I. **Call to Order:** Chair Jennifer Sands Atkins, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. She welcomed Liz Birnbaum and Barbara Marvin, new Planning District I Commissioners. Both are residents of the City of Alexandria, practice law, and have backgrounds in environmental areas.

II. **Public Comments – non-agenda items:** Elizabeth Wright, member, Holmes Run Park Committee, said the HRPC is working with RPCA Park Planning staff to do enhancements to the Duke St. Dog Park. Park staff will present at their December meeting: showing proposed plans and also ask for user suggestions. West End neighborhoods were upset that there was no public notification of proposed changes to Ben Brenman Park, especially the two adjoining neighborhoods Wakefield Tarleton and Cameron Station. Ms. Wright also shared correspondence sent by Cameron Station resident Mindy Lyle via email to the Mayor and City Council dated October 17, 2017 expressing concerns that the “highly anticipated” Fall Festival, which had been held at Booth Park for 14 years, had been moved to Old Town. It appears that the West End does not have many of the events previously held at Ben Brenman Park. Ms. Lyle’s email cited several events that had been moved from the West End (Cambodian Festival, Earth Day, Italian Festival, Fall Festival, Comcast Movie Festival). The email continued; there is one Comcast movie night still held in the West End, but only if private funds can be found. Ms. Lyle questioned if Old Town Civic Association was granted the Fall Festival after giving the RPCA a $5000 donation. Ms. Wright agreed as a West End resident they would like to see nice programs and events and have them disbursed.
throughout the City; to include the West End.

**Staff Comments:** Director Spengler explained that under the City’s Special Events Policy, only three events receive RPCA financial support (George Washington’s birthday parade, the Scottish Walk and St. Patrick Day Parade), and all other festivals must pay for event costs such as clean-up and security. Since the Special Events Policy was adopted by City Council, the organizers of several festivals had decided not to hold their events at all. The Earth Day festival was moved by the committee that runs that festival and not RPCA. The fall festival is scheduled to be held at Boothe Park in spring 2018. The City’s current Special Events Policy can be viewed at:


III. Presentations:

a. **Natural Resources Management Plan Update:**

   **Bob Williams, Division Chief.** Natural Resources, Park Operations gave update. To view Presentation on the Natural Resource Management Plan – Draft for Public Comments go to


   Williams presented the status update on the NRMP’s Goals and Recommendations. He said the NRMP is tied to the Open Space Plan, and coordinates with other City Documents: Landscape Guidelines; Eco-City Environmental Action Plan; Urban Forestry Master Plan; Stormwater Management Plan; RPCA’s Environmental Sustainability Management System (ESMS), and Regional Best Practices (See Slide 2).

   The Goals and Objectives of the NRMP are: Preservation, Stewardship and Sustainability of Natural Resources; Science-based management; public education and citizen involvement (See Slide).

   Plan Elements include: Resource inventory and monitoring, NRMP Recommendations, and GIS Datasets.

   **NRMP Recommendations** - 5 main areas: General NRMP Strategies; Resource Protection and Stewardship; Vegetation; Water Resources; and Collaboration & Community Involvement. Williams reviewed the details of each of the five recommendations (See Presentation). Please review full report for further details.

   Williams reviewed the Timeline for implementation of the NRMP (See Report). October 19th P&RC; November 20th - Environmental Policy Commission; Oct/Nov – Park Planning & T&ES; November- Public Comment Period; December – Final Edits. He noted that the document will come back before the P&RC in February 2018, and be presented to City Council in March 2018, before final implementation. Williams responded to questions from Commissioners about inventory management and invasives; Recommendation #21, issues that occur on private land, and their suggestion of letting Planning & Zoning know about the NRMP, even though it is not a regulatory document. He encouraged Commissioners to review the Plan it and/or email comments to him directly.

b. **Potomac Yard Metro Station & DC2RVA High Speed Train** - To view
Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner gave a brief update on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station and the DC to Richmond Southeast High Speed Rail Project (DCRVA). (See Slides.) The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the PY Metrorail Station Project was completed in 2016 with City Council approval of the Development Special Use Permits and the signed Records of Decision. WMATA issued a design-build RFP November, 2016, and received bids in March, 2017. WMATA and the City are currently reviewing the proposals and working with the respective design build vendors to evaluate the proposals including cost savings opportunities within the context of the procurement.

