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**MEETING MINUTES OF THE HYBRID  
ARLINGTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

September 27, 2022

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, September 27, 2022.**

**PRESENT (IN-PERSON)**

PRC Vice Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker  
Commissioner Sarah Baryluk  
Commissioner Dean Foster  
Commissioner Colt Gregory  
Commissioner Peter Harnik  
Commissioner Gretchen Hickey  
Commissioner David Howell  
Commissioner Mark Lincoln  
Commissioner Adam Rasmussen  
Commissioner Melissa Riggio

**PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)**

*Commissioner Neal Hunter, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due to a personal illness that prevented their physical attendance.*

*Commissioner Kevin Manuel, participated virtually from Rhode Island (via Microsoft Teams) due to a family medical issue that prevented their physical attendance.*

*At-large Commissioner Nia Bagley (Planning Commission)  
At-large Commissioner Drew Murray (Sports Commission)*

**ABSENT**

PRC Chair, Commissioner Shruti Kuppa  
Commissioner Sergio Enriquez

**STAFF**

Marco Antonio Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison  
Ryan Delaney, DPR  
Jennifer Fioretti, DPR  
Walter Gonzalez, DPR  
Irena Lazic, DPR  
Richard Roisman, DES

**PUBLIC COMMENTERS**

Bernard Berne  
Mary Glass

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- [Link to Teams Recording](#)
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## SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

### *Chair's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes*

- *Commission consideration of August 23, 2022 minutes*
- *Motion to approve Commissioner Rasmussen, seconded by Commissioner Gregory, approved 10-0.*

### *Public Comment*

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

- Public Commenter #1: Dr. Bernard Berne commented on the naming for Ballston Beaver Pond to "Ballston Wetland" without the word "park" included in the name. Regarding the draft Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP), Dr. Berne advocated for greater natural resource areas. Finally, the NOVA Parks/W&OD trail project requires greater analysis, and an environmental assessment should be done.
- Public Commenter #2: Mary Glass is the Chair of the Environmental Affairs Committee of Civic Federation and spoke on the FNRP. Encourages to go to the virtual meeting on Thursday. Urges each Commissioner to participate in order to enhance the quality of the plan. Actionable materials, timelines, commitments and identified responsibilities. This plan provides a list of public comments and should provide a more vigorous approach.

### *Follow-up Discussion on Naming for Metropolitan Park and PenPlace Public Spaces*

- *PRC Vote on Park Name Recommendation*

Dolores Navia, Madhvi Shukla and Kate Orff with JBG Smith and SCAPE Landscape Architecture respectively, provided a presentation on the potential park names for the Metropolitan Park and PenPlace public space areas. A high level overview of the public engagement process was provided by the development team. The design team discussed the naming methodology, the proposed names, and community feedback. The proposed names by the development team are "Met Park" and "Pen Place".

- [Presentation Link](#)

### *Follow-up Discussion on Naming of Ballston Beaver Pond Public Space Area*

- *PRC Vote on Park Name Recommendation*

Max Ewart, DPR provided a presentation on the potential park name for the Ballston Beaver Pond public space area. A brief history of the site was provided, as well as a history of the park naming process. The choices are "Ballston Wetland" or "Ballston Wetland Park". The motion moving forward was for "Ballston Wetland Park".

- [Presentation Link](#)

### *Update to the Department of Parks and Recreation Alcohol Policy*

Ryan Delaney and Walter Gonzalez, DPR provided a presentation and update on the Department of Parks and Recreation Alcohol Policy. This includes mainly updating the County code to add Long Bridge Park and Penrose Square which are both designed as “event venues” for heavy community use in these park spaces. There was review of the current alcohol policy and the procedures for special events. Additionally, there was review of the current community engagement and County Board adoption (bringing this before the County Board for consideration in January 2023). There may be future exploration proposed of alcohol consumption and sale allowances on temporary and permanent basis in additional public spaces (currently tracked for 2025). Further discussions are needed also with the County Special Events staff and the Arlington County Police Department.

- [Presentation Link](#)

#### *Follow-up Discussion on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update*

Ryan Delaney, DPR provided a presentation and follow-up discussion on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) update. The update included a review of the public engagement timeline, key dates (virtual public workshop on 9/29, pop-up opportunities through September, online feedback opportunities will close by 10/3), over 1,700 participants within the various engagement methods (online and pop-up). Based on the feedback received the prior week there will be four break-out rooms during the online workshop: 1) Community Cooperation, 2) Development and Natural Resources, 3) Climate Resiliency, 4) Clarifying Questions on FNRP Draft and Process.

