

City of Alexandria, Virginia

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Charles Houston Center

901 Wythe Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

P&RC Members Present:

Jennifer Atkins, Co-Chair, Judith Coleman, Co-Chair; Gina Baum, Ripley Forbes, Catherine Poulin, Emma Schutzuus, Alexis Browand.

Excused Absence: Stephen Beggs, Rich Brune, William Cromley, and Brian McPherson.

RPCA Staff Present: James Spengler, Director, Dinesh Tiwari, Deputy Director, Park Operations, Joseph Petrella, Division Chief, Recreation Services, Jack Browand, Division Chief, Public Information, Special Events and Waterfront Operations, Ron Kagawa, Division Chief, Park Planning, Design and Capital Projects, David Ghezzi, Architect, Robin DeShields, Executive Assistant.

Absent: William Chesley, Deputy Director, Recreation Services.

Guests: Councilman John Chapman, Karen Snow, Assistant City Attorney, Sharon Annear, James W. Barnes, Yvonne Weight Callahan, Glenn Christianson, Jeanne Gardner, Carolyn Griglone, Bill Rivers, Alexandria Advocates for Aquatics, Che' Ruddell-Tabisola, Executive Director, DMV Food Truck Association, Andrea Simpson, Kay Stimson.

Summary Minutes

I. Call to Order by Jennifer Akins and Judith Coleman, Co-Chairs:

Co-Chair Judith Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Presentations:

a. Public Hearing on Food Truck Vending Policy for City Parks and Recreation Centers -

Note: *The full presentation is posted at:*

<http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCPublicHearingPowerpoint19June2014.pdf>

Jack Browand, Division Chief, provided an overview of the Food Truck Ordinance (No. 4875) approved by City Council on May 17, 2014. He said the policy allows food trucks to vend only on off-street locations, i.e., such as parking lots on public or private property. He said on-street vending is only allowed when associated with a City-approved special event. Browand said the purpose of this evening's public hearing is to solicit input from the Park and Recreation Commission (P&RC), and receive public comments on implementation of the City food truck policy at City parks and recreation centers. Browand said the Food Truck Policy website includes staff's draft policy for providing guidance for administering the Food Truck Pilot Program on public property. Details about the Food Truck Policy Pilot Program are at: (<http://www.alexandriava.gov/FoodTrucks>)

Browand gave a brief presentation and reviewed highlights of the Food Truck Policy for Parks and Recreation Centers, including the permitting process. Under the policy, the City reserves the

right to restrict vending based on public health and safety concerns, or if there is already a special event or sports activity occurring in an area. Browand said only three food trucks will be allowed in any park area and all food truck parking must be within a designated lined legal parking space.

Commissioner comments(Q) and responses from Jack Browand City staff (A):

Q. Is food permitted on synthetic fields?

A. Browand said no, although staff recognizes this rule is sometimes violated.

Q. Will RPCA will be responsible for enforcing the ordinance?

A. RPCA will not have enforcement authority, but can make recommendations or contact the police or enforcement agency if needed. Generally park violation complaints are referred to the Alexandria Police Department, non-emergency number, or the appropriate City department. Information will be posted to the Food Truck Policy website.

Q. What is the reason for allowing three food trucks in large City parks?

A. The three truck limit provides consistency and helps staff ensure that there is adequate parking for events and that parks are used for their intended purpose.

Q. How would the success of the Food Truck Pilot Program be measured?

A. The program's success will be measured comprehensively City-wide, including residents' satisfaction with the provision of concessions in City parks and recreation centers.

Q. Are there established reporting requirements for the ordinance and pilot policy.

A. Browand said staff is developing these and will send it to City Council Tuesday evening.

Q. How will staff and vendors know when the allowable number of food trucks for a given area has been reached?

A. The three-truck limit is self-regulated at this time and staff will make visual observations.

Q. Will revenue raised go towards clean-up efforts?

A. The City is recommending a \$250 permit fee, and funds could be available to RPCA if additional expenses occur in administering the program. As part of the annual budget process fees will be reviewed.

