

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

**Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe St.**

**Thursday, October 17, 2024
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); Paul Komelasky (District I); David Brennan, (District III); Tookie Organek (student member); Jacques Lecoq (student member)

Virtual Attendance: Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I)

RPCA Staff: Jack Browand, Deputy Director of park Services; Laura Durham, Deputy Director of Recreation Services; Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director of Office of the Arts; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant, RPCA; Jamie Aylor, Program Manager; Tamika Coleman, Division Chief, Recreation Services.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dana Colarulli, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

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/2024-11/prc_combined_report_10_17_2024.pdf

Jack Browand gave an update on the following topics:

Skate Park Pop-up – A Skate Park Pop-up event is scheduled for October 26 at Luckett Field, offering arts and crafts activities and a visit from the Mobile Art Lab.

North Potomac Yard Park – The ribbon-cutting event is scheduled for October 19 at 8:30 a.m.

CAPRA Certification – RPCA has proudly maintained CAPRA Certification for 20 years. First accredited in 2004, the department has successfully achieved re-accreditation four additional times.

b. Commissioner Assignments

DISTRICT I: Stuart Fox stated that staff did a great job with the recent Tons of Trucks event. During the last Waterfront Commission meeting, most of the time was spent discussing the updated flood mitigation option. **Paul Komelasky** stated that it was great to see all the programs and events the department has provided in support of Hispanic Heritage Month. He also enjoyed Art on the Avenue in Del Ray. **Jeffrey Miller** enjoyed Art of the Avenue. He's also impressed by the Halloween and Fall events happening around the city. He had an opportunity to walk through North Potomac Yard Park and expressed how nice it is.

DISTRICT II: Dana Colarulli enjoyed Art on the Avenue, Paws in the Park, and the ASA tournament at Ben Brenman Park. His favorite highlight of the staff report was the monthly Community Baby Shower at William Ramsay Recreation Center. **Geoffrey Goode** enjoyed the portion of the staff report that highlighted the annual Kiwanis fishing trip to Lake Cook. He also thanked the Commission for empowering him and Dana Colarulli to write a letter to City Council and the School Board regarding the George Mason Modernization Plan. Last Thursday, the School Board adopted one of the three proposed designs. The superintendent advisory board will continue to meet through the beginning of the year, working with the chosen concept. **Joe Fray** enjoyed Art on the Avenue.

DISTRICT III: Katy Matthews stated that the demolition phase of the old Minnie Howard building is almost complete. This phase seems to be on schedule. There will be a virtual community meeting to discuss additional phases of this project. **David Brennan** stated that the Youth Sports Advisory Board is at a point of restructuring its purpose, composition, etc. Their first step was to draft a mission statement which they'd asked for Commission feedback. The group mentioned using the new scoreboard on the Miracle Field to have a free Home Run Derby. The current President, Jim Gibson, will visit the Commission during its November meeting. **Tamika Coleman**, Recreation Services Division Chief, stated that the group has petitioned for additional fields and lights in past years. Now that many of those topics have come to fruition, the group needs feedback on where to place their focus.

STUDENT MEMBER: Tookie Organek and Jacques Lecoq enjoyed Art on the Avenue. Both commission members attended the event.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 26, 2024

ACTION: FY25.10.17.24A

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

V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Resource Recovery & Cost Allocation Discussion

Laura Durham discussed the sorting activity. Each service provided by RPCA will need to be assigned to a layer of the pyramid. The commission selected a few services to discuss and share their thoughts on which tier the service should be assigned. A presentation on the sorting exercise can be found here: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/resource_allocation_presentation_prc_2024.pdf

b. 2025 Site See Waterfront Public Art Update

Diane Ruggiero discussed the 2025 Site See Waterfront Public Art Project. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/breakwatersitesealexandria.pdf>

c. Recreation Services Community Engagement & Outreach Section

Laura Durham announced that the Youth Crime Prevention Unit (formerly under Court Services) will now join RPCA. They are now the Community Engagement & Outreach section of the Recreation Services Division. The group is led by Linda Odell who gave the following presentation: https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/community_engagement_outreach_division_recsvcs_division.pdf

d. Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation Update – Pump Station Analysis

Matthew Landis discussed the Waterfront Small Area Plan concerning the Pump Station. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/waterfrontsappumstnupdate.pdf>

e. FY 2026 Budget Priorities

Commission Chair, Dana Colarulli led the discussion on budget priorities for FY 2026. He reminded the Commission that each year the City Manager asks each commission to submit their list of budget priorities. Last year, the Commission prioritized the following 6 items:

Prior FY 2025 Budget Priorities

1. Ensuring the availability of sports fields and open space
2. Investing in new facilities
3. Increasing the RPCA maintenance budget
4. Supporting RPCA administrative needs
5. Supporting creative, new, non-traditional revenue-generating opportunities to supplement the budget.
6. Address the Waterfront flooding issues

After some Commission discussion, the group touched on the following topics:

- Moving money up from CIP to put towards Cameron Run
- Supporting efforts to update the Parks Master Plan
- Continuing to prioritize the items from FY 2025

- Promoting greater coordination among City Schools with shared-use facilities

ACTION: FY25.10.17.24B

Motion: David Brennan made a motion, seconded by Paul Komelasky, to designate Commission members Dana Colarulli and Stuart Fox to draft a letter outlining the Commission's FY 2026 budget priorities. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Commission Member Announcements

Commission Chair, Dana Colarulli announced that Stuart Fox was participating in this meeting virtually. He also announced that Phillip Voorhees has resigned from his position as Commission Member representing District III.

VI. NEXT MEETING

November 21, 2024 – Patrick Henry Recreation Center

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY25.10.17.24C

Motion: Paul Komelasky moved, and Katie Matthews seconded the motion to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.