

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, March 16, 2023
7p.m.
Regular Meeting**

**Patrick Henry Recreation Center
4653 Taney Avenue**

P&RC Members

Present: Katy Matthews, Secretary (District III); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Stephen;); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Barbara Marvin (District I); Phillip Voorhees (District III); David Brennan (District III); Stuart Fox (District I); Tookie Organek (student member)

Attended by Phone: Dana Colarulli, Vice Chair (District II)

Absent: Steve Beggs, Chair (District II); Rania Shuster (student member)

RPCA Staff: James Spengler, RPCA Director, Tiffany Marbury, Executive Assistant; Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Planning; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner; Beth Znidarsic, Division Chief, Park Planning; Fariba Maslaki, Division Chief, Administrative Services; TJ Allen, Fiscal Officer II; Jose Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Planning.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Secretary, Katy Matthews, served as designated Chair and called the meeting to order at 7:05p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments.

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT I: **Stuart Fox** stated that the Waterfront Commission did not meet in February. They plan to meet next week. **Barbara Marvin** and **Jeffrey Miller** did not have an update to share.

DISTRICT II: **Dana Colarulli** stated that the bus loop is now in construction at Douglas MacArthur School. There is a virtual community meeting on March 28, at 6:30pm. **Stephen Beggs** was not in attendance. **Geoffrey Goode** did not have an update to share.

DISTRICT III: **Katy Matthews** gave an update on Minnie Howard. Utility work continues and the current focus is pool excavation. **David Brennan** attended the last youth sports advisory group meeting. He stated that they reviewed a calendar of planned updates

for fields. They also discussed equity in youth sports and what improvements can be made. **Phillip Voorhees** did not have an update to share.

STUDENT MEMBERS: Tookie Organek did not have an update to share. **Rania Shuster** was not in attendance.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS & ACTIONS

a. Approval of February 16 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: FY23.3.16.23A

Motion: Dana Colarulli moved, and Geoffrey Goode seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

b. West End Open Spaces (Landmark Mall Site)

Ana Vicinanza introduced Sara Brandt-Vorel of Foulger-Pratt. Foulger-Pratt is the master developer of the West End site. Sara introduced Don Hoover of Oculus. Oculus is the landscape company and key designer of the project. The group gave a presentation of the updated design and asked for the Commissions endorsement. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/PRCLandmarkOS16Mar2023.pdf>

ACTION: FY23.3.16.23B

Motion: Stuart Fox moved, and Barbara Marvin seconded the motion to endorse the West End Open Space Plan as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Staff Reports – *Commissioner Questions*

Division updates (staff reports) posted at:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/PRCCCombinedReport16March23.pdf>

b. New/Promotional Staff Introductions

Beth Znidersic introduced Jose Ayala as the new Principal Planner for Park Services. Judy Lo as the new Principal Planner. Jose comes to us from the City of Alexandria's Department of Planning and Zoning, where he is currently a Principal Planner in Neighborhood Planning. His previous positions include work at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, planning/urban design, and roadway design positions in Orlando, Florida, and Land Survey in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

c. FY 2024 Operating Budget & FY 2023-33 CIP

Faye Maslaki gave a presentation on the FY24 operating budget. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/FY24RPCAProposedBudget16Mar2023.pdf>

d. Public Open Space Text Amendment

Ana Vicinanza and Abigail Harwell (Planning & Zoning) gave a presentation on the public open space text amendments. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/PRCOSText16Mar2023.pdf>

e. Witter Fields Parking Restrictions Expansion

Jack Browand stated that there have been some issues at Witter Field regarding parking. There are businesses taking up parking spaces in the main lot, and some staff members are parking around the softball field. We plan to propose limited parking 7 days a week and no overnight parking in the park. This should be helpful in preserving parking when construction begins in that area and once the new apartment building is built.

f. Eugene Simpson Park Renovations

Beth Znidersic introduced Mitch Dillon (Project Implementation) who joined her in giving a presentation on the Simpson Park renovations. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/PRCSimpson16Mar2023.pdf>

VI. NEXT MEETING

April 20, 2023 – Charles Houston Recreation Center – 901 Wythe St.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY23.3.16.23C

Motion: David Colarulli moved, and Geoffrey Goode seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:46p.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.