Q. Does the program have a recycling requirement?

A. There is no recycling requirement at this time but RPCA would consider such a recommendation.

Q. If one sports group requests a food truck for its event, could they specify a vending truck? If so, would this limit access by other vendors or increase the allowable vendor limit?

A. Browand said if a vendor is requested as part of a regular permitted activity - three food trucks would be allowed and the sports group would have control within their permitted use. He said there are no limits if vending occurs as part of a special event. The RPCA sports division will add information to their permit form and details will be posted.

- Q. Baum asked if a sports club decides, during their permitted times, how will permission be given to food trucks. A. Browand said if it is on an RPCA site, and the sports group has permitted use of the site – they could limit vending during their permitted use. All special events are at the discretion and permission of the event organizer. If vending is not associated with a special event they would need to get permission of the School Superintendent. Currently RPCA will only allow vending at the 14 designated locations.
- Q. If a sports group obtains all its permits at the start of its season, and doesn't include a request for a food truck permit, can they apply for a permit later in the season. How will vending be handled among multiple sports groups using a given area during the same or overlapping time slots, and how would time limits be established?
- A. Browand said if a sports group says no to vending it would limit vending during their specific time slot i.e. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. He said many sports leagues use vending to raise funds. If they hire a food truck the vendor will already have all the permits.
- Forbes said there is an issue of equity; the food truck group should not have to be beholden to anyone. Browand said with the initiation of this program this will be left up to the individual who gets a permit for the field.
- Q. How can a sports group establish a relationship with a food vendor to avoid having to go through the full permit process?
- A. The Food Truck website will have the rules. Teams could restrict vendors from vending during their permitted use time, and can call the police if an uninvited vendor shows up.

Public Comments Period:

Co-Chair Coleman opened the public hearing. She asked that comments be directed to the Park and Recreation Commission about the policy as it relates to food trucks vending in City parks and recreation centers. Assistant City Attorney Karen Snow answered questions about the approved ordinance.

1. Che' Ruddell-Tabisola, Executive Director, DMV Food Truck Association, said there are about 150 food truck vendors in the area and about 75 are association members. He operates BBQ Bus restaurant on Wheeler Ave. He said street vending provides a viable opportunity for American communities and helps bring fresh and affordable meals to people. He said the ordinance addresses a lot of the questions asked and some questions will get answered over time. He said they are operating very successful programs in surrounding jurisdictions. A number of their vendors work with the sports leagues and churches for a flat fee, and some vendors sponsor local sports teams. Food trucks are a positive resource for communities. They serve as small business incubators, help generate tax revenue, and can help create full time jobs. Food trucks also provide alternative food choices for lunchtime.

Coleman asked if there is a sense of the demand for food trucks, what is the number of interested vendors for the Pilot Program. Ruddell-Tabisola said currently there are about 7 food trucks licensed to operate in the City of Alexandria. Reasons for the small number, may be the cost of entry, restrictions on vending locations, and the cost of doing business in Alexandria is over \$1,000.

Baum said many food trucks that operate in D.C. have a following on Face book.

Ruddell-Tabisola said Face book allows vendors to go where the demand is daily.

2. Yvonne Weight Callahan, City resident, said it is critical the City determine if the benefits of the Food Truck Pilot Program outweigh the costs. She said there should be an accounting of revenues generated by program, and enforcement issues need to be considered. She said the number of food trucks should be restricted in smaller areas/lots, and a system needs to be established to determine if a vendor has exceeded their four-hour limit. She said there are two different code sections put into the City ordinance. The regulations state noise is to be measured from the edge of the parking lot. She said noise and trash are two major concerns, and that noise from generators is not addressed as part of the City ordinance. She asked from what location the noise will be measured for a 50-car parking lot, and if trash will be removed throughout the vending time or at the end.

