I. **Call to Order:** Chair Jennifer Atkins called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. **Public Hearing:**

   a. **FY 2017 Community Matching Fund Applications:** The Presentation is posted at:


   A public hearing was held on this item on September 15, 2016 and remained open until the October meeting. Atkins asked if there were additional public comments, there were none. Browand gave background on the Community Matching Fund: RPCA established the Community Matching Fund with the approval of the FY2017-FY2026 Capital Improvement Budget. A total of six requests were received for FY2017 (See Presentation): Following the September 15, 2016 public hearing, Applicant’s presentation and response to questions staff recommends the following projects be approved.

   **FY2017 Staff Recommendations (See Presentation):**

   1. **Charles Houston Teen Center:** Applicant - Charles Houston Advisory Council. Total Project Cost: $70,000. Browand said staff recommends
approval of a $25,000 award. The project can be phased if needed.

2. **Four Mile Run Court Upgrade**: Applicant - Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA), requested amount $25,000. Total Project Cost: $45,000. Browand said staff recommends approval of a $15,000 award. The project can be phased if needed.

3. **Kick the Habit - Water Bottle Filling Station**: Applicant - Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation. Total Project Cost $15,000. Staff recommends approval of a $5,000 award. The project proposed installing three water bottle and jug filling stations. Staff recommends installing two filling stations as a pilot project at Simpson Stadium and Witter Fields, and not Four Mile Run at this time.

4. **Parkour Park Equipment**: Applicant - PKMove. Total Project Cost $10,000. Staff recommends approval of a $5,000 award. Browand noted that RPCA already has an agreement with PKMove. He said additional funds will help them expand the program. Staff also determined that any additional equipment purchased will be owned and retained by the City and a storage facility will be provided.

**Projects Not Recommended**:  
Browand said the Windmill Hill Accessible Playground: Applicant Friends of Windmill Hill Park, and the Old Town North Farmer’s Market – SNAP Benefits program: Applicant OTN Community Partnership, were not approved. The WHAP request is not aligned with the City’s current Windmill Hill Park Plan, and the OTN Farmer’s Market SNAP Benefits proposal was seeking operating funds instead of capital funds. Browand said discussions will continue with both groups. Staff will also look at expanding the current SNAP Program managed through the City’s Old Town Farmers Market.

**Browand** requested that the P&RC endorse the four recommended projects, for a total initial amount of $50,000. He said next month staff will begin allocating the funds, once the Applicants have raised their match contribution.

**Action**: Brune moved to close the public hearing, McPherson seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Commission Discussion**:  
**O’Connell** said the final recommendations reflect the Commission’s feedback, and commended RPCA staff for working with Applicants on these projects.

Q. Can performance reports be provided on the projects?  
A. Applicants will be required to meet certain requirements, and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City. He said staff will update the P&RC in February 2017. He said the project will be started
again in the spring for FY18.

Q. Is there a precedent for the City owning PKMove equipment?  
A. RPCA already has a MOU with PKMove to provide services. He said the MOU’s are usually for a year with a renewal option, he will check terms.

Q. What is the deadline for Applicants to raise matching funds?  
A. Part of the evaluation criteria included project readiness. Browand said a project will not be dropped just for $1,000 it is also a combination of in-kind services.

In response to Baum’s question regarding the water filling stations, Browand said ways to analyze water use are by a decrease in the number of water bottles in trash cans, customer surveys, and other operational impacts.

MOTION: O’Connell moved that the P&RC endorse the four recommended project awards, Brune seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Presentations:

a. Draft Jones Point Park Recreation and Visitor Services Plan, Recreation Concepts Underneath Bridges – National Park Service: Alex Romero, Superintendent, and Dena Kennett, Landscape Architect, National Park Service (NPS): Note: Coleman was recused from this discussion.

The Presentation is posted at:

The Draft Jones Point Park Recreation and Visitors Plan can be viewed at:

Background:
In November 4, 2015, the National Park Services (NPS) established the Jones Point Park Recreation and Visitor Services Plan to determine the types of recreational uses for Jones Point Park, especially for the space under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Outreach to gather community ideas followed.

Discussion:
Romero said Jones Point Park is one of 15 park sites along George Washington Memorial Parkway in Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia that the NPS manages. Identified funding for the planning effort is $60,000. Issues covered include how to use the under-utilized space under the bridge. Challenges are there are parking spaces that can’t be used due to homeland security issues. Romero said the process focuses on NPS’s urban agenda. He said 80% of Americans live in urban areas and there are many underserved populations who seldom get a chance to visit the major National Parks. The JPP goal is to create programs that
serve the community's variety of multi-generational users in a way similar to New York City's Bryant Park. He said the draft JPP Recreation Plan is not a formal document yet. Kennett reviewed the presentation, and said the focus is on activating the space under the bridge by creating a series of planned program spaces.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Q. What is the status of the two JPP fields that NPS promised the City years ago?
A. **Romero** said the fields will be part of the JPP plan. NPS has already invested in trying to restore the fields but there is a problem with compacted clay that requires additional work before the fields will be usable; He said the JPP Recreation Plan will be finished first.

