

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

**Virtual Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2024**  
**7 p.m.**

**P&RC Members**

**Present:** Dana Colarulli, Chair (Acting) (District II); Katy Matthews, Secretary (District III); Jeffrey Miller (District I); David Brennan (District III); Paul Komelasky (District I); Tookie Organek (student member); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Stuart Fox (District I)

**Absent:** Steve Beggs, Chair (District II); Rania Shuster (student member); Phillip Voorhees (District III).

**RPCA Staff:** James Spengler, RPCA Director, Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services; Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office of the Arts; Beth Znidarsic, Division Chief, Park Services; Judy Lo, Principal Planner, Park Services; Jose Ayala, Principal Planner, Park Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant, RPCA.

**City Staff:** Matthew Landes, Project Manager, DPI; Terry Suehr, Director, DPI.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dana Colarulli, Acting Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**a. Commissioner Assignments**

Commission members continued to review available assignments and express their interest in these community initiatives. Members with existing assignments gave the following updates:

**DISTRICT I: Stuart Fox** gave an update on the Waterfront Commission. He stated that during their last meeting, they discussed the Waterfront Plan Implementation Update on Flood Mitigation. Since the presentation is on the agenda for this meeting, he will save his questions and comments for that time. **Jeffrey Miller** gave an update on Monumental Sports. He stated that the public meetings regarding the arena have slowed down. Everyone is waiting to see if anything changes with the state budget.

**DISTRICT II: Dana Colarulli** mentioned that he delivered the Commission budget memo to the City Council last week. He shared that the Commission is generally happy with the budget, that the department is doing a great job, and that we need to continue to invest in our parks and recreation services. **Stephen Beggs** was not in attendance. **Geoffrey Goode** reported no updates on the George Mason modernization plan. The draft recommendations for Alexandria West are out for public comment until the end of the month. There is also a public meeting scheduled for April 23. The recommendations are in line with what was presented to the Commission.

**DISTRICT III: Katy Matthews** stated that Minnie Howard remains on schedule. The pool is filled with water and furniture is in the building. **Phillip Voorhees** was not in attendance. **David Brennan** shared that Laura Durham gave an update to the Youth Sports Advisory Board. She expressed the commission's support of the group and thanked them for their participation. The Commission looks forward to more interaction with the group.

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

#### IV. ACTION ITEMS

##### a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 29, 2024

**ACTION:** FY24.3.21.24A

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

#### V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

##### a. Staff Report Highlights

Division updates (staff reports) are posted at:

[https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/prc\\_combinedreport\\_3.21.24.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/prc_combinedreport_3.21.24.pdf)

- Judy Lo provided an update on the Mount Jefferson dog exercise area. The design work is complete for the dog park drainage improvements. The projected completion time is the end of May.
- Beth Znidersic provided an update on Simpson Dog Park. The final steps of the project should be completed next week. There will be a soft opening in April.
- Diane Ruggiero provided an update on the Site See 2024 installation at Waterfront Park. The installation is called Interstellar Influencer (Make an Impact), and it is a representation of the asteroid that collided with Earth and created a crater that shaped the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

**b. PRGS Open Space Update**

Jose Ayala introduced Mary Catherine Gibbs who gave a presentation on the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS). The presentation can be found here:

[https://media.alexandriava.gov/content/rpca/20240321PRGSUpdatePresentation.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*\\_ttdd6q\\*\\_ga\\*MTQ2MDQwNDU4MS4xNTgxOTgzNDEw\\*\\_ga\\_249CRKJTTH\\*MTcxMzI4Nzc1MC41NC4xLjE3MTMyODc5OTMuMC4wLjA](https://media.alexandriava.gov/content/rpca/20240321PRGSUpdatePresentation.pdf?_gl=1*_ttdd6q*_ga*MTQ2MDQwNDU4MS4xNTgxOTgzNDEw*_ga_249CRKJTTH*MTcxMzI4Nzc1MC41NC4xLjE3MTMyODc5OTMuMC4wLjA).

**c. Waterfront Plan Implementation Update – Flood Mitigation**

Matt Landes and Terry Suehr gave a presentation on the Waterfront Plan Implementation.

The presentation can be found here: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/waterfront\\_sap\\_update\\_presentation\\_3-21-24\\_prc.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/waterfront_sap_update_presentation_3-21-24_prc.pdf)

**d. Alexandria West Open Space Report**

Jose Ayala gave a presentation on Alexandria West Open Space. The presentation can be

found here: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/alexandria\\_west\\_open\\_space\\_report\\_3-21-24.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/alexandria_west_open_space_report_3-21-24.pdf)

**VI. NEXT MEETING**

April 18, 2024 – Del Pepper West End Service Center

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** FY24.3.21.24B

**Motion:** Paul Komelasky moved, and Stuart Fox seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

\*Please note that meeting minutes are a summary of topics discussed during each Commission meeting. This meeting was video recorded in its entirety. Full video recording available here:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/gbv2nt42hh6ipDo00R2cYDUN8S-4sPBqD0TVKd2xJcD9gm1-KY-hQgM5vfrmO7u3.nTlieOGcq-OKdCFz>