Browand said the City deals with people leaving trash in parks now. This can be easily monitored and frequency can be determined. Karen Snow said that citation #9-15-10 (E) refers to Food Truck Ordinance #4875; incorporates the noise ordinance and states a vendor has to comply with City Code 11-5-1. Atkins said that regulation (E) says any required measurement for noise regulation should be measured from the edge of the parking lot. Browand said this language can be adjusted to say from the edge of the closest area of where the vending truck is parked. Browand said staff assumes vendors will respect the noise code and, if not, the vendor can be shut down.

3. Lynn Bostain, City resident, spoke in support of the Food Truck Vending Policy. She recently organized a food truck rodeo at Southern Towers (private property.) She said seven food trucks participated without problem, and there were 3500-4000 participants. She said food truck owners are generally very polite and congenial, and they must comply with stringent City regulations, including working with the Fire and Health Departments. She said that there was some noise; however no one had trouble hearing at the event. Bostain said the event was a success, and that food truck vendors should be given credit as legitimate business entities that serve a need the community desires.

Coleman said the Commission had received some comments for the record and summarized the park-specific comments.

4. Carolyn Grigilone, City resident, submitted comments for the record. She is concerned about pedestrian safety with vehicles passing each other in the park. She said in the past ice cream trucks have been involved in accidents due to children running out in the street. She asked how staff can help ensure pedestrian safety.

Browand said staff will seek recommendations from the P&RC. In the future staff may establish designated parking areas for trucks, or other areas for vending zones, if the public desires.

Coleman asked if the ordinance/policy has set review periods and said this will be helpful. Browand said the Food Truck Pilot Program runs from July 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015. The City Manager and City Council are able to amend these policies under an administrative review process. He said there will be an opportunity for the community to comment on the Food Truck website.

Coleman shared emails from William Schreiner on behalf of Friends of Fort Ward Park opposing food trucks at Fort Ward Park as it is listed on the National Historic Registrar.

5. Jeanne Gardner, City resident, submitted written comments for the record. She said one of her concerns is that food truck vendors will enter the market place for \$1,033, and that they are different from brick and mortar restaurants. She is concerned about food quality and safety and where the food will be prepared. She asked what can be done to ensure food safety how does the Health Department regulate this.

Browand said the City's permitting process includes both a Health Department inspection, and a Code Enforcement permit center process. Ruddell-Tabisola, of BBQ Bus restaurant on Wheeler Ave, said his food is prepared on premises, and that Alexandria City has very robust regulations: for example the Health Department comes out four times a year and inspects his brick and mortar restaurant and his food truck. He said that many vendors vend at festivals and that last year his truck was inspected 12 times. He agrees food safety is absolutely paramount.

Coleman closed the public hearing, and said that the P&RC will draft a letter endorsing general policy recommendations that incorporate the P&RC values and policy goals. Atkins said they will work with the food vendors. She asked Browand and Assistant City Attorney Snow, if Fort Ward has 10 or more parking spaces. Browand said Fort Ward Park is excluded because the parking areas are not lined or paved.

Forbes said the policy should exclude any park listed on the National Historic Registrar, which would only affect Fort Ward. Atkins said language needs to be clarified to define parking areas to avoid someone suggesting paving and stripping Fort Ward's parking bays for food vending trucks in the future. Browand said there are certain conditions that must be met to establish criteria for restricting vending in certain parks. Baum said language should also be added to explain that Fort Ward Park is excluded because of its gravel parking lot with no designated parking areas. Browand said staff can review and incorporate this.

Forbes asked staff to revisit the issue of letting sports leagues opt out of food trucks when multiple sports teams are playing in an area. He said it wouldn't make sense if one sports league's says "no" to food trucks being able to prevent others playing at the park. Browand said if there are multiple permits in an area staff could recommend using the field next to the parking facility. He said the intent is not to exclude food trucks but to protect the interest of the group using the facility.