The DC to Richmond, Virginia High Speed Rail Project is part of a larger rail corridor project on the east coast from Washington, DC to Charlotte, North Carolina. The project focuses on improving passenger rail service. Area 2, Northern Virginia includes the City of Alexandria. Staff from the various City departments have reviewed the Draft EIS. High level concerns/issues include noise and vibrations during construction and permanently due to slight track realignments, and permanent impacts to the parking at Union Street. Potential impacts to natural resources include vegetation and topography impacts within the rail right-of-way. The project may require additional property in the location of Carlyle Dog Park. The DEIS identifies a small area for permanent impacts and additional area for temporary impacts during construction. The Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) believes this issue can be removed during the final design stage. The DEIS identifies locations throughout the rail corridor in Alexandria where walls are proposed. DRPT has clarified that these walls are retaining walls under 10 feet tall. All of these issues have all been included in the official staff comments and will be submitted to DRPT. The DEIS is open for public comments through November 7, 2017. Final EIS documentation, design and construction may proceed in phases.

**Commissioner Comments.**
Q. Why will it take a year between receipt of RFP’s and contract award?
A. The extended review process is required to perform a best value procurement.

Q. Who are the sponsoring agencies and who is funding the project?
A. The Federal Railroad Administration, and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation are the sponsoring agencies and the City of Alexandria is not contributing funding.

**IV. Items for Action:**

a. **Approval of Minutes:** July 20, 2017, Coleman moved and Walsh seconded, approval of the minutes. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b. **Approval of Minutes:** September 19, 2017, Baum moved and Walsh seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
V. **Project Updates/Information: See Staff Reports** – Jack Browand, Division Chief.

a. **Beverley Park Playground**: See Staff Report. Browand said the playground is expected to open mid-November pending final inspections. The completion of installation of the equipment final surfacing will be completed soon and then a final inspection will be done. Weather permitting the park should be open first week of November.

b. **Court Renovations**: See Staff Report - William Ramsay- tennis courts upgrades were completed. In addition, futsal was installed and since it has opened it has been packed every day. Full renovation will be done next year. **Powhatan Park** - a pilot is being done at Powathan Park, Browand said they found a very large sidewalk under the asphalt. Browand said lessons learned from previous project staff did some coring which cited 24 inches of asphalt. They think the core might have gotten redone. Some redesign work is needed, project is on track now, however weather may be an impact in the future. The court will be painted with temporary lines so it can be used throughout the winter months. **Ft. Ward Tennis Courts** - are also renovating, color coding may be done in the next few weeks. These will be a full tennis courts. Browand said if the final color coat has not been done temporary color will be put down. Browand said at Powathan Park there is a tennis court a fence and a pedestrian improvement. He said the sidewalk will be shifted inside the park, and there will be a fence that will provide improved pedestrian safety.

c. **Patrick Henry K-8 School & Recreation Center**: They received the second of three final permits. They have their foundation and grade permits. The pad should start being done soon. They are in the final approval process for the final site plan. Scheduled to open December 2018. The new Recreation Center may open by the third week of December 2018 or after the first of the year (2019).

d. **Waterfront Projects**:

- **Windmill Hill** - The next stage is Union Street improvement. They will be shifting some of the roadway to the left. There will be some storm water improvements traffic calming measures. The Wilkes Street tunnel area will be raised, and the sidewalk will be replaced the road and sidewalk improvements are coming out of the Transportation budget, and the park improvements are coming out of RPCA’s budget. They negotiated with contractors about street closings and parking.

