permanent employee, supported by a dedicated team of temporary staff to maintain operations. The Torpedo Factory is not currently accepting rental requests. A recommended operator is expected to be presented to City Council in September or October, with RPCA anticipated to manage operations through 2026 and into 2027.

Additionally, the Site See public art exhibit will be unveiled on Saturday, March 21, at 1 p.m.

**VI. NEXT MEETING**

April 16, 2026 – Durant Center

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** FY25.3.19.26B

**Motion:** Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion to adjourn at 9.05p.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.*