Baum asked who would benefit if teams have established relationships with a food truck vendor, i.e. soccer, baseball or both. Petrella said there are some locations and areas that staff can work on to solve the problem. Since a permit application comes in at the start of the season, staff can set up designated dates for permitted use or a group can opt out of food trucks for the season, and permits can also be requested throughout the season. Baum asked if this would this be brought back to the Commission. Browand said the policy's intent was for vendors already listed. He said ACPS uses City parks to raise

funds and without this policy any food truck would be able to operate during permitted hours and ACPS would have to compete.

Coleman said that because baseball and soccer don't use fields at the same time until the spring, there is ample time for staff to develop how the regulations might address these potential conflicts and then share those recommendations with the P&RC.

Browand said the list of permitted vendors can be found on the City's website at: alexandriava/foodtrucks.

Coleman reviewed the suggestions to be included in the P&RC letter to City Council.

1. Establish a reporting requirement back to the P&RC within 6 months from the City Council's meeting.
2. Inclusion of a recycling program is strongly recommended.
3. Exempt parks listed on the National Historic Registrar from food truck policy.
4. Review potential conflicts with sports groups or special events groups.
5. Investigate broadly the establishment of revenue generating activities in parks and returning revenue to RPCA for cost recovery.
6. Make feedback mechanisms on the policy as user-friendly and open as possible.

Coleman said the idea to add a requirement to the policy that noise levels be measured from the edge nearest the food truck should be considered in the January progress review. Atkins agreed that noise be a report-back item for the Commission. Browand said that if there is a significant number of noise complaints it will be reported and staff will consider measures to address it.

Schuzuis said she thinks food trucks are a good idea but is concerned about parking space access. She asked if food trucks can fit into a parking space and if people will be able to access the trucks safely. Browand said that would depend on the location and where they can find parking. Staff thought it was important not to designate specific parking spaces for vending. He said if the Commission wants designated parking spaces this would require developing another set of regulations. Ruddell-Tabisola said part of the regulation is that food trucks have to be able to fit into a parking space.

Coleman asked if there were any other comments, there were none. Atkins offered to draft the letter on behalf of the Commission. **Motion:** Baum moved that the Park and Recreation Commission draft a letter supporting the Food Truck Policy along with the amendments as outlined. Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Coleman closed the public hearing at 8:13 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING:

The P&RC welcomed Councilman John Chapman to the meeting. Coleman deferred consideration of the May minutes, and moved to the discussion on Warwick Pool.

III. Items for Action:

Park & Recreation Commission Food Truck Vending Policy Recommendation: See Item II a.

Approval of Summary Minutes: May 15, 2014- deferred to July meeting.

IV. Items for Information and discussion:

Note: Staff reports and background information, including the 2014 Warwick Pool Condition Assessment, are posted to:

<http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCCOMBINEDFILEJUNE192014.pdf>

- A. **Warwick Pool Update:** James Spengler, Director, RPCA - **See Staff Reports:** (1) May 21, 2014 memo from Donna Poillucci, Portfolio Manager, City General Services Department and Warwick Pool - Condition Assessment – 2014; (2) June 19, 2014 memo to Park and Recreation Commission (P&RC) – Warwick Pool Spring 2014 Condition Assessment, and (3) December 3, 2013 memo to the Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council regarding Warwick Pool.

Director Spengler said that for each of the past three fiscal years he has recommended not opening Warwick Pool based on the pool's condition, health and safety factors, operating costs and RPCA's overall budget constraints. Operating costs for Warwick Pool are \$92,000 for about a 70-day period (largely for tracked usage by RPCA summer day camps). He said this year he again recommended that this pool not be opened. The City Manager recommended that outdoor pool money in FY2018 budget be moved to current timeframe for repairs, renovation or replacement of pool. City Council decided to open Warwick Pool during the summer of 2014 (July/August), but there is no FY2015 money to operate the pool next summer. A long-term decision is still needed on the status of the pool.