- **ODBC** - ODBC is still awaiting their final Certificate of Occupancy (COO). Contract for demolition is expected by the end of November. Once they receive their COO they will have 60 days to vacate the old property. Utilities will have to be disconnected, and demolition is expected by end of January/February 2018. Construction to begin by end of February and Interim Fitzgerald Square expected by late summer 2018.

- The new Old Dominion Boat Club is on the property that the old Beachcomber building was on, near Chadwick’s parking lot. There are two parcels which will line the shore which will become a future promenade and a portion that will become Port Lumley Park. There is enough area that will allow full public access with completion of EYA in about 18 months to two years there will be one continuous waterfront from Old Town Jones Point Park to Robinson Terminal North. The bid process has been open for marina utilities. Browand said the shoreline of Windmill Hill is pretty much complete.
VI. **Director’s Report:** James B. Spengler:  
Response to Public Comment: The RPCA PARKnership Council needs to review the process for approving projects so that any that may require a SUP or DSUP meet notice requirements by the time the Park Commission has the item on its docket for action.  

Robin DeShields, Executive Assistant, Retirement: Spengler notified the P&RC that Ms. DeShields, who currently supports the P&RC, will retire at the end of November 2017 after 34 years of City service. Backup support will be arranged for the Board during this transition period, until a permanent replacement is hired. The Chair thanked Ms. DeShields for her service to the Board.

VII. **Division Updates:** Recreation Services; Park Operations; Park Planning, CIP & Marina.  
See Full Staff Reports at [https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCCOMBINEDSTAFFREPORTOCTOBER192017.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCCOMBINEDSTAFFREPORTOCTOBER192017.pdf)

VIII. **Commission Reports (verbal reports by District):**  
- **District I:** Baum, Birnbaum, Marvin.  
  Waterfront - Baum said the Waterfront Commission letter drafted to City Council about the City’s Marina is still being finalized.

- **District II:** Atkins, Beggs, Walsh. Walsh no updates.  
  Cameron Run Park Planning: Atkins said there was a Washington Post article recommendation on Cameron Run. The Chair asked that staff point people to the P&RC’s actual recommendation letter. To view letter go to: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCFindingsandRecommendationsCameronRun_9_20_17.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCFindingsandRecommendationsCameronRun_9_20_17.pdf)

  In response to Walsh, staff said the docket items on Cameron Run Planning Process goes before City Council on November 14, 2017 and a public hearing will be held Saturday November 18. Spengler said staff’s recommendation is for a maximum 10 year lease replacement. This would extend NOVA Parks’ current lease for another five years. Baum asked which position the City Manager will present. He said staff wrote a docket item that is edited by the City Manager’s Office and the final item will be released prior to the meeting. Atkins thanked all commissioners for attending City Council meetings related to this item.

- **District III:** Coleman, Froemming, McPherson.  
  Eisenhower West: Coleman said a meeting will be held on Monday at the Cameron Station Meeting Room. Baum asked if they will report on the Cameron Run Planning Process. Coleman said the Eisenhower Partnership provided a report, and she will mention it.

- **Commission Liaison Assignments for new members.** Combined Sewer Task Force Group. Liz Birnbaum volunteered to be the liaison for this group. Atkins will provide the staff contact. The P&RC will discuss other appointments at the December retreat.
IX. **December Commission Retreat** – December 9 @ 9 am (Tentative). The P&RC will tentatively hold a retreat in December. Tentative agenda items are discussion of Commissioner Liaison roles and strategic planning and review of various policies that impact the P&RC. Marvin noted that she is not available December 9th and may be available the week of December 2. Birnbaum said she will be out of town two weeks in December. Another option is to hold the retreat in early January. Atkins will poll Commissioners for the best dates and will ensure everyone has her new email address. Light refreshments will be provided for the retreat.

X. **Next Meeting:** November 16, 2017 – Charles Houston Recreation Center 7:00 p.m. The Commissioners are invited to tour the new Charles Houston Teen Center at 6:30 p.m. prior to the meeting. Tentative agenda items will include: Strategic Master Plan; Priority based budgeting and Program Updates: Park Operations and Recreation Services Program Updates.

XI. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.