

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

Charles Houston Recreation Center

**Thursday, February 19, 2026
7 p.m.**

Commission Members

Present: Stuart Fox, Secretary (District I); Jeffrey Miller (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); David Brennan, (District III); Cooper Hughes (Student Member); Eli Hurley-Fathelbab (Student Member).

Absent: Dana Colarulli, Chair (District II)

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; Judy Lo, Principal Planner; Lindsay Burneson, Division Chief; Calvin Simpson, Regional Program Director Sports.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Katy Matthews, Commission Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Hashim Taylor, RPCA Director, notified the Commission that Laura Durham will now be the staff liaison.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jesse O’Connell –

- Please look into pedestrian scale lighting on the new stretch of the Mount Jefferson Bike Trail. This portion of the trail is pitch black at night.
- It is possible to explore a partnership with the National Park Service to install pickleball courts under Wilson Bridge.
- Please continue to encourage funding for Rec programs and OSTP. While Mr. O’Connell’s children have aged out of the program, he praised staff and the relationships built at Mount Vernon and Chick Armstrong Recreation Centers.

John Hancock – Supports the upkeep and maintenance of the Montgomery Park tennis courts.

III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Commissioner Reports

District I

Commissioner Fox stated that the Waterfront Commission earlier this week and discussed 2 topics.

1. Reviewed the 2007 marina feasibility study, which outlines ownership of waterfront access points to the river. The Commission discussed expanding public access for residents and referenced a 2017 follow-up study. A letter was sent to City Council requesting an updated study.
2. Review of mission, bylaws, and membership terms.

Commissioner Miller gave kudos to Park & Rec for doing a great job at clearing trails after the snowstorm.

Commissioner Komelasky echoed Commissioner Miller's sentiments and commended Parks & Recreation staff for their excellent work removing snow at Montgomery Park and Oronoco Park.

District II

Commission Chair Colarulli was not in attendance.

Commissioner Goode did not have an update.

Commissioner Fray relayed appreciation from the community for the work RPCA did on snow removal.

District III

Commissioner Matthews reported that Alexandria Little League had 100 girls register for softball this season.

Alexandria City High School (ACHS) sports achievements:

- Swimming: Four swimmers set three new school records and have qualified for the state championships.
- Track & Field: Ten athletes achieved personal/season bests. Seven individual athletes and three relay teams advanced to states, with two individuals and two relay teams qualifying for nationals. The team also set two new school records.
- Wrestling: Two boys and one girl have qualified for the state championships.

Commissioner Orrin-Brown gave kudos to RPCA for the recent snow removal efforts. He also attended the Pat-Con event at Patrick Henry Recreation Center. Recreation staff mentioned the need for outdoor storage for sports equipment.

Commissioner Brennan provided an update from the most recent Youth Sports Advisory meeting, noting that the discussion focused on aligning tasks with cost recovery allocation metrics.

Student Members: Eli Hurley-Fathelbab had no updates to share. **Cooper Hughes** noted that spring sports tryouts begin next week. The Titans Lacrosse team is hosting a mulch fundraiser on the 14th, with orders accepted through March 7.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026

ACTION: FY26.2.19.26A

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

b. Public Hearing – Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery

ACTION: FY26.2.19.26B

Motion: Commissioner Brennan moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded the motion to open the public hearing. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Laura Durham gave a presentation on Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/2025%20Resource%20Allocation%20Update%20PRC%20Public%20Hearing%202.19.26.pdf>

Public comments submitted prior to the meeting can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2026-03/Public%20Comment%20for%202.19.26%20PRC%20-%20Resource%20Allocation%20and%20Cost%20Recovery%20Update.pdf>

Public Comment:

Michael Foley – He expressed support for the cost recovery model but raised concerns about resource allocation—particularly the field allocation policy. He noted that the current policy prioritizes affiliates, despite significant differences among them, with some generating millions annually while others earn less than \$500. If equity in sports is the goal, he questioned whether it is appropriate for a single affiliate to occupy 70–80% of fields during peak hours (4–10 p.m.). He also highlighted the distinction between leasing space for program use, such as boxing, versus administrative purposes, and raised ethical concerns about an affiliate occupying space in close proximity to Parks & Recreation.

Ben Matthews – Mr. Matthews, Assistant Director of Athletics at ACHS, shared that the school currently offers 32 athletic programs, with a girls flag football team set to launch in the fall, bringing the total to 33. He expressed support for the cost recovery and resource allocation policy and emphasized the importance of prioritizing City residents for sports programs, facilities, and field access.

Philomena Fitzgerald – co-founder of AVA Magic—the only field hockey club in Alexandria—and newly appointed field hockey coach at ACHS, shared her appreciation for RPCA’s efforts to revitalize the affiliate policy and expressed interest in learning more about it.

Vince Root – A representative of Alexandria Little League shared that the volunteer-driven, recreational, no-cut league is committed to providing access for all youth interested in baseball and softball. They look forward to reviewing the Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy and hope their partnership with the Youth Sports Advisory Board will

provide greater insight and input on how the City uses, maintains, and improves diamond fields.

Megan Mutscheller – The Director of the Alexandria Titans Volleyball Club shared that the travel program also supports youth development in the area. They noted challenges in securing affordable indoor gym space, particularly due to the high cost of renting from private schools, and expressed hope that the Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy will improve access to facilities for youth volleyball.

ACTION: FY26.2.19.26C

Motion: Commissioner Komelasky moved, and Commissioner Fox seconded the motion to close the public hearing. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: FY26.2.19.26D

Motion: Commissioner Matthews moved, and Commissioner Fray seconded the motion to endorse the policy as is and encourages City Council to reinvest funds generated from tiers 4 and 5 to RPCA fields and facilities. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

c. Public Hearing - Community Matching Fund

ACTION: FY26.2.19.26E

Motion: Commissioner Brennan moved, and Commissioner Orrin-Brown seconded the motion to open the public hearing. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Judy Lo gave a presentation on the Community Matching Fund. The community matching fund applications can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/Community%20Matching%20Fund%202025%20Applications%20Public%20Hearing%20February%2019.pdf>

Public Comment:

Jesse O’Connell – Speaking on behalf of the School Board at Ben Brenman, shared that adding a scoreboard at the Ben Brenman Softball Field would enhance playability. He noted that Cameron Station community members have expressed support through letters, and highlighted the demand for the field, with Alexandria Little League serving 750 players across 65 baseball teams and over 100 softball players.

Sally Hurley – She expressed her support for the skate park renovation project, noting that Eli Hurley-Fathelbab has already raised 25% of the required funding. She also suggested that the area beneath the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, owned by the National Park Service, could be a strong location for an additional skate park.

ACTION: FY26.2.19.26F

Motion: Commissioner Fox moved, and Commissioner Komelasky seconded the motion to close the public hearing. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION: FY26.2.19.26G

Motion: Commissioner Komelasky moved, and Commissioner Goode seconded the motion to endorse the Community Matching Fund projects recommended by RPCA. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

V. NEXT MEETING

March 19, 2026 – 2900 Business Center Drive

VI. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: FY25.2.19.26H

Motion: Commissioner Fox moved, and Commissioner Brennan seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:28 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.