City of Alexandria, Virginia  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING  

Charles Houston Recreation Center – 901 Wythe Street  
Thursday, May 16, 2019  
7 p.m.

P&RC Members:
**Present:** Jennifer Sands Atkins, Chair (District 2); Brian McPherson (District 3); Ashley Sanchez-Viafara (HS Youth Rep); Barbara Marvin (District 1); Judy Coleman, Vice Chair (District 3); Abby Froemming (District 3), Joey Farmery (District 2)

**P&RC Absent Members:** Connor Rex (HS Youth rep); Stephen Beggs (e) (District 2); Liz Birnbaum (e) (District 1); Gina Baum (District 1)

RPCA Staff: James Spengler, Director; Laura Durham, Division Chief, Recreation Services; Tiffany Marbury, Executive Assistant; Jack Browand, Division Chief, Park Planning; Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief, Park Ops; Dana Wedeles, Principle Planner, Park Planning; Margaret Orlando, Division Chief, Rec. Services;

Other City Staff: Jose Ayala, Urban Planner III, Planning & Zoning; Jeffery Farner, Deputy Director, Planning & Zoning.

Guests: Kurt Moser, Lesli Creedon, Matt Hirschmann, Michael Murphy, Stephan Koback.

I. CALL TO ORDER  
Commission Vice-Chair, Judy Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

III. COMMISSION REPORTS (verbal reports by District)  
DISTRICT 1: Jennifer Atkins had nothing to report.

DISTRICT 2: No Reports

DISTRICT 3: Abby Froemming had nothing to report. Brian McPherson stated that the Youth Sports Advisory Group continues to emphasize the availability of financial aid.

HIGH SCHOOL REPS: Ashley Sanchez-Viafara reported that the development of the connected high school is an ongoing item. The Alexandria Public Schools Superintendent made a recent visit to TC and discussed the possibility of multiple campuses throughout Alexandria.
IV. PUBLIC HEARING

a. FY 2020 Community Matching Fund Proposals
Dana Wedeles (Principal Planner, Park Planning) explained what the Community Matching Fund is, and how it is used. Established in FY17, the fund is part of the PARKnership Program. It provides one-to-one matching dollars for groups that offer fundraising for recreation improvement projects. There is a total of $100,000 of City funds available each year. The City will match anywhere from $5,000 to $25,000 per project which allows a minimum of four projects each year. The community groups that apply must live or work in the City. They must show that they provide a public benefit, and that the benefits of the project are available to all community members. Projects must be on City owned property, and the group must show that they can raise their portion of the funding within one year. The community match can be through volunteer hours if they can demonstrate that those hours equal the monetary match. This year, four proposed projects were recommended, and they include Four Mile Run Park Kayak Launch, Woodbine Tot Lot Renovation, Ewald Parkour Park, and Garden Improvement & Independence Project. For more information on the Community Matching Fund and its projects, please visit: https://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=92701

V. INFORMATION & UPDATES

a. Eisenhower East Small Area Plan Open Space
Jose Ayala, Department of Planning and Zoning, gave a presentation discussing the Eisenhower East Small Area Open Space Plan.

b. Resource Allocation & Cost Recovery Policy
Laura Durham introduced Chris Dropinski and Tom Diel, of GreenPlay, who discuss their recent findings and recommendations. The updated recommendation policy will go to council on June 11.

VI. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

a. Approval of Minutes: April 25, 2019
McPherson moved and Froemming seconded the approval of the April minutes. The Commission approved the motion by unanimous voice vote.
VII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
   a. FY 2020 Operating & CIP Budget Update
   James Spengler addressed the Commission and explained recent changes to the departments organizational chart. After having two Deputy Directors retire in FY19, it was decided that those positions would stay vacant. The two Division Chiefs of both Recreation Services and Park Operations would now become direct reports. In addition, a few positions that were previously under Park Operations are now listed under Park Planning & City Marina. They include Architect, Horticulturalist, Park Manager (Waterfront Park District).

VIII. DIVISION/PROJECT UPDATES: Recreation Services; Park Operations; Park Planning, CIP & Marina
   Division updates (staff reports) posted at: https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCCombinedReports16May2019.pdf

   Coleman requested an update on Ben Brenman. Oscar Mendoza stated that phase I is complete, and phase II has begun. Crews are currently expanding the forebay and construction will begin on the pedestrian deck.

   Jack Browand introduced Daniel Unkle, the new Capital Development Urban Planner.

IX. NEXT MONTH MEETING ITEMS – Working Draft Attached

X. NEXT MEETING
   June 20, 2019 – Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center

XI. ADJOURNMENT
   At 9:11 p.m., McPherson moved and Froemming seconded meeting adjournment. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.

*Please note that meeting minutes are a brief summary of topics discussed during each Commission meeting. Meetings are voice recorded in their entirety, and recordings are available upon request.