

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

Charles Houston Recreation Center

**Thursday, November 20, 2025
7 p.m.**

Commission Members

Present: Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II); Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Katy Matthews, Vice Chair (District III); Joseph Fray (District II); Paul Komelasky (District I); Asa Orrin-Brown (District III); Cooper Hughes (Student Member); Eli Hurley-Fathelbab (Student Member).

Absent: David Brennan, (District III); Jeffrey Miller (District I)

RPCA Staff: Hashim Taylor, Director; Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Services; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Tiffany Marbury, Administrative Assistant; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Services; Jacquay Plummer, Center Director; Katie Stohs, Partnership and Development Manager; Daniel Unkle, Principal Planner;

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dana Colarulli, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He introduced two new student members, Eli Hurley-Fathelbab and Cooper Hughes. Cooper is a junior at Alexandria City High School where he plays lacrosse. He was referred to the Commission by previous student member, Tookie Organek. Eli is a senior at Bishop Ireton High School and has been working with the Recreation Department on renovating the skate park on Duke St. and helped install a donation box at that park for skaters.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner Reports

District I

Commissioner Fox - Prior to providing his update, Commissioner Fox read a disclaimer noting a potential personal interest in a transaction related to the Waterfront. After consultation with the City Attorney, it was determined that he could participate fully and in public interest. He then reported that the Waterfront Commission met earlier in the week and shared three topics from that meeting.

- Diane Ruggiero gave the Site and See art presentation which highlighted public art in old town.

- City Council is currently reviewing all boards and commissions to see what can be consolidated and what can be phased out. The Waterfront Commission is scheduled to sunset around 2030. They have formed a taskforce to review its future.
- The Waterfront Commission wrote another letter to City Council in reference to the Flood Mitigation Project. The letter advocates for the review of 1 Prince St. and the option of a split station.

In addition, the Scottish Walk & Boat Parade of Lights is scheduled for December 6.

Commissioner Miller was not in attendance.

Commissioner Komelasky did not have any update.

District II

Commission Chair Colarulli acknowledged the presence of Deputy City Manager Alethea Predeoux. He expressed interest in strengthening communication between the Commission and City Council and suggested including an end-of-year update from Council on the November meeting agenda. He also noted that a draft of the FY27 City Council Budget letter would be circulated to Commission members for final review. Lastly, he requested that a list of projects, groups, or City entities be compiled to support the assignment of responsibilities to new Commission members and those who have completed prior assignments.

Commissioner Goode stated that demolition has begun at the George Mason site. They currently provide monthly updates, but that may change to quarterly. The timeline for completion is early summer 2027.

Commissioner Fray attended a civic association meeting last night that discussed the improvements to Braddock Road. They plan to do a much better job connecting the Potomac Yard Trail to the existing path to the metro.

District III

Commissioner Matthews reported on a recent meeting regarding the Duke Street Corridor, which focused on gathering public input. During public comments, residents expressed interest in a more walkable environment, including additional shade and seating areas.

Commissioner Orrin-Brown stated that he attended a Thanksgiving play and a movie night at Patrick Henry Recreation Center.

Commissioner Brennan was not in attendance.

Student Members: The new student members did not have an update.

b. RPCA Staff Updates

Laura Durham introduced Katie Stohs as the new Partnership and Development Manager in RPCA. She will be working on growing our partnerships, alternative funding, and volunteering. Katie has lived in Alexandria for 19 years and has a child at Alexandria City High School.

Jack Browand gave the following project updates:

- The Colasanto Park project is moving along with a new project manager. Completion of that project is now slated for later winter early Spring. It will open Memorial Day.
- The new kayak launch at Four Mile Run, has gone through final inspections. There will be a soft opening within the next few days. A more formal dedication with City Council will take place in the Spring.

Laura Durham gave the following updates:

- Minnie Howard pool was offline temporarily for maintenance that was covered under its warranty. A part was incorrectly installed and needed to be replaced.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2025

ACTION: FY26.11.20.25A

Motion: Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

a. Northern Virginia Conservative Trust (NVCT)

Bethany Znidersic introduced Alan Rowsome and Rentz Hilyer of NVCT. They gave the following presentation: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/media/31491>

b. Powhatan Park Improvements

Daniel Unkle gave a presentation on the improvements planned for Powhatan Park. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/media/31492>

VI. NEXT MEETING

January 15, 2026 – Patrick Henry Recreation Center

The Commission does not meet in December. Please note the following City-wide events:

- Holiday Tree Lighting – November 22, 6 pm
- Friends-giving @ Charles Houston – November 25, 6 pm
- Breakfast with Santa @ Mount Vernon – December 13
- Holiday Cheer Competition – December 15, 2 pm
- Winter Wonderland – December 19 & 20
- Teen Pool Party @ Minnie Howard – December 20
- First Night Alexandria – December 31, 12 pm

VII. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY25.11.20.25B

Motion: Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

These minutes are intended to serve as a summary of the meeting and do not represent a verbatim transcript. A complete audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.