Q. Is artificial turf an option, also multi-surface fields are preferred.
A. **Kennett** said artificial turf is probably not an option due to the cultural and historical significance of Jones Point Park.

**O’Connell** asked Browand to share the City's community engagement experience for planning its Braddock Park Plan urban park with NPS. **Romero** said they are looking to partner with the Trust for Public Land on the planning since it has nationwide experience creating similar park areas.

Q. Will there be space for dog runs?
A. **Romero** said the issue is complicated. NPS requires dogs be on a leash, and considers having dog areas close to the water as both unsafe and unsanitary due to potential runoff. Note: The JPP plans states some sort of designated pet area could be a viable alternative.

Q. Does NPS enforces its leash rule since dogs often run off-leash?
A. **Romero** said NPS enforces its rules but is understaffed.

**McPherson** suggested polling residents within one-half mile to one-mile of JPP for ideas on unique features for JPP. **Romero** said they looked at census bureau data and conducted a five-mile perimeter survey with JPP at its center, but did not get much response. NPS is focusing on biking, walking, jogging areas to activate the park and other activities to complement the City's park spaces. **Kennett** said it is important to remember that JPP, attracts people traveling to and from the Mt. Vernon Trail and many other areas.

Q. Has outreach had been completed?
A. **Kennett** said two comment periods were held, the second comment period was extended and recently closed. She said they hope to finish reviewing the comments by the end of year, and will then finalize the JPP Recreation Plan, and update the P&RC next spring.

**IV. Items for Information:**

a. **Public Comments – non-agenda items:** None.
b. **Updates:** Jack Browand, Division Chief.

i. **AlexRenew/Limerick Field:** See Staff Report. RPCA staff inspected the field on October 7, and due to identified maintenance issues, the City did not accept the field. AlexRenew has been provided a punch-list of items for corrective action. RPCA received Parking and Traffic Board approval for designating short-term parallel parking spaces on Hooffs Run Drive. Staff is working with the Hoffman complex to acquire more parking.

ii. **NOVA Parks Planning Process:**
Discussion: Browand said several firms were interviewed for the study and the City’s Review Team hopes to make a recommend to the Purchasing Department next week. Once the contract is awarded to a consultant team, Task 1 is to create a Public Engagement Process that Council will review and the process is expected to move forward quickly. Staff is targeting the November, 22 or December City Council legislative meeting. He said the contract award itself does not need to go to City Council.

Commission Questions:
Q. Have the City’s priorities have been built into the planning process?
A. **Browand** said the planning process will consider existing City Plans and Master Plans, and the firms are aware that the Eisenhower West area will be very different in 10 to 20 years. He said economic feasibility and potential revenue opportunities will part of the analysis. Staff expects Tasks 1 through 3 to provide thorough information on the pros and cons of the City’s options.

**O’Connell** said public feedback that NOVA Parks has not, in some cases, been a good neighbor should be addressed.

Q. What is the cost if the City takes the land over?
A. This will be part of this analysis.

**McPherson** said asked if the City can modify the terms of its lease with NOVA Parks to get more return on their investment. He also said if the lease is renewed it should be for a shorter term. He has given an update to the Youth Sports Advisory Board (YSAB).

**Browand** said many stakeholders will be involved in the planning process and the Contractor’s proposed engagement framework will be shared with City Council and the P&RC in November to ensure there is adequate community engagement.

iii. **Windmill Hill Park Restoration:** See Staff Report. Browand said a firm has been recommended for construction and staff continues to work with the City procurement office regarding award of contract.

iv. **Warwick Pool Rebuild:** In January City Council endorsed staff
recommendation, Option 3, to build a pool similar in design with a one-
story seasonal structure. Browand said the new pool design will be slightly
smaller. Among its features will be a combined wading pool and main
pool, no diving well, new and ADA site features and stormwater
management. The bathhouse will have the same number of fixtures but
will not have a community room. There is currently no on-site parking,
and a parking reduction will be requested from Planning & Zoning.

Commissioner Comments:
Q. Are current usage stats are available to see if the 154 person capacity is
adequate for the new pool.
A. Browand said daily pool attendance from last summer rarely exceeded
154 persons, and he will verify usage numbers with RPCA aquatics staff,
and also inquire if numbers are purely recreation use or include summer
camps usage. He said it does not appear that the slightly smaller pool size
will be an issue.