He said staff has over four different time periods offered six different recommendations for various alternatives for Warwick Pool. Recently, RPCA's Park Planning, Design and Capital Development Division worked with General Services to assess the community building's condition. Outside consultants Kimley-Horn and Associates (Kimley-Horn) conducted a Condition Assessment of the pool. The Condition Assessment is referenced in the attached documents, and was provided to the City Manager and City Council, notifying them of the intent not to operate this pool in the future due to health and safety conditions. Spengler said the pool leaks 3,000-6,000 gallons of water daily, a problem that might be affecting nearby residences.

The Condition Assessment provides four tiers of needed repairs and repair-related costs for both the community building and the pool: ranging from Tier 1 items (immediate, this year) and Tier 2 (needed within the next three operating seasons), the other Tier 3- are more long term items. Warwick pool is unique as it contains a community building and has a building expense. Tier 1 and 2 health and safety repairs would cost a little over \$1 million if pool is to be opened again. Director Spengler said that, from a health and safety standpoint, he is recommending to the community that the pool not be opened beyond this season again. He said a joint decision needs to be made by the community, P&RC and City Council about the long term plan for this facility. RPCA architect Ghezzi said the City's site review identified only physically observable problems, and no technical engineering tests were completed, there may be additional underlying conditions needing a much larger investment to correct.

Discussion:

Members of the Park and Recreation Commission (P&RC) discussed at length how to deal with issue of the failing Warwick Pool, which because of its age and condition is a potential safety risk and is viewed to be unstable, and also how to address the community's desire to maintain a pool in this area of Alexandria. Yet to be determined is what option to take if a decision is made by City Council, with community and P&RC input, to maintain an aquatics facility at this location. Baum asked if the ongoing water leak could undermine the soil's ability to safely support the pool, and what measures could be taken to demolish the pool. She asked for clarification on the cost estimates and options included in Alternative 4 and 5, covering demolition, upgrading and replacement options. After discussion, Baum said it would not make sense to pay \$1.9 million for repairs and upgrades when replacing the pool would likely cost \$2 million.

Ghezzi said staff monitors the pool's condition but an engineering study would be needed to assess it. Spengler said staff has made its recommendations but the final decision on whether to open or close the Warwick Pool is City Council's. Ghezzi added that one drawback to Warwick is that it is only a community pool with limited parking, regardless of what option is chosen. Poulin asked if replacing the Warwick Pool with a new small community recreation pool would be adequate for the volume of users. Spengler said it depends on where the summer day camp program is held, and how successful fundraising efforts by Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics are towards expanding capacity at Chinguapin, this would allow the summer day camp programs held at Warwick Pool could be transferred to Chinguapin.

Atkins thanked the group for bringing this to the P&RC attention and said that a long-term decision needs to be made by the Commission to help guide City Council's decision in accord with the community's needs. She said the discussion needs to be turned into a action item for the next meeting.

Rivers, Chair, Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA), said he believes Warwick Pool should not be shut and a new pool should be built. He said this pool serves a need in the Arlandria/Lynhaven area which is underserved. Rivers said Tenants and Workers United have joined with AAA to push the City to keep Warwick Pool open. Rivers said the real question for City Council is how to make the necessary capital outlay for this aquatics facility next year. Rivers said AAA does not think more than \$1.5 million of the City's \$5 million approved to cover the three City outdoor pools should be used for Warwick because the therapeutic pool and the Old Town Pool also need funding. Rivers said private sector funding should be part of the funding package for work on all three City pools. Rivers will meet with the landowner for Warwick Pool, Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), to seek \$400,000 in funding to add to the City's \$1.5 million planned for Warwick Pool so the \$1.9 million cost for staff-recommended work on Warwick Pool would be covered. Rivers said if VTS is unable to make the contribution, then the City should consider what can be done for \$1.5 million. Rivers said the important question is what City Council decides to do about making funds available for FY2016 so Warwick Pool will not have to close. Rivers summarized that AAA endorses the idea of a new pool at Warwick, sooner rather than later, AAA believes that this should not be at the expense of other City aquatics facilities and they will pursue private sector fundraising

