

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, April 20, 2023
7p.m.
Regular Meeting

Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe St.

P&RC Members

Present: Steve Beggs, Chair (District II); Dana Colarulli, Vice Chair (District II); Katy Matthews, Secretary (District III); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Barbara Marvin (District I); David Brennan (District III); Stuart Fox (District I); Rania Shuster (student member)

Absent: Geoffrey Goode (District II); Phillip Voorhees (District III); Tookie Organek (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; Jose Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Planning; Judy Lo, Principal Planner.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair, Steve Beggs, 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 in March, the Waterfront Commission was given a presentation on the Old Town Business Service District and the Open Space Text Amendment. Both items were endorsed by the Commission. They were also given a presentation about the Tall Ship Providence which should arrive at the waterfront in June. **Barbara Marvin** stated that the Open Space Steering Committee will meet on May 1, to discuss draft tasks and design plans. **Jeffrey Miller** did not have an update to share.

DISTRICT II: **Dana Colarulli** stated that contractors recently completed kitchen and cafeteria duct installation, along with a few other tasks. The project is on track for substantial completion by July 30, 2023. **Stephen Beggs** stated that the Potomac Yard Metro is scheduled to open on May 19. There are a few park areas that need to be returned to their original condition. **Geoffrey Goode** was not in attendance.

DISTRICT III: Katy Matthews gave an update on Minnie Howard. There will be an announcement involving programming for grades 9-12. The programming will have a heavy focus on STEM. She recently participated in a Safe Routes to School audit which focused on ensuring safety for children that may walk or ride bikes to the Minnie Howard campus. **David Brennan** did not attend the last youth sports advisory group meeting and deferred to Beth Znidersic for an update. Beth stated that there was a good discussion about the renovations to Simpson Park. Community engagement regarding the renovations includes yesterday's pop-up event, and a community meeting scheduled for this Wednesday. To date, there have been over 330 responses to the online survey. **Phillip Voorhees** was not in attendance.

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

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Motion to Open the Public Hearing

ACTION: FY23.4.20.23A

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and Dana Colarulli seconded the motion to open the public hearing. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

b. Public Open Space Text Amendment

Ana Vicinanza, Jose Ayala, and Abigail Harwell (Planning & Zoning) gave a presentation on the Public Open Space Text Amendment. More information can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/rpca/project/public-open-space-zone-text-amendment>

The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/PRCOSText16Mar2023.pdf>

c. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

d. Chair – Motion to Close Public Hearing

ACTION: FY23.4.20.23B

Motion: Stuart Fox moved, and Katy Matthews seconded the motion to close the public hearing. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

e. Commission Action

ACTION: FY23.4.20.23C

Motion: Stuart Fox moved, and Barbara Marvin seconded the motion to endorse the proposed public open space text amendments as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of March 16, Meeting Minutes

ACTION: FY23.4.20.23D

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and Jeffrey Miller seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

b. Park & Recreation Commission Site Visit – Joseph Hensley Park

Commission members decided to conduct the site visit on Wednesday, May 17 at 6pm. Commission members will meet at the park for an on-site walk-through.

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Staff Reports – *Commissioner Questions*

Division updates (staff reports) posted at:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/PRCStaffReport20April23.pdf>

b. Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Open Space Plan

Mary Catherine Gibbs introduced Simon Beer of OJB Landscape Architecture, who gave a presentation on the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) Open Space Plan. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/PRGS-Community-Meeting-Presentation-13.pdf>

More information can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/neighborhood-development/potomac-river-generating-station-prgs-power-plant-redevelopment-old-town>

VII. NEXT MEETING

May 18, 2023 – Virtual Meeting Zoom Platform

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY23.4.20.23E

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and Dana Colarulli seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:17p.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.