

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

Mount Vernon Recreation Center

**Thursday, July 16, 2026
7 p.m.**

Commission Members

Present: Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II); Joseph Fray (District II); Asa Orrin-Brown (District III); David Brennan, (District III); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Paul Komelasky (District I); Cooper Hughes (Student Member)

Absent: Eli Hurley-Fathelbab (Student Member); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I),

By Phone: Katy Matthews, Vice Chair (District III)

RPCA Staff: Hashim Taylor, Director; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Park Services; Tamika Coleman, Deputy Director, Recreation Services (acting); Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Arts.; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant; Katrina Napora, Natural Resources Manager.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Resident, Michael Foley, asked about the status of the Affiliate Policy. Hashim Taylor stated that the Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy was presented to City Council in June and it was approved. Now that it's been approved, the Affiliate Policy can be worked on and is planned for the fall. However, any fee changes will not be implemented until July 1st, 2026. Mr. Foley also inquired about the sports lines for Witter Field. Beth Znidersic stated that the field will be lined for soccer, boys and girls lacrosse, and possibly field hockey (she will confirm).

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 was not in attendance.

Commissioner Miller was not in attendance

Commissioner Komelasky attended the City Birthday celebration and stated that the fireworks display was great. He also enjoyed the cupcakes. He also mentioned that he did not attend the June meeting but wanted to share his area of interest. He would like any assignments related to the Robinson North Park project, or anything arts and culture related.

District II

Commission Chair Colarulli stated that he also enjoyed the City Birthday Celebration, and he thought it was a great idea to have a bike valet. He also mentioned that we still need a representative on the Waterfront Commission.

Commissioner Goode gave an update on the progress of George Mason. He stated that the school is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2027.

Commissioner Fray did not have an update.

District III

Commissioner Matthews did not have an update.

Commissioner Orrin-Brown shared that he's received some questions about overgrowth and maintenance of City trails. He's passed along this feedback to park services. There was a recent incident leaving Ben Brenman Park to Holmes Run Trail. Unfortunately, someone was hit by a car. He has reached out to T&ES for improvements in this area.

Commissioner Brennan did not have an update.

Student Commissioner Cooper Hughes stated that he took a lifeguard course and hadn't heard back from the hiring staff. **Student Commissioner Eli Hurley-Fathelbab** was not in attendance.

b. July 4th Pool Operations Update

Hashim Taylor addressed the Commission about a communication mishap on July 4th. The website listed Warwick Pool as open when there was a delayed opening. Social media has been helpful in announcing this type of information going forward.

c. Summer Solstice

Diane Ruggiere gave an update on the sunrise of the summer solstice event. The sunrise was aligned with the Now or Never public art at the waterfront. There were over 50 people in attendance. She shared images from that morning with the Commission.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2026

ACTION: FY27.7.16.26A

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

b. FY 2026 Annual Report

Commission Chair Colarulli asked the commission to review the annual report prior to the September meeting and share any feedback you may have.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Overview of the Goat Grazing Pilot Project

Katrina Napora, Natural Resources Manager, gave an update on the goat grazing pilot project. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/media/35209>

b. Colasanto Spray Park Update and Site Walk

Commission members and meeting attendees walked outside to the Colasanto Spray Park job site. Beth Znidersic gave an update on the project.

VI. NEXT MEETING

September 17, 2026 – Patrick Henry Recreation Center

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY27.7.16.26B

Motion: Commissioner Fray moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:25p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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