City of Alexandria, Virginia

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 21, 2019
7 p.m.

Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street

AGENDA

Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order: Gina Baum, Chair

II. Public Comments – non-agenda items

III. Commission Reports (verbal reports by District)

IV. Information & Updates:
   a. 2019 Needs Assessment – Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner
   b. Brenman Pond Historic Vessel Storage Update, Eleanor Breen, City Archeologist
   c. Planning District I Program Update – Recreation Services
   d. Park & Recreation Commission Member Composition

V. Items for Action:
   a. Approval of Minutes: May, June, September & October 2019
   b. Park & Recreation Commission Open Space Steering Committee Designee
   c. Park & Recreation Commission Waterfront Commission Designee

VI. Director’s Report
   a. FY 2021 Budget Update – CIP Work Session

VII. Division/Project Updates (staff reports)

VIII. Next Meeting Items – Working Draft Attached

IX. Next Meeting: January 16, 2020 – Patrick Henry Recreation Center

X. Adjournment
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2019

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM VII

Program Wrap-Ups

- On September 21 through October 12, Charles Barrett Recreation Center held the Dejar Concinar, Let’s Cook program, which was a pilot program that provided the opportunity for youth to learn traditional Latin American recipes and Spanish vocabulary. The total revenue for the event was $210.

- On October 15, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center held the new Art for Preschoolers program. There was a total of 6 children that registered to explore and learn about arts and crafts through edible materials.

- On October 18, Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility held the Floating Pumpkin Patch where participants partook in Halloween themed activities in the pool. There was a 60% increase in enrollment this year and a final revenue of $535.

- On October 19, the Youth Activities Section, held the Annual Project Sticker Shock event where over 50 youth visited stores in Alexandria to place “warning” stickers on multi-packs of beer, wine coolers and other alcoholic products in order to highlight the penalties for furnishing alcohol to minors.

- On October 24, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center participated in the Lights On afterschool program by shining the light on self growth. Participants in the Youth Achieving Greatness and TR Achieving Greatness program were engaged in recreation, enrichment and 4H Extension Activities.
• On October 25, Patrick Henry Recreation Center held the **Family October Fest** where families participated in Halloween themed activities. This year, the event had an increase of 70 participants compared to last year, which totals to 200 participants this year and a revenue of $1,000.

• On October 25, Charles Houston Recreation Center held the **Boo-Fest** program for the community. There were over 250 patrons and children from the community that participated in carnival games, a costume parade and saw a reptile show.

• On October 26, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center held the Annual **Multicultural Health Fair and Fall Halloween Fest** together. There was an increase in family participation that were able to learn about health and participate in Halloween themed activities.

• On October 29, the Sports Section organized the **Potomac Yard Basketball Court Lighting and Basketball Game** to help celebrate the completion of Light It Up - Potomac Yard.

• On October 31, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center held the 5th **Annual Trunk or Treat Block Party** where 300 community residents participated in Halloween themed activities. The center also received donations from the following partnerships: Kelley Cares Foundation, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Psi Nu Chapter, Top Ladies of Distinction, Nannie J. Lee Recreation Center employees, and participants from Youth Achieving Greatness and Therapeutic Achieving Greatness Program.

### Program Updates

- During the month of October, the Seniors have continued to participate in the **Walk and Fit Training** program at Patrick Henry Recreation Center and so far, there is a revenue of $1,329.80 from the program.

- On October 5, the **Flip First Tumbling** program began at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. As of date there is a revenue of $765 from the program.

- During November 1 through November 15, the voting process will be taking place at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility for the photographs that have been submitted for the **RPCA Photo Contest**.

- In the Fee Classes and Camps section, there are 54 youth programs and 43 adult
programs that are being held for the Fall season. This is a 9% increase in adult class participation compared to 2018. The overall number of participants for this year is 794, which is a 4% increase from Fall 2018.