for Warwick Pool. Glenn Christianson, former president, Warwick Village Citizens Association, said they had begun fundraising efforts but didn't realize the pool would fail so soon. He said the Civic Association has a long history of volunteer work with the City. Spengler said there are several issues to consider for Warwick Pool: (1) what is constructed, (2) community demographics, and (3) operating budget limitations. He said the aquatics consultant said Warwick Pool's usage will not cover the pool's long-term operating costs so they recommended for this site an interactive spray fountain that would serve families with young children. He said the consultant said that, based on the number of private pools in Alexandria, there is demand to support three City facilities: the Chinquapin aquatics and recreation facility plus two other facilities. He said the consultants provided options for existing facilities, including creating an interactive spray ground at Warwick Pool to help families with small children. He said a competitive pool here would be problematic in terms of cost and limited parking for visiting teams. Spengler said the Fountain at Potomac Yards is very popular but the Warwick Pool community did not want a spray park.

Poulin asked how large and small community pool operating costs compare. Spengler said costs reflect factors such as the volume of water needing to be treated, number of life guards, and size of potential bath houses. Spengler said the Potomac Yards Fountain requires no bathhouse or lifeguards. He said the Warwick Village pool was built 60 years ago and is now obsolete. Rivers said the approximately \$1.9 million replacement cost estimate is to replace the current 25-yard pool, not to build a competition-size pool.

Baum said she would like to see an option such as a small amusement-type destination pool whose features would attract users from beyond the immediate community to cover operational costs. Spengler said options for Warwick Pool need to take into consideration renovating the community building which would add to project cost. If the project was done without renovation of the building the cost would drop significantly. Christiansen said the building is important to residents and is used by members of the condo association. Baum suggested the condo association could use the Mt. Vernon or Cora Kelly recreation centers for their meetings. In response to Poulin, Spengler said the \$5 million aquatics budget limits design options and may not be in line with what facilities are needed or desired by City residents. Poulin asked in terms of cost recovery how does Warwick pool's patronage compares to its costs. She said a recent survey showed high demand for aquatics in Alexandria, but she asked whether the cost benefit analysis for Warwick Pool will show the pool's benefit as being enjoyed by a significant enough number of people to justify its cost to the City. Atkins said a traffic study is being done on who uses the pools, including Warwick residents. She said that parking in the areas is limited but many people without cars in Arlandria and Lynhaven walk to the pool. Spengler said staff will have more information later.

Atkins said this should be an action item at the next P&RC meeting and requested staff provide a report on area traffic patterns. Councilman Chapman suggested the P&RC put together a timeline for City Council for making a long-term decision on Warwick Pool. Atkins said she would like to see a Warwick Pool decision put on City Council's docket for September 2014.

