

**City of Alexandria, Virginia  
Park and Recreation Commission**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, February 21, 2013, 7:00 p.m.  
Patrick Henry Recreation Center  
4643 Taney Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia**

**Summary Minutes**

**Members Present:** Richard Brune, Secretary, Jennifer Atkins, Gina Baum, Judith Coleman, William Cromley, Ripley Forbes, Emma Schutzius, Nick Wagner.

**Absent:** Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair, and Brian McPherson.

**RPCA Staff:** Director James Spengler, Dinesh Tiwari, Division Chief, Park Operations, David A. Miller, Division Chief Recreation Services, Jack Browand, Division Chief Marketing, Special Events and Waterfront Operations, Ron Kagawa, Division Chief Park Planning, Design and Capital Development, David Ghezzi, Architect, Bryan Williams, Director, Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Robin DeShields, Executive Assistant.

**Absent:** William Chesley, Deputy Director, Recreation Services, Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator.

**Guests:** Elizabeth Wright, resident and Chair, Holmes Run Park Committee, James Durham resident.

- I. Call to Order by Richard Brune, Secretary, Park and Recreation Commission. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Brune asked if there were any public comments. Elizabeth Wright, Holmes Run Citizens Association thanked the Commission for funding to restore the playground equipment at Holmes Run Park.
- II. Approval of Summary Minutes from January 17, 2013 - approval was deferred to March when the Chair returns.
- III. Division Updates: To View Complete Reports go to [www.Alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://www.Alexandriava.gov/Recreation)
  - A. **Recreation Services-** David A. Miller reported that there has been a huge increase in revenue in the Out of School Time Programs (OSTP) this year. He said that registration is virtually unchanged since last year, and revenue has increased even with the new fees. Last year \$57,000 in fees were collected; this year over \$200,000. Staff deserves a lot of credit for working with the parents to educate them on the new fees. Fee assistance is available for families. Forbes-asked a question about the status of repair/replacement of volleyball net at Minnie Howard School he said it is 30 years old, and the holes in the floor are too large. Miller said staff will look at this. Miller reported that an Indoor Soccer Program was launched at Cora Kelly Recreation Ctr. - unbudgeted start-up cost was \$2,000. 10 teams, 10 game schedule, 2 weeks of playoff. Program is recovering all the funds initially allocated. Championship match held last year

turnout was great. In response to question from Baum, Miller said program will be tried at William Ramsey as well, and currently serves adults.

Other- David Miller, introduced Bryan Williams, Director, Patrick Henry - Williams said he has been with the City for 11 years, nine years at Patrick Henry. The Center has 150 children, 140 attend daily –70 children are bused over from Polk. Center could register 300 children if space was adequate. During the summer-up to 180 children attend. The West End has a lot of families with children. Center provides after school programs for teens, youth sports, soccer camp, thirteen basketball teams and they also hold meetings at Center. The operating hours are from after school to 9:00 p.m. M-F. No weekends except rentals. A lot of people don't know the Center is there. He is looking forward to the getting a new Recreation Center, which will allow expanded programming. Director Spengler said renovation of Recreation facility, it will include a full-sized gym this will create more space. Miller said Patrick Henry has the second highest enrollment in the City, the demand is there, but space is limited.

- B. **Park Operations Report** – Dinesh Tiwari - See Staff Report. Updates: Witter Fields- two are opened and also one at Francis Hammond. Fields are being actively used. Garden Plots- Forbes- asked if the City's 180 garden plots were all located at Chinquapin and what are the numbers for residents vs. non- residents. Additionally he asked if rental fees are full cost recovery. Tiwari- said he will research this and provide information.
- C. **Marketing, Special Events and Waterfront Operations** - Jack Browand- See Staff Report. There is a lot of activity on the waterfront. The Division hired a new Park Manager, Eugene Lowe and plans are for him to attend the March meeting. One of the primary activities for the new Park Manager will be to increase volunteer activities along the waterfront, such as the development a park watch system. The City has selected a contractor for Flood Mitigation Design and the selection of the Landscape Design firm should occur within the next month to 45 days. The selected contractors will be scheduled for a briefing to the PRC next spring. The Special Events seasons began with the G.W. Parade this past Monday and the St. Patrick Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, March 2 including an antique car and dog show in advance of the event. The route will be Alfred St. to Fairfax St. Rec. Services is offering early learn to swim classes in response to the closing of Chinquapin. The Marina Condition Assessment is ongoing. Contractors are performing physical and visual assessments of the marina structure and the results will be used to better appropriate annual maintenance funding and potential operational enhancements. The Waterfront Commission and PRC endorsed fee increases for the marina for resident and nonresident annual licenses, transient and overnight docking. Expected revenue increase is \$58,000. In addition, the available slips for licensing increased from 48-54 slips. Beggs- asked will increases will be assessed yearly, and also suggested an escalator be added for inflation. Browand- said fees are reviewed annually. The increases will bring the City closer to and on par with others region. The spring and Summer Program Guide will be out next week and mailed to residents March 4. Registration for classes begins March 20. Baum- asked will landscape people provide guidance on park design. Browand - yes. Baum- asked

if they will make parks more active use. Kagawa- said Charge of Work is consistent with approved master plan.

