

**Park and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Virtual Meeting Conference Access Links:[Click here to join the meeting](#)[+1 347-973-6905](#)

Phone Conference ID: 271 638 160#

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

- Commission consideration of March 15, 2022 minutes
- Commission consideration of April 19, 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.*

**Information Item on Potential Park Renaming [Diane Probus, DPR and Clarendon Courthouse Civic Association (CCCA) Representative] (7:15-7:30)**

- Park Naming Options for Public Space at 11<sup>th</sup> Street North and North Danville Street

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 – FY 2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Presentation and Discussion [Erik Beach, DPR] (7:30-8:00)****Staff Report (8:00-8:05)****Commission Member Reports (8:05-8:15)**

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
- Alcova Heights Park Renovations (Colt Gregory)
  - *Preconstruction has begun on Phase 1 of the park. Note that Phase 1 & 2 construction contracts have been combined. Another site tree walk to mark major trees has been scheduled.*
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award 2021 (Dean Foster/Melissa Riggio)

- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Sarah Baryluk)
  - *Clarendon Sector Plan Update was approved by the County Board on April 23, 2022 (update provided by Commissioner Howell).*
- Community Energy Plan Implementation (Jill Barker)
- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (Colt Gregory)
  - *The April meeting of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission included a presentation and discussion on Equity and the Tree Canopy Fund (Phil Klingelhofer- Jill Barker), Soil Profile Rebuilding (Vincent Verweij), Notable trees (John Wingard) and Strategic Investment and Stewardship.*
  - *Equity and the Tree Canopy fund - The Commission considering a letter to the Board. Points to include are recommendation to establish a Tree Canopy equity program as an adjunct to the Tree Canopy fund; change site plan contributions rate per 'replacement tree' from \$2,400 to at least an inflation adjusted \$3,225 to \$10,000; and create efficiencies to the tree planting review process by creating a Grant review committee.*
  - *FNRC sent a letter to the County Board endorsing policy recommendations by David Howell regarding the stewardship of Arlington's natural capital and the urgent need for funding enhancements. Highlights supported by FNRC include Data Collection and Analysis, Invasive and Threatening Response Program, Adequate Forestry and Natural Resources Management staffing , and recognition of the value of our natural capital.*
- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (David Howell)
  - *The draft plan document is expected to be released for public review and comment in June 2022.*
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
  - *The Task Force has not met in 2022, but four projects have been announced that are relevant to the lower 4MR area. The bridge over Four Mile Run at South Glebe is under renovation in a joint effort by Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Similarly, the bridge connecting Arlington Ridge road and Mt Vernon Avenue at their intersection with South Glebe is scheduled for renovation after additional planning and design work. Both projects have web pages. Additionally, beginning this summer the lower 4MR segment will undergo a several-month dredging project to remove silt, improve water flow, and reduce flooding hazards during heavy rainstorms. Finally, Dominion Energy will place underground, and under 4MR, the high-voltage lines that currently run from the power station next to the water treatment plant to the corner of the shopping center at Rt 1. The tall high-tension poles in the stream will be removed. this project will take a few years. The Dominion website has a page on this project.*

- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
  - *The Gulf Branch Stream Restoration has restarted with an Advisory Group meeting. We resumed activities after a 2-year hiatus with a project review and stream walk with project design team (Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc (WSSI)).*
- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Construction (Colt Gregory)
  - *Construction at the park is complete and the park had reopening ceremonies on Sat. May 21st. Includes an **increased buffer zone** between park and Four Mile Run stream with a **stream overlook**, new playgrounds and restrooms, reoriented baseball diamond, basketball, tennis courts, and native landscaping. Stop by. It looks good.*
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Barker/Kuppa/Baryluk)
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (**Vacant**)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
  - *The PAC discussed numerous options for a planned Army Navy Drive connector that will allow residents within Arlington Ridge an access point across the 395 north of Memorial Drive. This project is aligned with the focus of the 2019 Public Spaces Master Plan and would introduce a new multi-modal trail connector between the two neighborhoods.*
  - *They also discussed potential relocation of Arlington Fire Department at the park. Time was spent focused on the space requirements necessary for the fire department and what currently is planned.*
- PenPlace Park Master Plan (PMP) and Design Guidelines Process (David Howell)
  - *This is approved. Unless there will be formal public engagement post approval, it can be moved to staff reports for implementation follow-up.*
- 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)
  - Crystal Plaza 5 (**Vacant**)
  - Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell)
    - *On hold indefinitely for additional planning.*
  - Macy's (Dean Foster/Melissa Riggio)
  - Melwood Property (750 23<sup>rd</sup> Street South) Special GLUP Study (Kevin Manuel)
    - *Arlington County Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) held a meeting on Thursday, May 12th at 7 pm to address the proposed Melwood GLUP Amendment. This is currently in the Tier I phase of a GLUP study, which is*

