

MINUTES
City of Alexandria, Virginia
AD HOC OPEN SPACE STEERING COMMITTEE
Community Meeting
Thursday, July 14, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Open Space Steering Committee Members

Present:

Kaitlyn Blume, Member at-large

David Brown, Planning Commission Member

Tatiana Gutierrez, Member at-large

Martha Harris, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission Member

Barbara Marvin, Park and Recreation Commission Member

Kurt Moser, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) City of Alexandria Board Member,
and Ad Hoc Open Space Committee Co-Chair

Micheline Smith, At-large member from the development community (Paradigm)

Mike Olex, Environmental Policy Commission Member

Excused:

Denise Tennant, Beautification Commission Member, and Co-Chair, Ad Hoc Open Space
Committee

Brandon Pinette, Member at-large

City Staff

Nathan Imm, Principal Planner, Planning & Zoning (P&Z)

Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Park Planning Division, RPCA

Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner, Park Planning Division

Aaron Bethencourt, Associate, Park Planning Division

Guests

None

Call to Order

Co-chair Moser called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Administrative

**MINUTES APPROVAL – OCTOBER 2020, DECEMBER 2020, JANUARY 2021,
JANUARY 2022, MARCH 2022, AND APRIL 2022**

MOTION: Kaitlyn Blume moved and Mike Olex seconded that the October 2020, December 2020, January 2021, January 2022, March 2022, and April 2022 minutes be approved, and that going forward additional attention be placed on the quality of the minutes. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

FOIA REQUIREMENTS – ANA VICINANZO

Ana Vicinanza and Nathan Imm discussed FOIA requirements as it relates to what conversations among committee members would require and trigger the requirement for public notice.

Committee Task Updates

(in Agenda order)

TASK 2 - OPEN SPACE METRICS - Ana Vicinanza (RPCA)

(Evaluate and recommend methods of pursuing new publicly accessible open space)

- Ana Vicinanza presented draft document detailing metrics and key performance indicators for measuring park accessibility, useability, design, and equity.
- Ana Vicinanza presented maps detailing park pressure and heat vulnerability.

Committee Discussion - Issues and concerns highlighted:

- **ISSUE: APPLICABILITY OF METRICS**
 - How will these metrics be used?
 - A: They will be used to evaluate and determine how open space should be used in the City, per Task 2, beyond just acreage of open space per 1,000 residents. These metrics will allow the City to establish a baseline to measure progress toward the goals outlined in Task 2.
- **ISSUE: EQUITY AND DESIGN - IMPLEMENTATION WHEN A GAP IS IDENTIFIED**
 - How will the City proceed after a gap in equity and/or design has been identified?
 - A: City could allocate funding, volunteer efforts, and/or developer contributions to parks and areas that score low on equity and design.
 - How will the City proceed after a gap has been identified but nothing can be done to improve upon this gap?
 - What actions are triggered when gaps are identified?
- **ISSUE: EVALUATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF DESIGN CRITERIA**

- Not all parks are designed to meet all the design criteria. Will parks that can't meet this criteria be forced to meet these criteria, even if they weren't designed for that certain criterion's purpose?
- Parks need to be evaluated based on their type and intended purpose.
- The Design Criteria may be subjective depending on who is conducting the evaluation. Who will be conducting the evaluation?
- Will these design criteria homogenize all of the parks and take away their uniqueness?
- Will this Design Criteria be applied to publicly accessible private space? If so, how will the Design Criteria be applied to these spaces?
 - A: At this moment in the process, it is uncertain how the Design Criteria will be applied to these spaces, but the City plans for private land owners and developers to use the Design Criteria when providing such open space.

Follow Up – Draft list of Design Criteria.

Follow Up - Schedule practice run of evaluation of design criteria once draft of design criteria is available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.