

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

**Patrick Henry Recreation Center
4653 Taney Ave.**

**Thursday, January 16, 2025
7 p.m.**

Commission Members

Present: Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II); Katy Matthews, Vice Chair (District III); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Joseph Fray (District II); David Brennan, (District III); Paul Komelasky (District I); Asa Orrin-Brown (District III); Jacques Lecoq (student member); Tookie Organek (student member)

Absent: Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I)

RPCA Staff: Jack Browand, Interim Director RPCA; Laura Durham, Deputy Director of Recreation Services; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant, RPCA; Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner III; Judy Lo, Principal Planner.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dana Colarulli, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

City resident William Yurasko addressed the Commission with concerns about snow removal in certain areas of the City. He noted that snow had not been cleared near the entrance to Holmes Run Park from Pickett Street, resulting in a large accumulation of ice. This created hazardous conditions for those walking to the library, bus stops, and the park.

In response, Jack Browand explained that if the issue was limited to a small section of the park, it might have been inadvertently overlooked. He provided an overview of the City's snow removal process, noting that RPCA is part of the pedestrian group responsible for clearing key areas. Priority is given to recreation centers, City schools, and metro corridors, along with the surrounding access points. Once those areas are cleared, efforts shift to parks. However, the recent snowstorm occurred in two phases, requiring crews to revisit priority areas for safety, which delayed snow removal in parks.

To address future concerns, residents are encouraged to contact 311 to report snow removal issues. Mr. Yurasko suggested that members of civic associations might be willing to assist with clearing certain areas. Mr. Browand supported the idea, noting that such groups could collaborate with RPCA through the "Adopt a Trail" program, which would provide them with the necessary tools.

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner Assignments

DISTRICT I: Stuart Fox was not in attendance. **Jeffrey Miller** stated that there is little movement on the power plant development. The City Planner is expecting to see more action in the spring. On Sunday afternoon, the Office of Historic Alexandria will show a public demonstration of uncovering the canal block. There are talks among departments in the City for the re-use of the canal stones. **Paul Komelasky** added to the information provided regarding the canal block. Construction to fill in the canal site will begin in early March. He was also impressed by the OSTP program and other RPCA offerings in the City.

DISTRICT II: Dana Colarulli did not have an update. **Geoffrey Goode** stated that the George Mason Modernization group recently had a public meeting and a Superintendent Advisory Group meeting. They are further along in the process for the design that was chosen. No good news for open space. There is open space available in the middle of the design, but half of the field space will still be lost. **Joe Fray** stated that he received a comment from the public about snow removal. The comment/suggestion was that snow removal from parking areas for parks should be less of a priority than trails.

DISTRICT III: Katy Matthews congratulated student members Tookie Organek and Jacques Lecoq on their recent college acceptance notifications. Tookie will attend Princeton and Jacques will attend UVA. She also mentioned that demolition is complete at Minnie Howard. Geothermal drilling will continue through January. **David Brennan** stated that the Youth Sports Advisory Board held a volunteer recognition event in December.

STUDENT MEMBER: Tookie Organek and Jacques Lecoq did not have an update.

New Commission Member: Asa Orrin-Brown is the new District III Commission Member. He enjoys biking and camping, and he's involved with the Alexandria Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). His children are also involved in RPCA programming.

b. Staff Report Highlights

The staff report can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/prc_combined_report_january_2025.pdf

Jack Browand gave an update on the following topics:

Needs Assessment – RPCA is working to finalize the Needs Assessment Survey. It is expected to launch in early February.

Mt. Jefferson Park – There was a soft opening for the park, but due to weather conditions, there is turf damage. Fence work still needs to be done.

Laura Durham gave an update on the following topics:

Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery – The community engagement phase will be wrapping up this month, and those results will be shared with the Commission once finalized.

Program Guides – The Winter Program Guide is out now, and registration started a few weeks ago. The Summer of Smiles Program Guide is in the works, and registration for summer camps will begin in mid-February.

Cricket Tournament – A cricket tournament took place in December, bringing together nearly 100 youth participants. They had the opportunity to play both cricket and soccer, with options for both indoor and outdoor games.

Skate Park Survey – RPCA is currently reviewing the survey results and intends to schedule a community meeting to discuss the findings. Barring any schedule conflicts, the meeting will take place in late February or early March. A summary of the survey results is posted on the website.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2024

ACTION: FY25.1.16.25A

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and Paul Komelasky seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes—the motion passed unanimously.

V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Park Framework Plan Implementation Update

Principal Planner Judy Lo provided an update on the Park Framework Implementation Plan. The presentation can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/city_of_alexandria_-_park_plan_presentation.pdf

b. Athletic Field Renovation Update

Beth Znidersic, Park Services Division Chief, gave an update on the Athletic Fields Renovation. The presentation can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/athletic_fields_presentation.pdf

c. Park Maintenance Plan Update

Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner, presented the Park Maintenance Plan Update. The presentation can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/park_maintenance_plan.pdf

VI. NEXT MEETING

February 20, 2025 – Virtual Meeting Zoom Platform

Consider rescheduling the April (Spring Break conflict) and June (Juneteenth conflict) Commission meetings.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY25.1.16.25B

Motion: Katy Matthews moved, and Paul Komelasky seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.