- V. **Division Updates: To view full staff reports go to**
<http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCCOMBINEDFILEJUNE192014.pdf>
- A. **Recreation Programs and Service Update – See Staff Reports** – including Marketing - Data Collection Strategy, William Chesley, Deputy Director (absent), Joseph Petrella, Division Chief presented report. **Athletic Facilities Allocation Policy Update:** The Athletic Facilities Allocation Policy is being amended to include a Level Three Category for Scholastic Entities located in the City such as Northern Virginia Community College, Bishop Ireton High School, St. Stephens/St. Agnes High School, Commonwealth Academy, St. Mary’s School, Alexandria Country Day, Episcopal High School, etc. Spengler said staff is currently trying to address issue with Bishop Ireton (B.I), private school use of City fields. Ireton is currently being treated like a public school program, although most of their use occurs after school. B.I. and the City had a history of exchanging use of fields at no cost. When B.I. did field improvement, residents were concerned and access to B.I. fields was limited. Spengler said there is no written agreement and B.I. uses Witter field, Four Mile Run, and Hensley fields. Spengler said staff has held several meetings with B.I. School; saying under the Cost Recovery Allocation Policy B.I. will now be charged for use of City fields and would not receive top priority under RPCA’s field allocation policy. Staff is accessing resource recovery for Bishop Ireton School and its impacts.
- Staff is offering an amendment to the Field Allocation Policy and staff has created a new scholastic sports category with an associated rate that is less than that for private groups. Atkins asked for the rationale behind this. Petrella said staff researched several other communities around the country that had a scholastic rate which was about 50% less. The Director said B.I. would go from paying \$0 to paying about \$50,000. He said another issue is how to allocate them into a time slot, so they do not conflict with higher tier groups. Some youth groups complained they could not get time at Witter fields during prime time. Staff recommended creation of the scholastic category. Petrella said field allocations start with RPCA programs, T.C. Williams, Affiliates Groups, ASA, followed by Scholastic groups. Petrella said after school the affiliates don’t really need to use the fields, this is a good time for the scholastic groups, night use would be limited. He said staff is also discussing premium vs. non-premium time. Akins asked if this is a change to the Field Allocation Policy or fees. The Director said it is a change to both the Field Allocation Policy and fee. Expanding tier to add a scholastic level and determining an equitable fee. Poulin asked when the new fees would be assessed. Spengler said the new fees would begin in September.
- Action:** Baum moved to endorse the updated Field Allocation Policy, Forbes seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.
- B. **Park Operations Report** - Dinesh Tiwari, Deputy Director – **See Staff Report.**
Atkins asked about the Spring Park Furniture Assessment (see report). Tiwari said as part of park assessments staff reviewed a list of items that need replacement. Spengler said RPCA is trying to bring current park furnishings up to standards that require less maintenance. He said RPCA purchases commercial quality items that are fairly expensive but have longevity and citizens should note this. Tiwari said replacement items will meet new park standards. Coleman asked if concerts held in Ben Brenman Park can be coordinated with the mowing schedule. She also said holding park concerts at 7 p.m.

during the summer heat may affect attendance. She suggested staff look at moving concerts to later in the day or year. In response to Coleman’s question on the storm's impact, Tiwari said staff was very fortunate that there was not a lot of tree damage due to staff being proactive in tree trimming. Poulin noted that there were some trees down at Windmill Hill Park that is being cleared. Tiwari said there were a lot of power outages.

C. **Public Relations, Special Events and Waterfront Operations** - Jack Browand, Division Chief – See Staff Report.

D. **Park Planning, Design & Capital Development Reports** – Ron Kagawa, Division Chief and Team - See Staff Reports. There were no questions or comments.

- Capital Projects Update.
- Capital Facilities Maintenance Projects Update.
- Beverly Park Civic Engagement Memorandum.
- Warwick Pool Memorandum and Attachments.

V. **2014 Civic Awards - Jack Browand -verbal update**): Ripley Forbes, Rich Brune and Brian McPherson served on the awards sub-committee. The awards are given out each year as part of the City’s birthday celebration in July. Forbes said that three nominations were received, and all are being recommended for an award. Forbes explained criteria for nominations. He said that last year no nominees were received and suggested that next year a separate event be held in October to focus specifically on recognizing award recipients. **Motion**: Atkins moved to approve the nominees as recommended by the sub-committee, Baum seconded, all were in favor. The motion carried. Browand said the City’s Birthday celebration will be held July 12, at Oronoco Bay Park, and encouraged Commissioners to attend and make their way up to the stage for the awards presentations.

Baum asked about Lyles Crouch raising money for irrigation system, she wonders if it is also a soil issue. Browand said they are working on finalizing an agreement on school maintenance. Tiwari- basically responsibility is to maintain what is there, if any enhancements are needed ACPS would need to handle.

