

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

Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center

**Thursday, June 18, 2026
7 p.m.**

Commission Members

Present: Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II); Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Joseph Fray (District II); Asa Orrin-Brown (District III); David Brennan, (District III); Cooper Hughes (Student Member)

Absent: Eli Hurley-Fathelbab (Student Member); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Katy Matthews, Vice Chair (District III); Paul Komelasky (District I);

RPCA Staff: Hashim Taylor, Director; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Park Services; Tamika Coleman, Deputy Director, Recreation Services (acting); Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Arts.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dana Colarulli called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He announced that, with the assistance of Commissioner Brennan and Vice Chair Matthews, the Commission will finalize a letter regarding the Resource Allocation Policy for submission to City Council in advance of its next legislative meeting. He explained that the letter recognizes the extensive community outreach and engagement conducted throughout the process and emphasizes the importance of clearly distinguishing between competitive and recreational sports within the policy.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner Reports

The Commission received a list of RPCA program and initiative interest areas. Chair Colarulli encouraged Commissioners to identify and share their areas of interest during their reports and announcements so staff can better match them with relevant opportunities and updates.

District I

Commissioner Fox did not have an update. *Interested in PRDS and Economic Development.*

Commissioner Miller reported that he attended the waterfront events throughout the weekend and commended RPCA and the Special Events team for their efforts, particularly with trash collection, medical support, and the overall success of the events. He also noted

that the plantings at Potomac Yard Park have proven to be resilient and continue to thrive despite drought conditions. *Additionally, Commissioner Miller expressed an interest in historic preservation and working with the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA).*

Commissioner Komelasky was not in attendance.

District II

Commission Chair Colarulli did not have any additional updates.

Commissioner Goode was not in attendance.

Commissioner Fray shared that he attended the welcome event for the Croatian team at Episcopal High School and described it as a successful event. He noted that several participants from RPCA's Out of School Time (OSTP) and Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) programs were in attendance and had the opportunity to watch the team warm up. *Commissioner Fray also expressed an interest in housing-related issues.*

District III

Commissioner Matthews was not in attendance

Commissioner Orrin-Brown shared that he attended a Capital Trails Coalition event and found it inspiring to learn about the extensive network of connected trails throughout the region. *He also expressed an interest in transportation and infrastructure initiatives, particularly those related to the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES).*

Commissioner Brennan reported that the Youth Sports Advisory Board met in June. He shared that the primary discussion focused on ACPS funding for middle school sports and the continued importance of coordinating athletic field and facility use throughout the City. He also noted that Board members were encouraged by the anticipated opening of Boothe Park in late 2026 or early 2027. Additionally, the Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) expressed its appreciation to the City for its support of Soccer Fest.

Student Commissioner Cooper Hughes reported that he attended the retirement ceremony at Jefferson-Houston School, where he served as the City's event photographer. He shared that the ceremony was well attended and a success. He also noted that there is discussion about adding girls' flag football as a fall high school sport. In addition, he shared that several of his friends are working as summer camp counselors and have spoken positively about their experiences. **Student Commissioner Eli Hurley-Fathelbab** was not in attendance.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2026

ACTION: FY26.6.18.26A

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

b. Commission Officer Elections

ACTION: FY26.6.18.26B

Motion: Commissioner Brennan moved, and Commissioner Fray seconded the motion to nominate the slate of Commissioner Colarulli as Chair, Commissioner Matthews as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Miller as Secretary. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

c. Commission Assignments and Interests

Laura Durham thanked the Commissioners for sharing their areas of interest during their Commissioner Reports. She encouraged members to continue communicating their interests as they arise, noting that it is helpful for staff to know in advance so they can identify appropriate opportunities and contact Commissioners when relevant. Ms. Durham invited Commissioners to email her directly with any additional areas of interest.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Youth Sports Advisory Board Update

Commissioner Brennan introduced Bill Campbell, Chair of the Youth Sports Advisory Board. Mr. Campbell shared that he has served on or been affiliated with the Board since 2012. He noted that while the Board has not always operated as formally as the Parks and Recreation Commission, it has accomplished a great deal through the strong relationships it has built over the years. He added that those relationships have often enabled the Board to resolve issues and advance initiatives efficiently.

Mr. Campbell explained that the Board is committed to promoting equitable access to youth sports opportunities throughout the City and supporting scholarship programs to help ensure participation for all. He also recognized Tamika Coleman and Calvin Simpson for their dedication, support, and contributions to youth sports programs.

Chair Colarulli expressed his interest in including regular updates from the Youth Sports Advisory Board as a standing item on future Commission agendas. He noted that doing so would help the Commission stay informed and identify opportunities to support the Board's advocacy efforts and initiatives.

b. Wahoos Swim Team Update

Laura Durham addressed the Commission and provided an update on the RPCA Wahoos Swim Team. She shared that the team includes 148 swimmers and is a developmental program open to participants of all skill levels. The Wahoos compete in the Colonial Swim League, an outdoor summer league, and are operated as an RPCA program. Ms. Durham noted that approximately 65–70 volunteers are needed to support each swim meet. She also informed the Commission that, due to the planned construction of Old Town Pool, staff are exploring alternative locations for next year's home meets. Upcoming swim meets are scheduled for **June 27 at 7:00 a.m., July 1 at 4:00 p.m., and July 11 at 7:00 a.m.**

Additionally, she shared that RPCA recruits lifeguards year-round and that applicants must be at least 15 years old.

c. Public Art Update

Diane Ruggiero addressed the Commission and provided several updates on public art initiatives throughout the City. She shared that RPCA has issued a call for artists specializing in indoor and outdoor murals to establish a roster of qualified muralists. The roster will provide a pool of artists for future mural projects.

Ms. Ruggiero also reported that Brio, the bronze sculpture of a dancing figure previously located at City Hall, has been temporarily relocated to White Street Plaza during the City Hall renovation. She announced that an artist has been selected for the Powhatan Park public art project. The first phase will focus on the park entrance, while the second phase will include artwork on the wall separating the playground from Route 1. In addition, Urban Rock Design has been selected as the artist team for the Ewald Park public art project.

Ms. Ruggiero provided an update on the Torpedo Factory Art Center, noting that the Request for Proposals (RFP) process has concluded and no further action has occurred since its closure. She indicated the matter is expected to return to City Council in October. In the meantime, vacant studios are not being filled immediately. Instead, some existing artists are being relocated to first-floor studios to improve visibility, while other vacant spaces are being repurposed as gallery space.

Finally, Ms. Ruggiero shared an update from the Waterfront Commission, noting that this year's annual Waterfront Walk will be held as a public boat tour on Saturday, June 27, from 10:00–11:00 a.m., with boarding beginning at 9:30 a.m.

VI. NEXT MEETING

July 16, 2026 – Mount Vernon Recreation Center

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY26.6.18.26C

Motion: Commissioner Fray moved, and Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:30p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

These minutes are intended to serve as a summary of the meeting and do not represent a verbatim transcript.