

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

**Mount Vernon Recreation Center
2701 Commonwealth Ave.**

**Thursday, July 18, 2024
7 p.m.**

Commission Members

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

Virtual Attendance: David Brennan (District III)

Absent: Phillip Voorhees (District III)

RPCA Staff: James Spengler, RPCA Director, Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Randy Little, Division Chief; Beth Znidarsic, Division Chief; Lindsay Burneson, Division Chief; Elsie Akinbobola, Recreation Manager; Harold Little, Regional Program Manager; Glen Harriott, Regional Program Manager; Jackie Person, Recreation Manager; Angie Redfern, Recreation Manager; Bailey Stapleton, Recreation Manager; Ingrid Blanco, Recreation Manager; Jaime Aylor, Recreation Manager; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant, RPCA.

Additional City Staff: Matthew Landes, Division Chief, DPI

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dana Colarulli, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. He then introduced the new District II commission member, **Joe Fray**. Mr. Fray lives in Rosemont and has lived in Alexandria for 10 years. He currently works for the postal service as a real estate attorney.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Staff Report Highlights

The staff report can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/prccombined_report_7_18_24.pdf

Commission members enjoyed reading the staff report and wanted to highlight the following submissions:

- The new dog park is now open at Eugene Simpson Park.
- Mount Jefferson Dog Park is scheduled to be open in August.

b. Commissioner Assignments

DISTRICT I: Stuart Fox stated that the Waterfront Commission did not meet in July. However, the commission received a presentation in June on Robinson Terminal North. During that meeting, he shared feedback from the Park and Recreation Commission for a public access easement. Two city-wide events are coming up. Tons of Trucks will be held at Chinquapin on September 21. Visit Alexandria Restaurant Week is in October and includes 93 restaurants. **Paul Komelasky** gave kudos to all who were involved with the 275th Alexandria Birthday Celebration. **Jeffrey Miller** has been following the North Potomac Yard Park development. There will be a soft opening in August and a more formal opening in September.

DISTRICT II: Dana Colarulli stated that the most exciting part of his week was visiting the new dog park at Eugene Simpson Park. The park is not open and there will be an official opening ceremony in the fall. **Geoffrey Goode** has drafted a letter of support on behalf of the commission in support of the Alexandria West small area plan. There are no current updates on the George Mason modernization plan.

DISTRICT III: Katy Matthews stated that hazardous materials are being removed from the old Minnie Howard building. Once that is complete, demolition will begin. **David Brennan** did not have an update to report.

STUDENT MEMBER: Tookie Organek did not have an update.

c. Little League Tournament Highlight

Laura Engle, President of Alexandria Little League, updated the commission on the league and its recent highlights. During the regular season, they had approximately 500 baseball and softball players. June 1st was the beginning of the All-Stars Tournament and there was a record of 7 teams (5 baseball and 2 softball). For the second time in history, Alexandria Little League hosted the Virginia State Tournament at Eugene Simpson Park. The Alexandria baseball team won the state tournament, and they are now in North Carolina playing teams in the southern region.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2024

ACTION: FY25.7.18.24A

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

V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Summer 2024 Aquatics Program and Operations Update

Lindsay Burneson introduced Aquatic Recreation Managers, Bailey Stapleton and Ingrid Blanco. Bailey and Ingrid gave an update on the Summer 2024 aquatics program. The presentation can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/aquatics_updates_7.18.24.pdf

b. Out of School Time Program (OSTP) and Registration Update

Laura Durham introduced Randy Little and Jamie Aylor. Randy and Jamie presented updates on the OSTP. The presentation can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/out_of_school_time_program_7.18.24.pdf

The Commission Chair opened the floor for comments and questions from the public.

Alexandria Resident #1: This resident has a rising 7th grader and raised concerns about the process for OSTP. She stated that for the last 2 years she has not been able to register her child of OSTP at the Mount Vernon location. This year, she had trouble with online registration. While friends of hers were able to login and reserve a space, she had trouble navigating the site. By the time she reached the registration page, all spots were full, and her daughter was put on a waitlist. She asked for more transparency on how the process may be successful for one person and unsuccessful for others.

Alexandria Resident #2: This resident wanted to share that she's been participating in the OSTP program since 2018, and registration day is the most stressful day of the year. She stated that if her children are unable to reserve a spot in OSTP, the amount she would have to pay to send them somewhere else is astronomical. This year she had challenges with the website where the payment screen was blank during registration. She was able to register using the e-check option. She also mentioned that some of her friends that have children entering kindergarten received an error message stating their child was not old enough for OSTP.

c. Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation Update

Matthew Landis gave an update on the flood mitigation plan. That presentation can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-09/2024-07-18_wfi_prc_meeting.pdf

VI. NEXT MEETING

September 26, 2024 – Patrick Henry Recreation Center

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY25.7.18.24F

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and Paul Komelasky seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.