- D. **Park Planning Reports** – Ron Kagawa and Division Team- See Staff Reports and brief on projects. Park Planning currently has a portfolio of more than 70 active projects. The brief only includes highlights. Patrick Henry School is a capital project of ACPS that is currently scheduled to commence programming and design in mid/late-2013. Renovation of Patrick Henry Recreation Center is a City project that is concurrently scheduled. The intent is to coordinate both projects. Director proposal is to include at least a full-sized gym and 1 artificial turf full-sized field consistent with the previous 2008 space planning study for the Recreation Center. Brune said this would be great if it occurred. Baum - questioned how work would be completed while school is in session. There were no other questions/comments.
- IV. **Director's Report** - James Spengler: **Block 19**- follow-up from last meeting. Director- a few meetings were held last month, the direction now is to increase the size of the park. The storm water facility will be part of the larger site and it will allow parkland for activities. Baum- said there may be gains for future benefits; she also suggested we should stop calling these storm water ponds, as this gives the wrong impression.
- V. **Report from Commissioners** (verbal updates):
- A. **Waterfront Commission** - Gina Baum- the Commission met Tuesday, a representative from Founder's Park attended the meeting. Given that the Union Street Corridor Study is in process and with pending changes along the waterfront, it makes sense to relocate the Founders dog park for safety reasons. One idea is to expand the dog park at Montgomery Park and shifted use there. Forbes asked what would be involved with making a change to the dog park at Founders Park and who would be involved. The Director said any change would involve making changes to the Dog Park Master Plan. This would involve public hearings before the Waterfront Commission, Park Commission, Planning Commission and City Council. Beachcombers - the RFP will be released for an economically, sustainable viable business-preferably a restaurant use. Spengler said the proposal is for an investor group to do any structural repairs at their cost. Baum- said the Waterfront Commission met with owners of the Food Court building, they hired a new group Rappaport who is actively seeking to lease the building.
- B. **Youth Sport Committee**- Bob Moir did not seek reappointment to the Commission in January so there is no report at this time. Some information was shared from the Youth Sports Advisory Board notes February 11, 2013, on Community Feedback on Parks Study “free use” vs. “cell phone leagues”. Browand- T.C. Spring Sports and Alexandria Little League are accepting registrations. Beggs- asked if Mac Slover, Director of Sports maintains a spreadsheet of all fields in City. Miller- yes this can be printed in Rec. Trac database. Beggs- said a lacrosse parent stated numbers grew and fields shrank. A lot of demand not enough fields is there a way of respond with the master plan for year or season. Director Spengler said this information is available, staff is also

working on equity of distribution of fields. A Fields Allocation Policy is being developed and will come before the Park and Recreation Commission next month. The policy will include an allocation formula per player. Regarding allocating field space- all outdoor fields used will get equal time i.e. you have 100 players here's your space. Will allow equity and staff to do projections for the future i.e. if you anticipate registration growing i.e. space available. Other communities use this system. Beggs- is it also the policy to let youth use fields early in the day and adults later in the day. Director said some places are site specific, adults come after youth. 85% of households in Alexandria don't have children- are their needs being met?

- C. **Four Mile Run** - Ripley Forbes - no report.
  - D. **Freedmen's Cemetery**. Bob Moir did not seek reappointment at the end of his term - no updates.
  - E. **ACPS & Capital Improvements** - Judy Guse-Noritake- absent - no updates.
  - F. **Community Gardens Policy**- Judy Guse-Noritake-absent- no updates.
  - G. **Ft. Ward** - Ripley Forbes- the group did not meet-no report.
  - H. **ACPS School Projects**- Judy Guse-Noritake-absent - no updates.
  - I. **Jefferson Houston School** - William Cromley- absent- no updates.
  - J. **Beauregard Corridor Plan Task Force** - Stephen Beggs - Group is looking at specifics of the Beauregard Plan. Architectural features discussed bulb-outs. Discussed, should this be made a policy for the whole Beauregard area. The Chair, PRC said okay as long as this is not counted as open space. Additionally storm water detention facilities- 30 year project. Buildings will be greener –BMP will be smaller. Level 2. Goal not to take away open space. Good activity for the community. Coleman asked is this still on track for voting next month. Beggs said yes, things are progressing.
  - K. **Open Space** - Judy Guse-Noritake - absent - no report.
  - L. **Braddock Plan Park**- Judy Guse-Noritake- absent - no report.
- VI. **Public Comments**:- Elizabeth Wright, Chair “Holmes Run Park Committee” said meeting was held in February. There was a lot of discussion on disposal of dog waste. Some people are unclear of what is City's policy, and as a result they are putting pet waste in bags, but leaving it beside trash cans. She asked if the City can do anything to encourage proper disposal of pet waste. Director James Spengler said the preferred method is to use plastic bags and for residents to put it inside their own trash cans. Brune and Baum, said that residents should not ~~to~~ put dog waste in other people's trash cans. Director said we can do signs with existing dog park regulations on them to encourage proper disposal of pet waste. Commissioner Atkins said it may make sense for the

community associations to do a public information campaign including providing information to apartment complexes. Wright said she would like to request Brian Marquis to provide a graphic addressing proper dog waste disposal and forward it to Director RPCA. Other- Her second issue: As a FEMA Disaster Reservist. When the City becomes eligible for Public Assistance following a federally declared disaster the City can be eligible for up to a 75% federal cost-share for restoration and mitigation of the damage. Coleman asked if staff knows about this. Director said for Park Operations staff all their time is coded to a specific account. He's not sure about this specific incident. Director said it was T&ES's project and that the Office of Emergency Management is responsible in the City. Wright said we are bound to have another storm; we need to learn how public assistance works. Baum thanked her for the info and asked if any other comments.

**VII.** Agenda items for March 21, 2013, meeting and location. Location - Cora Kelly Recreation Center, agenda will be determined.

**VIII.** List of upcoming public meetings-a list was distributed at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.