**Upcoming Programs**

- During the month of November, seniors at Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center will have the opportunity to attend two trips that include, **Amish Market and National Inventors Hall of Fame**, and participate in the **Coffee Social Hour to Celebrate Our Veterans**.

- On November 1 through December 13, Charles Houston Recreation Center will host the **Intro to Pickleball** program. Participants will have the opportunity to learn basic strategies of pickleball.

- On November 14, the Sports Section will host the **City Cup Championships** at the Luckett Field.

- On November 16, Charles Houston Recreation Center will host the **Family Art Splash** program. Families will explore their creativity through various mediums from painting to sculpting.

- On November 22, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center will host the **Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner** where participants will have the opportunity to engage in fellowship over Thanksgiving dinner.

- On November 22, Charles Houston Recreation Center will host the **Adult Cooking Class** that will enhance participant’s cooking knowledge of turning leftovers into a delicious entree.

- On November 25, Patrick Henry Recreation Center will host the **Nerf Rivals** program where participants will compete and explore nerf battle scenarios.

- On December 12, Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center will host the **OSTP Toy Holiday Celebration.** Youth in OSTP will have the opportunity to meet, have a meal and take pictures with Santa.

- On December 13, the Sports Section will host the **Youth Volleyball Championship Games** at Jefferson Houston Elementary School.

- On December 15, the Sports Section will host the **Alexandria Holiday Invitational – Cheerleading Competition** at T.C. Williams Highschool.
Out of School Time FY17 through FY20 Summer/School Year

Participant and Revenue Comparison *Fees paid in installments.

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Special Features

- Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center is undergoing renovations to the facility’s ceiling tiles, lighting and flooring in the multipurpose/teen room.

Staff Updates

- **Precious Simmons** received the RPCA value award for continuous learning.

- **Anthony Suggs** received the RPCA value award for civic responsibility.

- **Marvin Elliott** attended the MRPA’s Sports Professional Learning Community event on October 16th at Down's Park. This was an opportunity to meet other sports professionals and discuss relevant topics and trends along with other timely topics. Alexandria was invited as part of their membership in the Mid-Atlantic Recreation & Parks Sports Alliance.

- **Tamika Coleman** attended the Metro Manager's meeting on October 17 at Hellwig Park. The Metro Managers group is made up of sports administrators throughout the Northern Virginia area to discuss relevant topics in youth & adult sports and share ideas and best practices.
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2019

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF - PARK OPERATIONS, RPCA

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR, RPCA.

SUBJECT: PARK OPERATIONS MONTHLY UPDATE

1. PARK AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE
   a. Park Maintenance
      • November began the start of Snow preparation for all equipment that we’ll use during the 2019/2020 snow season. Snowplows and truck spreaders were cleaned and serviced along with snow blowers and hand tools. The annual Pre-season snow meeting was held with ACPS, along with TE&S and General Services. Chemical treatments for brick sidewalks and salt are on hand and staged for the potential winter weather. All ACPS locations have been marked with snow stakes to assist with clearing operations throughout the winter season.

      • Athletic field staff is preparing both the natural turf and synthetic turf fields for the winter. After the winterization completion, the Natural turf fields will close on Friday, November 15th, for the season. Synthetic fields will remain open during the winter season, weather permitting.

   b. Park and Facilities Maintenance
      • The maintenance team made repairs to water spigots at Chinquapin Gardens and made repairs to the irrigation mainline at Witter Fields.

      • Montgomery Park, playground had a damaged gate that was repaired, and a rope and State flag was replaced at Miracle Field.

      • Winterization has begun on the irrigation systems throughout the City.
c. Warehouse

- The Toro fleet has maintained a readiness rate of over 97% during the month. All reported deficiencies have been repaired within several days. The conversion of the Toro fleet for snow operations is completed.

- The warehouse and surrounding areas continue to use the 6S principles regarding housekeeping, accountability, and safety.

