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

November 15, 2022

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, November 15, 2022.**

**PRESENT (IN-PERSON)**

PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa  
PRC Vice Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker  
Commissioner Sarah Baryluk  
Commissioner Dean Foster  
Commissioner Colt Gregory  
Commissioner Peter Harnik  
Commissioner Neal Hunter  
Commissioner David Howell  
Commissioner Kevin Manuel  
Commissioner Melissa Riggio  
At-large Commissioner Gerald Brandt, Arlington Public Schools (APS)  
At-large Commissioner Drew Murray, Sports Commission

**PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)**

*Commissioner Sergio Enriquez, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due to a personal family matter that prevented their physical attendance.*

*Commissioner Gretchen Hickey, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due to a personal family matter that prevented their physical attendance.*

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

*Commissioner Adam Rasmussen, participated virtually from Illinois (via Microsoft Teams) due to a previously scheduled trip that prevented their physical attendance.*

**ABSENT**

None

**STAFF**

Marco Antonio Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison  
Max Ewart, DPR

**PUBLIC COMMENTERS**

Bernard Berne  
Elizabeth Warren

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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 October 25, 2022 minutes*
- *Motion to approve without any amendments to the draft 10/25 PRC meeting minutes.*

### *Public Comment*

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

- Public Commenter #1: Elizabeth Warren commented on tennis ball recycling programs. Tennis courts in 26 different County parks. Balls end up in green spaces and water management areas, and in many times end up in the trash. They take a lot of time to decompose. 125 million tennis balls are thrown away yearly in the USA. "Recycle Balls" is a non-profit that recycles tennis balls for various other uses (playground asphalt, etc.). A person can order a label to ship discarded tennis balls in order to be recycled. Designated recycle bins for tennis balls would be helpful.
  - PRC Chair Kuppa that this item could potentially be an item for future discussion at the SC/PRC joint meeting in February.
  - Playing ethically and environmental awareness at APS sites and at schools (further education on this topic).
  - Upgrading north end of Bluemont Park (tennis facilities), the PSMP speaks to consolidating various sports at central sites. This initiative could be built into the development of the Bluemont facility as a pilot program perhaps.
  - Touch base potentially with DES on these issues.

### *Presentation and Discussion on the Crystal Plaza 5 Site Plan, Proposed Public Spaces*

Public Commenter on this item: Bernard Berne commented on the Crystal Plaza 5 site plan project. The project will contain a large substantial lawn and minimal pollinator areas. Planting areas are needed throughout the spaces (common milkweed, etc.). Too few trees and ornamental areas.

Madhvi Shukla with JBG Smith provided a presentation on the Crystal Plaza 5 site plan project, including updates on the public spaces designed within this area (Crystal City Sector Plan (CCSP) identified areas as Park #10 and #11). JBG Smith is joined by landscape architect (OJB) staff, Andrew Cridlin as well. The presentation focused on the proposed public spaces, its relationship to the CCSP, site layouts, pedestrian circulation, public space character/aesthetics, pedestrian furnishings, among other features. Further discussions were had on what makes up the proposed public spaces (excluding private outdoor café areas), providing for visible/clear signage regarding pet relief areas (potentially provide dog refuse bags, treats, etc.). The width of the east-west connection may be too wide and make it more plant friendly. Provide for sun/shade studies for the public space areas that may including pollinator plants/trees. Include more curvilinear/organic shapes among the spaces and include opportunities for using the topography of the surrounding spaces for additional planting opportunities. Potentially provide greater shade opportunities within Park #10. Inclusion of greater public space areas (Park #10) would be provided in the update to the block plan for this area.

- [Presentation Link](#)

### *EcoAction Arlington Tree Canopy Equity Presentation and Discussion*

DeShay Williams, EcoAction Arlington and PRC Vice Chair, Jill Barker provided a presentation and discussion on the EcoAction Arlington tree canopy equity initiative. Kisha Sogunro was also introduced as EcoAction Arlington's TCEP chair. Discussions involved the importance of tree canopy equity and how environmental degradation disproportionately affects communities of color. The tree equity program pilot was launched in spring 2021 w/ High View Park, Aurora Highlands and Gates of Ballston Apartment communities. Outreach included door-to-door canvassing events and garden parties, which generated greater interest in the program (new applications received for the tree canopy program). Focusing on apartment complexes and other community spaces (places of worship) there are greater opportunities to provide additional tree canopy. Tree Canopy Equity program was launched in May 2022 and targets 10 neighborhoods in particular. Grant funding needs to get spent and spring planting applications are due on January 7, 2023. There is continued work with stormwater management measures that may allow trees planted within this program count as stormwater credit(s). In terms of development proposals, developers often contribute to the Tree Canopy Fund if they cannot plant replacement trees on their respective sites. EcoAction Arlington is a local non-profit which provides work for the County and helps administer how the Tree Canopy Fund is used. There is also a requirement to water the trees within the forestry grant to water trees within a 15-year period.

- [Presentation Link](#)

### *Staff Reports*

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the PRC. Mr. Rivero reminded PRC members that the tentative, 2023 PRC meeting schedule will be shared with the Commission at its 12/13 meeting. No additional updates were provided.

### *Commission Member Reports*

Additional items discussed during this section included:

- PRC Commissioner Howell's projects:
  - Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (meeting infrequently; this is a group that meets with Alexandria City officials as well).
    - Commissioner Colt Gregory will represent the PRC on this item.
  - Fort Henry Gardens Site Plan (currently on hold).
    - PRC Vice Chair Jill Barker will represent the PRC on this item.
  - Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (in construction now). This will likely not need further PRC reporting but instead would be captured in the staff report.
- Potential new site plan is the YMCA site which is north of Virginia Square (within the Special GLUP study area).
- Quincy Park – Commissioner Harnik will work with Erik Grabowski, DES to discuss the recycling program further.

### *Other Business*

- Letters to the County Board
  - Crystal Plaza 5 Site Plan

- PRC Commissioner Manuel be writing this letter. The review committee will consist of VC Jill Barker and Commissioner Sarah Baryluk.

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

No motions and actions (with documented votes) were taken on any items presented at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at **8:55 p.m.**