VI. **Reports from Commissioners (verbal updates)**:

A. **Waterfront Commission** - Gina Baum said City Council approved Phase 1 of the Olin Group's landscape design for the Waterfront core area on June 14, 2014. She said the next step will be to develop more details for the concept design. Browand said The Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC)'s Board of Governors has approved the City-ODBC negotiated agreement to swap the City's Beachcomber site for ODBC's land where their clubhouse now sits and a membership vote will follow in July. Browand said joint meetings of the Waterfront and Park and Recreation Commissions will be scheduled as the Olin design is further refined. Browand said that in response to Marina leaseholders' complaints that the Olin landscape design removes pleasure boat slips from the City Marina, in part because of the City-ODBC compromise. City Council has asked the Waterfront Commission for ideas on how to preserve some publicly accessible slips on the Waterfront, without specifying if these should be for slip holders or transient boats.

Atkins said the P&RC will need to discuss maintenance policy for Waterfront parks. Browand said a big component of the next phase of Waterfront Plan implementation is

addressing a governance structure for the Waterfront, including how to adequately maintain the Waterfront's upgraded parks. Baum said there may be conflicting positions taken by the Waterfront and Park and Recreation Commissions about how the City should accommodate resident pleasure boaters who keep their boats at the City Marina.

Spengler said City Council will need to decide about the City Marina's purpose, be it for residents' boats, those visiting the City by boat, or for commercial boats. Spengler said that regardless of the type of boats at the Marina, taxpayers need to cover an annualized cost of \$600,000 to dredge the Marina, a maintenance action done every 5-7 years. He said boating should be considered a Tier 5 priority, with users paying the full cost of the activity, but the City will never fully recover the costs of Marina dredging. Spengler said in those instances where the Waterfront and Park and Recreation Commissions recommendations differ, both are forwarded to City Council. He said choices about the P&RC's scope of responsibility for Waterfront landscape planning and operations will be part of the City study about Waterfront governance. He said a similar decision about P&RC responsibilities will be needed for Fort Ward if a permanent citizen group to oversee Fort Ward Park maintenance is recommended.

Browand said the Waterfront landscape design as approved by City Council is now 30% complete. Coleman and Atkins asked that the Waterfront Plan be put back onto the P&RC's regular agenda as a separate item earlier in the meetings. They said it is likely that P&RC perspectives on design and policy choices affecting Waterfront Plan implementation may differ from those of the Waterfront Commission and P&RC should be prepared to make its concerns better known to City Council as issues arise.

- B. **Youth Sport Committee** - Brian McPherson was absent. Atkins reported on the well-attended public hearing on putting lights on tennis courts at T.C. Williams. She said neighbors' real concern voiced was not about lights but a failure of ACPS to follow through on promised field maintenance and to install trees. This led to her question regarding RPCA's responsibility and MOU. She feels more optimistic re: lights on courts if residents concerns re: maintenance are addressed and their faith in the City living up to its maintenance promises can be restored. She said this issue will come back to the P&RC down the road.
- C. **Eisenhower West** - Judy Coleman said a community meeting, the boundary has reverted to the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) design P&RC favors. She said P&RC needs to be better integrated into the process and, for example, community meetings should not be held on weekdays evenings hard for families with children to attend. She is pushing P&Z for a statistically accurate survey and has invited P&Z to brief the P&RC at the July meeting.
- D. **Aquatics Update** - Jennifer Atkins: already discussed.
- E. **Four Mile Run** - Ripley Forbes: no report.
- F. **Fort Ward** - Ripley Forbes: no report.

- G. **Braddock Plan Park**: Atkins- staff is starting the neighborhood parks walk-throughs. Coleman said she hopes the other two District III commissions can also attend the walk.
 - H. **Patrick Henry School Update**- Brian McPherson: Absent
 - I. **Jefferson Houston School** - William Cromley: Absent
 - J. **Open Space** - Jennifer Atkins: no update.
 - K. **Freedmen’s Cemetery**: no update.
 - L. **ACPS & Capital Improvements**: no update.
 - M. **ACPS School Projects**: no update.
 - N. **Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan Advisory Group**: deferred to next meeting.
- VII. **Public Comments on items other than public hearing**. None.
- VIII. **Next Meeting**: Agenda items for July 17, 2014, meeting and location will be determined.
- IX. **Adjournment**: The meeting adjourned 9:50 p.m.