- The warehouse is continuing to perform inventories of all snow-related materials and equipment to prepare for the upcoming season. Seasonal materials have been ordered to fill the shortages identified through the required inventories list.

2. URBAN FORESTRY
   a. Urban Forestry

   - On October 4, 2019, staff planted 50 site-appropriate native trees at Four Mile Run Park with 57 volunteers from Intus Windows and Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria.

   - On October 14, 2019, staff planted 30 site-appropriate native trees at Polk Elementary School with 52 volunteers from Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria, teachers and staff of Polk School, parents of Polk students, and Volkswagen’s volunteer team.

   - Staff hosted another successful Fall Native Plant Sale! The purpose of the sale is to expand Alexandria’s native tree canopy with Right Plant, Right Place native trees, and shrubs. Leftover proceeds benefit the Ford Nature Center’s programs.

   - Welcome to the new City of Alexandria Arborist, John Marlin. John has a Masters, in Urban Forestry, has been an Arborist in Urbana, IL, and Boulder, CO. He has been working as Arborist in Alexandria for the west side for over a year. He brings an extensive background in the tree maintenance and planting programs. He has utilized technology in driving strategic decisions and is currently a member of the Internal Control Council.

b. Horticulture

- The 2020 Community Garden renewals has started, applications are coming in and the tenants are excited about the new plot fees.

3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT
   a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration
• Staff removed Porcelain-berry, Japanese Stiltgrass, Long-bristled Smartweed, and other non-native invasive plants from Dora Kelley Nature Park and Chinquapin Park.

• Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in treating Porcelain-berry at Swann Finger Park; English Ivy, Bush Honeysuckle, Callery Pear, and others at S. Reynolds Street Park; and Kudzu at Goat Hill Park.

b. Cooperative Initiatives

• On October 4, staff assisted with a Park Planning volunteer event at Four Mile Run Park with volunteers from a local non-profit, Running Brooke, and a regional development firm, EYA. The three native pollinator beds were weeded, mulched, and 18 new native trees were planted on site.

• On October 5, 2019, City Natural Resource Manager supervised and assisted with Alex McElwee’s Eagle Scout Project to replace the landscape timber steps to the deck at the Ford Nature Center native pollinator garden.

• On October 9, 2019, City Natural Resource Manager co-presented “What is the current state of meadows in our region?” at the Native Meadow Working Group workshop at NASA Goddard Space Center, Greenbelt, MD.

• On October 18, 2019, City Natural Resource Manager led a field trip to Arlington Woods and Arlington National Cemetery for the Landscape Designer’s Group and other individuals. Sixty-two persons were in attendance. https://www.bayjournal.com/.../arlington_woods_a_living_monum.

• City Natural Resource Manager provided information per request to Dept. Planning and Zoning regarding rare and endangered species in Alexandria. Natural Lands Management is the Alexandria counterpart to the state natural heritage programs.

c. Environmental Review

• Staff reviewed the Strawberry Run Stream Restoration 60% Detailed Concept plan and provided comments.

4. JEROME ‘BUDDIE’ FORD NATURE CENTER

a. Programs / Updates

• For the month of October, we had 467 general visitors to the Nature Center. We provided 29 impromptu interpretive programs for 113 of those visitors. Additionally, we conducted: 8 birthday parties, 12 outreach programs, 27 onsite programs,
and conducted five weeks of our Nature Buddies After-School Program. All in all, we provided 98 programs for 1,324 people and interacted with a total of 1,678 individuals this month.

**School Programs**

- Nature Center staff conducted 35 school programs reaching 586 students and teachers this month.

- October 2, 3, and 25 – Lyles Crouch and Ferdinand Day Schools came to the Nature Center for field trips. The Lyles Crouch first graders learned about seasonal changes and hiked in Dora Kelley Nature Park to look for signs of Fall. On October 25, students walked to the Nature Center from Ferdinand Day School. These first graders learned about “animal classifications.” More than 230 students, teachers, and chaperones visited the center over these three days.

