

## **Park and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

### **AGENDA**

#### **Chairman's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes (7:00-7:05)**

- Commission consideration of March 15, 2022 minutes

#### **Public Comment (7:05-7:15)**

*\* Park and Recreation Commission public comment is open to all with a 3-minute limit per person.*

#### **Clarendon Sector Plan Update Presentation and Discussion [Brett Wallace, CPHD] (7:15-7:40)**

#### **Stormwater Management and Planning Within County Parks and Public Spaces [Jason Papacosma, DES and Aaron Wohler, DPR] (7:40-8:15)**

#### **Initial Discussion on Naming for New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive [Max Ewart, DPR] (8:15-8:25)**

#### **The Heights Building Athletic Field/Parking Garage Use Permit Amendment [Olivia Sontag, CPHD and APS Staff] (8:25-8:40)**

#### **Staff Report (8:40-8:45)**

#### **Commission Member Reports (8:45-8:55)**

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
  - *This Friday, April 22, is Earth Day. In celebration and recognition of the Day, seniors will be participating during this week and weekend in in Arlington Mill's virtual EarthFest learning about recycling in Arlington, how to make your own recycled planters and upcycled art, enjoying virtual fitness and more. All ages are welcome to participate. Other activities will include learning about smarter energy and water use and how to save money by using your residential cooling*

*system more efficiently, and how to protect the environment with programs like Save Our Planet and Your Wallet, or simply taking a spring nature walk led by one of our county park naturalists.*

- Alcova Heights Park Renovations (Colt Gregory)
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award 2021 (Dean Foster/Melissa Riggio)
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Sarah Baryluk)
- Community Energy Plan (Jill Barker)
- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Field Fund Working Group (Mark Lincoln/Adam Rasmussen)
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (Colt Gregory)
  - *The March meeting of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission began with a PenPlace background presentation by County representatives Marco Rivero and Jeremy Smith. Key steps included Park Master Plan process, SPRC, LRPC, and Public Engagement. PenPlace representatives John Salvo, and Scape's Landscape Architect Grace Styles provided a description of the project. Some highlighted features include LEED Platinum bldgs., 2.7 acres of green space, on-site Arlington Community Highschool, all electric power, 100% carbon offsets and use of bird-friendly glass. During our FNRC discussion of stormwater runoff, presenters noted the use of large planting areas and on-site storm water cisterns to capture and use on-site run off. Approximately 650 trees will be removed during construction. Overall, the site will provide 2.7 acres of public park easement and include 46% tree canopy (in the easement - 21% site overall) and 1.5 acres of native plant plantings.*
  - *The new Parks and Natural Resources Division Chief, Michael Simmons was introduced.*
  - *i-Tree application overview was provided by Vincent Verweij i-Tree is a statistical tool that can be used to assess various aspects of Arlington tree cover. Example: How does Green Valley canopy to other Arlington neighborhoods. Volunteer support requested.*
  - *Deer Study RFP continues with internal Arlington County review by Finance Office.*
  - *Two public comments were received. There was praise for the diverse native planting palette (~390 species) as well as questions about the proposed level of Community Benefit in relation to Bonus Density provided.*
  - *FNRC Letters*
    - *The Commission discussed and approved the FNRC budget letter for Fiscal Year 23.*
    - *Approving the drafting of a letter in support of PenPlace project that also requests community benefit contribution for park land acquisition.*
- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (David Howell)

- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Construction (Colt Gregory)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Barker/Gregory/Baryluk)
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (**Vacant**)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
  - *No Updates.*
  
- PenPlace Park Master Plan (PMP) and Design Guidelines Process (David Howell)
- Plan Langston Boulevard (Shruti Kuppa)
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Shruti Kuppa/Sergio Enriquez)
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
- Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) and Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)
  - Crystal City Building Heights Study (Shruti Kuppa)
  - Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell)
  - Macy's (Dean Foster/Melissa Riggio)
    - *The first SPRC meeting for this project was held on March 24. Insight Property Group is proposing to demolish the Macy's building in Ballston and construct a 16 story, 555-unit apartment complex atop a grocery store. A second, 1400 square retail space on the ground floor would also be added. At the SPRC meeting several of the neighboring civic associations raised issues about density, planning commissioners were concerned about community benefits, and county planners were struggling with how the project would be cohesive with the rest of the mall.*
    - *The base density for this site is 280 units. Insight is proposing to add 275 units to the 280 by use of two mechanisms. One is by a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) for 236 units from an apartment complex owned by Insight on Columbia Pike, the second by achieving LEED Gold certification for the building which would permit the addition of 39 more units. The TDR proposal will be undergoing its own public review process with the anticipation that it will go to the county board at the same date as the final site plan.*
    - *The date for the second SPRC meeting has not been announced but it will include discussion of project updates, transportation (particularly about the private alley which runs through the project), and community benefits.*
  
- Melwood Property (750 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South) Special GLUP Study (Kevin Manuel)
- PenPlace (Shruti Kuppa)
  
- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
- Sports Commission (Mark Lincoln/Adam Rasmussen)

- Summary: *There were not enough attendees for the meeting to have a quorum so no “official” business could be transacted. The meeting only lasted thirty-two (32) minutes with only brief discussion of member reports.*
- Tennis Update: *There was a presentation on the status of tennis in Arlington County and the friction between the tennis community and other groups wanting to use the tennis courts especially the pickle ball community. The tennis players have voiced repeated displeasure with the addition of lines to the tennis courts, again pickle ball being the main antagonist, to the point that they are claiming that they are unable to play on multi-sport use tennis courts. The tennis community was shown the multi-sport lining on the Arlington County high school stadiums and how it does not hinder the athletes or the officials, however, they continued to voice their displeasure.*
- Combating Hate Working Group: *Much of the meeting was spent discussing the “Attributes Matrix” for the policies, procedures, and guidelines implemented by the USTA, NHL, and FIFA doing a comparison and contrast of the different implementations. The balance of the meeting was spent discussing the implementation of the “pledge” document and how we would recommend that the “pledge” document and other recommended or required training be used by the different sports organizations in Arlington County.*
- Vision Zero Action Plan Updates (Neal Hunter)
  - *The Vision Zero project team will be conducting a walking tour of the South Four Mile Run area of George Mason Blvd. The walking tour will take place April 23rd from 12pm to 2pm. It is an opportunity to share experiences and suggestions for the corridor to the team on how to increase safety and positive experiences at the corridor.*

#### **Other Business (8:55-9:05)**

- Letters to the County Board
- 18 Park Names in Four Mile Run Area

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)**