*a multi-tier review process overseen by the LRPC and Planning Commission. Tier I would determine completeness and if it would be appropriate to move towards a Tier II study (determining what the best way to study/assess the proposal would be and seek further elaboration from the proposing firm on their plan, impact, etc.)*

- *As a reminder, the Melwood proposal is to turn the current structure on 23rd Street into a multi-use facility that would include a refurbishment of their training facility on the first floor with 104 residential units built on additional 5 floors. Of the 104 units, all would be affordable housing, with 30 reserved for disability housing. The current site plan considers the area to be Public (this category includes schools, parks, libraries, cultural facilities, etc.). The building previously held a school, but since being purchased by Melwood in 1981, the facility has been used for disability training programs. According to Melwood, the categorization of Public has not been appropriate since its purchase in 1981 (stating that a new designation would be accurate, as well as help the county achieve its goals of increasing affordable housing and services/housing for people with disabilities).*
  - *The current proposal/plan would not affect or seek to change the current size of Custis Park which is located behind the building. The site, which is divided into two parcels (A&B) would not make any changes to Parcel B (which contains egress to Custis Park). Several concerns were raised regarding questions on the impact of increased traffic and parking around the park space, effects of construction, an increase in residents/patrons using the park, etc. These questions cannot be answered at this time at they would begin to be addressed and investigated during additional phases of the GLUP process (tier II, Site review, etc.).*
  - *Several members of the LRPC indicated a willingness to allow this to move to Tier II for further study by County Staff; as did multiple Representatives from other commissions present (transportation, parks & rec, housing, etc.). During public comment, members of the Aurora Highlands Civic Association voiced opposition to approval to move to Tier II. Several members of the AHCA encouraged the LRPC to deny Tier I and reject the proposal outright citing major concerns of the initial proposal to construct a 6-story facility on the site. The AHCA previously voted in May to object to this proposal on the grounds that it would dramatically change the neighborhood, and not allow for the preservation of the single-family neighborhood.*
  - *LRPC indicated they would be making a final decision on their recommendation in the coming week on whether to support moving towards a Tier II.*
- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)

- *Geology sampling is complete. Design work is scheduled to be completed in fall 2022. Construction will begin in 2023.*
- **Sports Commission (Mark Lincoln/Adam Rasmussen)**
  - *Youth Officiating – Author Ben Glass: This was a presentation on the state of youth officiating in sports, the lack of officials, bad behavior by coaches, and spectators, and strategies to try to make the situation better for growing the number of youths officiating sports.*
  - *In Person versus Virtual Meetings: Starting in September, virtual meetings will be limited to three (3) non-consecutive virtual meetings in a calendar year. The Sports Commission will be planning how to handle this going forward.*
  - *Combating Hate Working Group Notes 05-02-22: This meeting was dedicated to continuing work on the implementation framework for the specific youth sports organizations in Arlington County as well as reviewing the pledge for the players in youth sports in Arlington County. Discussion on the framework focused on how to roll it out and whether it will be part of a mandate for youth sports organizations to be partner organizations in Arlington County. Some on the working group are concerned that the language of the framework should avoid mandated penalties for failure to implement it while others voiced the opinion that without a mandate, the framework will be an afterthought. A final decision on the language for implementation is still to be determined.*
- **Vision Zero Action Plan Updates (Neal Hunter)**
  - *The Vision Zero External Stakeholders Group held an open house on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Lubber Run Community Center. This open house was designed to outline some of the project updates from year one and share the plans for year two. They also highlighted the results from the annual feedback survey.*

**Other Business (8:15-8:30)**

- **Letters to the County Board**
  - **FY 2023 – FY 2032 Capital Improvement Plan**
- **PRC Discussion on Potential Meeting Locations for August Field Trip**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)**