Discussion by the PRC included clarifying definitions provided in the draft FNRP, staff represented at the community workshop, tree inventory calculations, among others.

For the PRC’s draft letter on the draft FNRP, there was discussion on recommendations made within the draft plan and what will be included in the proposed implementation matrix. There is some discord raised on timing for certain actions and that this plan is part of the County’s larger Comprehensive Plan. Green infrastructure and concerns represented in the document should be supported accordingly within the draft FNRP and how it’s connected to other County priorities. Prioritization section within the document will contain a similar implementation matrix that is provided in the adopted PSMP. Discussion on reducing/minimizing impervious surfaces. Definitive recommendations/actions should be provided and clarify what may be explored. Increased park/public spaces where “excess” right-of-way areas exist. The PRC will be sending the letter forward, 12-0.

- [Presentation Link](#)

#### *Staff Reports*

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the PRC. No additional updates provided.

#### *Commission Member Reports*

Additional items discussed during this section included:

- Commissioner Lincoln spoke on the “diamond” and “rectangular” field fund and the distribution on the funding provided. TJ Upper field is now an artificial turf field. The largest contributor of this fund was children’s soccer (recreational soccer). The TJ upper field opened this season,

Arlington Soccer (soccer organization/affiliate NPO) uses the field from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Arlington Soccer has a travel soccer league, mid-level league, and recreational league (practice one day a week). Arlington Soccer does not let the recreational leagues use the artificial turf field at TJ. There is more representation within the recreational leagues than the traveling/mid-level leagues, which is where the problem lies. This could be done as part of a draft letter to the PRC. Commissioner Lincoln will be drafting this letter and a further discussion will be had at a future meeting.

- There should be a future PRC presentation item on sports fields representation and distribution. This may include field fund distribution, who is contributing to this fund, partnership agreements, and how the distribution of resources are determined, etc.
- Commissioner Harnik spoke on land acquisition and what happened at 1608 N. Quincy St. What did the County do and what needs to be changed in order for that to not occur in the future? DPR staff will follow up accordingly.

#### *Other Business*

- Letters to the County Board
  - Park Naming for Metropolitan Park and PenPlace Public Spaces
    - PRC Chair Kuppa will be writing this letter.
  - Park Naming for Beaver Pond Area
    - PRC Chair Kuppa will be writing this letter.
- Bingham Center/Silver Diner Site Plan PRC Participation
  - Commissioner Baryluk will be primary, and Commissioner Rasmussen would be partner.
- Discussion on NOVA Parks Arlington Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Trail Enhancements (October 15, 2022 County Board Considerations)
  - Richard Roisman, DES provided a brief discussion on this item. This is to begin the process to begin the design development funding for these trail improvements. NOVA Parks will be creating the design work/consultant work necessary for these trail improvements (County staff will be involved but not managing this effort).
  - PRC discussion, potential environmental study for this work should be provided in advance of any public engagement that comes forward. Additional data needed regarding the natural and environmental impacts on the trails. What are the accident rates along the W&OD trails? Staff addressed that safety data will provided by NOVA Parks and design process work will begin after County Board acts on the funding portion of the design work.
  - NOVA Parks staff expressed that there are no issues expressed with the draft staff report provided by County staff. Level of Service (LOS) analysis will be provided by Toole Design Group. Baseline traffic (bicycle and pedestrian) and LOS analysis was done by the consultant team.
  - Access to natural areas was also discussed. Natural features should be enhanced but also be paired with safe transportation solutions. Problem points/intersections along the W&OD that may need further ecological considerations and review.
  - Define the issues proposed, provide the data, and then continue with public engagement. Mr. Mike DePue from NOVA Parks will send Mr. Rivero data analysis that has been collected up to this point.

- Staff and the PRC Chair will check in with the DPR Director regarding a visit to a future Commission meeting.

### **MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

Commissioner Howell moved that the Commission recommend to the County Board that the new park names for the Metropolitan Park and PenPlace public spaces be “Met Park” and “Pen Place” respectively.

- Commissioner Gregory seconded the motion.
- The Commission unanimously supported the motion 12-0.

Commissioner Howell moved that the Commission recommend to the County Board that the new park name for the Ballston Beaver Pond public space area be “Ballston Wetland Park”.

- Commissioner Riggio seconded the motion.
- The Commission unanimously supported the motion 12-0.

PRC Chair, Commissioner Shruti Kuppa and Commissioner Sergio Enriquez were absent.

Commissioners Neal Hunter and Kevin Manuel voted virtually.

Meeting adjourned at **9:36 p.m.**