

## **Park and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 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 September 28, 2021 minutes

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

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

#### **Introduction of Proposed Public Space Updates at Potomac Yards Land Bay C-East [Lauren Riley, Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley and Walsh and Representatives from ZOM Living] (7:15-7:30)**

#### **Staff Report (7:30-7:35)**

#### **Commission Member Reports (7:35-7:45)**

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
  - *The Fall 55+ Guide is now available. September is National Senior Center Month. The five community centers of Arlington coincidentally were able to open their doors for a variety of classes and events while adhering to the COVID guidelines. Classes, events, and activities will further expand as the restrictions are lessened. Page 4 of the Fall 55+ Guide lists several senior center events and get togethers. In addition, the new Lubber Run Community Center and the Long Bridge Aquatic and Fitness opened.*
- Alcova Heights Park Renovations (Colt Gregory)
  - *Alcova Heights combined its construction contracts which will speed completion of Phases 1 & 2. Phase 3 playground/diamond field is unfunded.*
- Arlington Deer Survey Update (Colt Gregory)
  - *Arlington Co. commissioned and completed a drone study of the County deer population. Next Steps: Conduct detailed assessment of the raw data, conduct public engagement, develop a deer management plan and implementation plan if needed.*

- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award 2021 (Placeholder)
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Sarah Baryluk)
  - *The next LRPC meeting for this sector plan update is on 10/26 and I believe will include discussion of the most recent round of public comments received. I'll be able to provide a better update next month.*
  - *(From PRC Chair Ross): Another LRPC meeting on this will take place on October 26. Overall, the draft proposal for public space looks to be fairly good, given the anticipated loss of the previously planned 10th St. park/open space. The draft supports the retention of Triangle Park as a complement/extension of the Fairfax Drive Public Space. In terms of the Extraordinary Benefits required by the private sector, we should push for a stronger statement that such benefits should include contributions for improvements for both public and privately owned open spaces throughout this section of Clarendon.*
  - *PRC members have helped to push for a mid-block connection at the St. Charles site that should allow for easier pedestrian circulation to and from the neighborhood North of Washington. Some type of bridge over this connection, connecting two sections of a building, designed appropriately, would provide a reasonable compromise for the St. Charles owners concerned about the viability of a split set of buildings. There is some confusion about the terminology used for the Fairfax Drive Public Space and how it defines the use of the space in terms of use and sharing between cars, pedestrians, and bicycles. We will want to support the future Fairfax Drive as essentially a non-vehicular, urban park-like open space. This is the reasoning behind proposing a Master Park Planning process for this area. We have assumed that cars would be allowed for limited retail delivery parking and would expect that a path for bicycles would be included. There is a concern that a proposed Ivy St. extension will bisect part of the proposed open space between the West End Plaza and the Fairfax Dr. Public Space. Finally, proposed changes in the Street Map and the use of a Forester-approved street tree list look to be a reasonable idea.*
  
- Community Energy Plan (Jill Barker)
- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk)
  - *No Updates*
  
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Field Fund Working Group (Mark Lincoln/Adam Rasmussen)
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (David Howell)
  - *No Updates (update from last month still current).*
  
- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)

- *A Preliminary Draft Plan is under development with a draft release in a few months. This will be followed by two rounds of Public engagement, and production of a Final Draft.*
- *The use of bird-friendly materials in the initial design and construction of new building is being promoted to protect against bird strikes. Bringing up the issue in SPRC meetings helps raise awareness. Will be meeting with Amazon/PenPlace representatives on the issue.*
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
  - *No Updates*
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Construction (Colt Gregory)
  - *No Updates*
- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (Bill Ross)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Gregory/Barker/Howell)
  - *Leaf Blowers - County begins move towards use of electric leaf blowers. That does not include County contractors who have a 5 year contract for Park and School property maintenance. Leaf blowers will be with us until contract turnover. County hopes to set example by its own transition to electric blowers.*
  - *Bamboo - State has working group to regulate Bamboo. Currently regulated as a Grass that must be kept under a height of 12 inches. It is a homeowner responsibility. Arlington could pass an ordinance to that effect. While extremely invasive, Bamboo is not listed as an invasive plant.*
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
  - *The PAC received a presentation from Christine Baker, who provided updates on the implementation of the School Zone Speed Limit Project. This initiative ties directly into the County's Vision Zero plans and the draft multimodal toolbox is expected to be released this week. In tandem with the toolbox being released, a community conversation is slated to take place on November 4<sup>th</sup> as well.*
- PenPlace Park Master Plan (PMP) and Design Guidelines Process (David Howell)
  - *No Updates*
- Plan Langston Boulevard (Shruti Kuppa)
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
  - *A meeting was held on October 18<sup>th</sup> to review the latest DPR proposed framework for evaluating sports fields availability and ultimately utilization. A public engagement event to obtain additional feedback is proposed for later this fall.*

- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
- Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) and Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)
  - Pentagon City PDSP (Shruti Kuppa)
    - *(From PRC Chair Ross): Another public engagement forum took place on October 12, reviewing the latest draft plan. Some of the Open Space issues involved the need for clarification of the possible plans for expanding Virginia Highlands Park by incorporating some of the current, privately-owned Grace Hopper Murray Park and reconfiguring parts of Joyce Street. There was also a useful discussion concerning the proposed Green Ribbon concept and the tradeoff between natural green elements and transportation (pedestrian/biking) hard surfaces. Also, we see continuing discussions about the appropriate type and extent of plantings we should have in urban space settings: e.g., trees vs. perennial pollinators. Subsequent versions of the plan will be forthcoming.*
  - Crystal City Building Heights Study (Shruti Kuppa)
  - Crystal City Water Park (Bill Ross)
  - Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell)
    - *No Updates*
  - PenPlace (Shruti Kuppa)
  - Macys (Dean Foster/Melissa Riggio)
    - *Insight Property Group, through their legal counsel, gave a presentation to the Bluemont Civic Association of their working plans to demolish the Macy's building and construct a 16-story building with 555 residential units and a 44,000 square feet grocery store on the first floor. Specifics of the plan are in flux as the plans are still in the preliminary proposal stage on the SPRC review web page. The developer also owns the Haven Apartments on Columbia Pike and is requesting permission to transfer its density rights from these apartments to the Macy's site. The Haven Apartments may also seek historic designation preserving affordable housing.*
    - *Some concerns with the project are: the building goes right up the edges of the property line, the sidewalks are correspondingly narrow, hampering both accessibility and biophilic planning (there is only 10 feet between plants and the patio). There are no bird safety windows and features. There is a need for a community benefits contribution for green and park space perhaps off site but nearby for occupants of the building.*
  - Wendy's Site (Bill Ross/Neal Hunter)
    - *This proposal, a revision of an approved site in the Courthouse area would convert a previously approved commercial building to a taller residential*

*building. Below are a couple of comments sent in so far (By Bill and David).*

- *Building Height and Massing: PRC usually doesn't have problems with the proposed addition of stories as long as they don't interfere with other public space amenities such as outdoor seating or plantings. However, given that this is a drastic change from the original approved plan and involves residential units, it's important to consider the impact and requirements involving a few hundred new residents. One thing to consider is the need for additional or improved open space or parks in this area.*
- *Architecture and Biophilia: We will want to press on bird-friendly solutions given the hilltop location and planned glass dominant designs. We have submitted comments emphasizing the importance of having ground level biophilic space and maybe some roof plaza spaces*
- *Open Space and Community Benefits: As stated, the Rosslyn/Courthouse Design Study calls for increasing building heights to accommodate other community other benefits to the community, such as "community facilities" We would consider open space as a community facility and thus argue that the future residents and owners of this building will both need and benefit from expanded and improved open space in the Courthouse Area. In line with recent projects, we strongly support a community benefit contribution to open space in line with recent Courthouse and Rosslyn projects. Using our rule of thumb of \$10,000 per unit, at 231 units, a contribution of \$2.3 million would appear to be appropriate.*
- *Also, the site is directly across Uhle Street from a public space strip that separates Wilson and Clarendon Blvds, and that is directly north of the newly proposed Landmark building It seems like some kind of open space connections could be created to make that area more attractive and pedestrian friendly. The perception of naturalized urban space can be enhanced if the area is viewed more broadly than parcel by parcel and infrastructure independent of all. Ultimately these spaces will connect with the new vision for the courthouse plaza/park across 15th St from the Landmark Block.*
- *Such a concept can be drawn from the green ribbon idea in the Pentagon City Planning Study, and then using this area as an anchor for expanding that through the Rosslyn-Ballston development corridor. Some segments are already in local visioning, like the pass-thru included in the Ames project, and the park areas in the Clarendon sector updates. Overall, though, it seems advantageous to make it a more conscious and documented theme for the entire corridor.*
- *Transportation: There is a real opportunity to have this very small square as a practical and visual oasis for the many people crossing Wilson and Clarendon at this location. Some type of seating at the Western side of the plaza, screened somewhat by plants, might work well. It will be very*

*important to consider the pedestrian experience at this location. Should we make the crosswalks at this location more prominent and visibly attractive?*

- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
  - *No Updates*
  
- Sports Commission (Mark Lincoln/Adam Rasmussen)
  - *No report this month since Sports Commission meets on 10/28. Report will be provided for 11/16 PRC meeting.*
  - *Combating Hate in Sports Working Group: Each member of the group had been tasked with creating a PowerPoint presentation on the policies, procedures, penalties, and reporting requirements for hate and hate speech within one or more sports organizations. Each member presented their findings about the organizations they had researched. For my part, I reported on the organization that administers international football (soccer), “Fédération Internationale de Football Association” (FIFA). Reports were provided on several other sports organizations. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2021.*
  
- Vision Zero Action Plan Updates (Neal Hunter)
  - *The Toolbox Community Conversation will be happening on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8:30 pm. Meeting link and information will be included in the Vision Zero Newsletter next week.*
  - *The Vision Zero Interim Report and ESG meeting is expected to take place sometime in November, meeting details are forthcoming.*

**Other Business (7:45-8:00)**

- Letters to the County Board
- PRC Transition Discussion

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)**