

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting

Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center
25 West Reed Ave.

Thursday, May 16, 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); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Stuart Fox (District I)

Absent: Paul Komelasky (District I); Tookie Organek (student member); Phillip Voorhees (District III).

RPCA Staff: James Spengler, RPCA Director, Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services; Laura Durham, Deputy Director; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Randy Little, Division Chief; Daniel Unkle, Urban Planner III, Park Services; Tamika Coleman, Regional Program Director, Sports Section; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant, RPCA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dana Colarulli, Acting Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, Jeffrey Miller, and Paul Komelasky did not have updates to share.

DISTRICT II: Dana Colarulli announced that Stephen Beggs has resigned from the Park and Recreation Commission. His health has improved a great deal, and he plans to focus on his recovery. Ranie Shuster has resigned from the commission as she has now graduated from high school and is preparing for college in the Fall. In addition, the Minnie Howard ribbon cutting is scheduled for May 29.

Geoffrey Goode reported that Alexandria West recently had a public meeting. They compiled public comments and comments from businesses and commissions. They then showed the revised plan and highlighted the additions, and what items had been cut. No update on George Mason.

DISTRICT III: Katy Matthews stated that Minnie Howard remains on schedule. They have obtained their certificate of occupancy, and the furniture is being delivered now. Phase II has begun. During phase II the project will need an additional 20 parking spaces. They are working with Episcopal High School to cover the parking overflow. **Phillip Voorhees** was not in attendance. **David Brennan** did not have an update to share.

STUDENT MEMBERS: Tookie Organeck reiterated that there are no longer plans to build the sports arena in the city. **Rania Shuster** was not in attendance.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2024

ACTION: FY24.5.16.24A

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and Geoffrey Goode 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/2024-06/prc_combined_reports_5.16.24.pdf

- Commission Chair, Dana Colarulli, shared that he enjoyed reading about the Teen Gardening Club at Charles Houston Recreation Center. He encouraged commission members to identify a portion of the combined report to highlight at each meeting.
- Jack Browand gave updates on the following projects:
 - The Four Mile Run Bridge is open. There will be intermittent closing while they do the final railing work.
 - There is a contract for sites II and III for the Holmes Run Trail project. This includes bridge replacement. Construction activity will begin in July. Completion of site I will happen in July.
 - Potomac Greens restoration activities are 80% done.
 - There will be Verizon utility work on the rectangular field at Simpson Park. There is an access manhole that is below grade that they are raising

- Simpson Dog Park continues to move forward. The City is entertaining contracts to finish up the work. Completion is estimated in 3 months.
- Outdoor pools are opening quickly. Recreation Services is hiring and onboarding several employees. Randy Little has been leading an onboarding initiative to ensure new staff members are prepared for their positions.

b. Multiuse Hard Surface Court Maintenance Update

Daniel Unkle gave an update on multiuse hard surface court maintenance. The presentation can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/multiuse_hard_surface_court_maintenance_update.pdf

c. Youth Sports Advisory Board Discussion

Tamika Coleman gave an update on Youth Sports. The presentation can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/youth_sports_presentation.pdf

d. FY 2025 Operating & CIP Approved Budget Update

James Spengler gave an update on the approved budget for FY 2025. You can find more information here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/budget/fy-2025-budget-resources>

VI. NEXT MEETING

June 20, 2024 – Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY24.5.16.24B

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and David Brennan seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.