- October 7 and 8 – We traveled to Polk Elementary School to talk about seasons and how weather influences habitats and how native animals adapt to these changes. Students got to meet a corn snake and a snapping turtle.

- October 9 and 24 – William Ramsay Elementary School Pre-K came to the Nature Center to learn about Fall. They participated in a floating pumpkin activity and took a short hike in Dora Kelley Nature Park.

- October 23 – Grace Episcopal School also ventured to the Nature Center to learn about Fall and animal adaptations. They met some of our native animals (American toad, corn snake, and eastern box turtle) and participated in a guided hike of Dora Kelley Nature Park.

- October 28 and 29 – We conducted five programs over two days at Polk Elementary School. The topic covered was “Food Chains.” More than 100 students, teachers, and other school staff visitors learned about ecosystems, predator vs. prey, herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores as well as food chains. These third graders saw a corn snake, eastern box turtle, fire-bellied toads, and millipedes.

**Nature Center Programs**

- October 6 – We hosted a group of Junior Girl Scouts working towards their “Think Like a Citizen Scientist” badge.

- October 11 - The first program of a “Fledglings” series was held with a total of 15 children, parents, and grandparents. The topic was Fall. After reading a book about leaves, the group learned that pumpkins could float. The children were very surprised to
see that no matter the size or weight, pumpkins can float. We ended the program with a paper pumpkin to take home.

- October 26 – This week in Nature Play, our toddlers and parents participated in a fall scavenger hunt hike, made leaf magnets and squirrels, and got to meet and feed the eastern box turtle.

**Outreach Programs**

- October 25 – The Nature Center participated in BooFest at Charles Houston Recreation Center. We brought some of our favorite “creepy-crawly” animals (Madagascar hissing cockroaches, millipedes, and a corn snake) to meet the variety of costumed trick or treaters.

**Afterschool Buddies Program**

- During the month of October, the Nature Buddies explored the depths of the ocean, played ancient games, participated in a park clean up, and enjoyed the outdoors! We ended the month with a week dedicated to Halloween, with the Buddies participating in all kinds of festivities, including a pizza party and candy treasure hunt.

  b. Volunteers / Interns

- Two volunteers provided 11.25 hours of service during the month of October. We celebrated the one-year volunteer anniversary of our weekly animal care volunteer, Lisa.

  c. Noteworthy

- *Native Plant Sale:* We sold a total of 74 trees this year, 26 of which are slated to be planted within the City of Alexandria.

- We brought a taste of the seasons in for our native animals by adding some pumpkins and fall leaves to a variety of enclosures. This type of enrichment engages the animals’ senses and can be an extra tasty treat for some of our resident detrivores.

5. PARK PLANNING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

  a. Planning

  Nothing to report for the month of October.

  b. Project Management

  Nothing to report for the month of October
MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2019

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF
       PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM VII

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA TO HOST OPENING CEREMONY FOR FOUR MILE RUN PARK WETLANDS BRIDGE

Project Manager: Dana Wedeles, Principal Planner

The City of Alexandria invites the public to celebrate the opening of the Four Mile Run Park Wetlands Bridge on Sunday, November 24, at 2 p.m. The ceremony will include remarks by City officials and partners, a ribbon cutting ceremony, and an overview of park improvements by City staff. The event will occur rain or shine at the east side of the bridge, closest to the parking lot at 3700 Commonwealth Ave.

The 120-foot long bridge spans over a tributary in Four Mile Run Park, connecting the eastern ballfield area to the wetlands and completing a one-kilometer loop through the park. The installation of the bridge is a significant element of the Four Mile Run Restoration Plan, which improves connectivity throughout the park. The bridge is now open and provides access to the wetlands, which were restored in 2016 for walking, passive enjoyment, and ecological education programming.

Attachment: November 2019 Park Planning Project List
# Park Planning Project List - November 2019

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<th>Projects List</th>
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<th>Est. Completion Date</th>
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