V. Items for Action:

b. Approval of Minutes - July 21, 2016: Brune moved that the P&RC approve the
minutes, O’Connell seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

VI. Director’s Report: James Spengler.

a. FY18 Budget and Capital Improvement (CIP): The City is
facing a funding deficit in the future, according to the City’s Five Year Financial
Forecast FY2017 to FY2021. All City Departments were tasked with coming up
with a 10% budget reduction scenario over next three years. The City Council will
hold a retreat (open to the public), November 5, 2016, to discuss budget
strategies. Spengler said a key issue for RPCA is its Cost Recovery Resource
Model and the use of revenues to offset reductions. See Attachment: RPCA’s
10% Reduction Planning Based on Approved FY17 Budget. The Director
reviewed the potential impacts of the planning exercise and its possible effect on
RPCA Divisions (Recreation Services, Park Operations, Office of the Arts, Park
Planning & Marina and Leadership and Management) and possible strategies. To
view budget update go to:
https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCBudgetUpdate2
0Oct2016.pdf

Commissioner Comments:
Coleman said for Park Operations and maintenance, it is not just appearance of
parks. She said any further reductions made to Park Operations could impact
safety and potentially impact property values. O’Connell said he is concerned
that reducing maintenance cycles might lead to problems such as lime disease.
The Director agreed safety concerns should be considered, but noted there is not
much more to cut from Park Maintenance budget.
Poulin asked how fees can be calculated in terms of revenues and how this equates to lost revenue.

O’Connell said the first choice is not to have cuts. He asked if consideration could be given to reaching out to for-profit lawn companies in exchange for RPCA providing some free advertising.

a. **Request from ACPS for Lee Center Use Consideration:** The Director RPCA reported that Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) has requested to explore the possibility of using the Lee Center and Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street as a pre-K Center, K-5 elementary school or as swing space for schools undergoing renovation due to capacity issues. ACPS continues to grow at a rate of 3-4% each year and growth is expected to continue through 2026. ACPS has offered two floors of Administrative space at 1701 Beauregard St. as replacement space, but this is inadequate for RPCA’s programming needs. The City has hired a consultant to determine how much it would cost to relocate Lee Center offices, including K-9 and Fire Services. Lee Center building tenants have been notified, and staff will work with other community users that use the center and that have planned multiple meeting dates.

Commissioner Comments:
McPherson said school space may be an ongoing problem, ACPS is expecting an increase in capacity for the next 3-5 years, also Minnie Howard is over capacity and may also have to be rebuilt.

Atkins said ACPS is dealing with real capacity needs and this exercise points this out. She said not having swing space for Patrick Henry was clearly an issue.

Baum asked if we have looked at the attached Recreation Centers because as the capacity reaches critical mass something has to be done.

VII. **Division Updates:**


Commission discussion:
Q. Coleman said she saw people fly fishing in Holmes Run, and asked if fishing is allowed in Alexandria streams.
A. Spengler said fishing is allowed in Lake Cook and at the floating Gazebo at Harborside.

Q. Coleman as follow-up from last meeting asked if staff spoke with sports groups about parking on the grass at Ben Brennan on Saturday mornings.
A. Spengler said Park Operations has installed boulders and Mac Slover, Director of Sport, has spoken to sports groups.
Atkins said a car was reported driving around on the Four Mile Run trail. 
Browand said staff is discussing with T&ES what to do to prevent cars from entering trails. He said many groups prefer not to use entry bollards.  
O’Connell suggested a first step could be painting NO CARS in problem areas.  

Atkins asked when the next Cosmic Family Skate Night would be held. She said she is pleased to see the wait list for swim classes is going down. She asked if RPCA can contact people who continually get wait listed to give them a preference for the next swim classes, and if RPCA’s Rectrac system is able to generate calls to people on the wait list to let them know about open upcoming classes. 

VIII. Commission Business: 
   a. Verbal Reports from Commissioners by District: 

   District I: Baum, O’Connell, Poulin.  
   Dominion Power (DP) Transmission Line – Poulin said DP held two open houses; however, she was unable to attend, in the past little information has been shared. Atkins said DP is pursuing the CSX option.  

   Old Town North (OTN) – O’Connell said he attended a meeting a few weeks ago, and the role of open space in the plan has not yet been focused on.  

   Potomac Yards Splash Park – O’Connell said a cross-walk is being installed at Park, and he is pleased to see this occurring. Tiwari said this is a T&ES initiative.  

   Robinson Terminal North (RTN) – Baum said the project is in limbo and the City is looking at all options. RTN site owners put their approved RTN project plan on hold due to revised projections on the project’s financial feasibility. The owners are meeting with City staff to explore other options.  

   District II: Atkins, Beggs (absent).  
   North Potomac Yards (NPY) - Atkins said she attended the last meeting which was supposed to be about parks and open space, but this was somewhat derailed. She commended Bethany Znidersic and Park Planning staff for their presentation on NPY parks and open space. She said the plan was sensible and incorporates the Commission’s discussion.  

   District III: Brune, Coleman, McPherson.  

   Ben Brenman Pond Retrofit Design Meeting - Coleman said a meeting was scheduled for that night but was not well publicized throughout the West End. 

IX. Next Meeting: November 17, 2016. 

X. Adjourned: 8:58 p.m.