
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL-ONLY
ARLINGTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

December 13, 2022

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, December 13, 2022.**

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)

PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa
PRC Vice Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker
Commissioner Sarah Baryluk
Commissioner Colt Gregory
Commissioner Peter Harnik
Commissioner Neal Hunter
Commissioner Gretchen Hickey
Commissioner Mark Lincoln
Commissioner Kevin Manuel
Commissioner Adam Rasmussen
Commissioner Melissa Riggio
At-large Commissioner Gerald Brandt, Arlington Public Schools

ABSENT

Commissioner Sergio Enriquez
Commissioner Dean Foster
At-large Commissioner Drew Murray, Sports Commission

STAFF

Max Ewart, DPR, Acting PRC Staff Liaison
Scott McPartlin, DPR, Acting PRC Staff Liaison
Erik Beach, DPR
Jane Rudolph, DPR

PUBLIC COMMENTERS

Bernard Berne
Chad Seonrain

OTHER ATTENDEES

Paul Gilbert
Gerald Brandt
Brian Nolan
Paul Ferguson

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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 November 15, 2022 minutes.*

- *The minutes were adopted as prepared with no objections.*

Public Comment

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

- **Public Commenter #1: Chad Seonrain** commented on pickleball concerns at Walter Reed Community Center. The commenter stated that he is supportive of people playing pickleball with limited hours, however the community needs the basketball and tennis courts back. Mr. Seonrain stated eleven or twelve of the surrounding houses contain minority households. Mr. Seonrain stated this appears to be another redlining where minorities did not seem to have a voice. Mr. Seonrain communicated that they were not aware that there would be changes to the Walter Reed courts and articulated that there are limited courts at the facility. Mr. Seonrain further stated that six pickleball courts are too many in the tennis area and three pickleball courts are too many in the basketball area. Mr. Seonrain stated that kids cannot play basketball at these courts and opined this is affecting nearby property values and concluded a compromise can be reached.
- **Public Commenter #2: Bernard Berne** commented on the National Park Services' request for public comment on their proposed plan to improve the south section of George Washington Memorial Parkway and Mount Vernon Trail. Dr. Berne encouraged the community and Commission to participate. Dr. Berne stated there are environmental impacts to the project area and opined mitigation could have a great impact if the community participates in the public engagement.

Discussion with Arlington County, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Director, Jane Rudolph

DPR Director, Jane Rudolph presented a DPR leadership chart to the Commission and discussed various aspects of the department. Erik Beach, Park Development Division Chief, joined her to participate in the discussion. Ms. Rudolph provided context to the County's organizational chart and allowed Commission members to ask questions. Ms. Rudolph also informed the Commission the County is receiving this year's operating budget guidance at this weekend's County Board meeting, thanked the PRC for supporting Arlington's park and public space system, and shared that DPR has great working relationships with nearby park agencies.

PRC Chair Kuppa informed Ms. Rudolph the joint Sports Commission/PRC meeting will be held in February and may request to have Jane back in February.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Presentation and Discussion on the NOVA Parks Strategic Plan

Paul Gilbert, Executive Director, NOVA Parks presented on the NOVA Parks Strategic Plan. Mr. Gilbert shared a description of NOVA Parks as an organization, their number of parks and history and included a special thank you to the Arlington Master Naturalists. Mr. Gilbert also discussed outreach for the strategic plan and highlighted some of the work that has been done over the past year. Commissioners

asked questions regarding the relationship NOVA Parks has with the County and NPS and how the PRC can advocate for NOVA Parks efforts.

PRC Chair Kuppa inquired about the total NOVA Parks acreage in Arlington.

Staff agreed to follow-up on this inquiry.

The Commission, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Paul Ferguson, NOVA Parks Board Member, and Arlington County staff held a discussion regarding NOVA Parks amenities, circulation, ecology, land acquisition, budget and maintenance among other things.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Discussion of the 2022 PRC Year End Report and 2023 Plan of Action for the Parks and Recreation Commission

PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa provided an initial discussion on the 2022 PRC Year End Report and 2023 Plan of Action for the Commission. PRC Chair Kuppa stated that drafts of both documents will be shared with the PRC soon and informed the Commission of an official due date. There were no questions or comments on this topic.

Tentative Dates for 2023 Park and Recreation Commission Meetings

PRC Chair Kuppa presented the tentative dates for the 2023 PRC meetings. PRC Chair Kuppa stated that the PRC is doing great on having a quorum at their monthly meetings and empathized the need to continue to do so. There were no questions or comments on this topic.

Staff Reports

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC). Mr. Ewart and Mr. McPartlin provided responses to any questions accordingly. **There was one follow up question that staff will investigate regarding a NOVA Parks matter.**

Commission Member Reports

Additional items discussed during this section included:

- None have been identified.

Other Business

- Letters to the County Board
 - None have been identified.
- 2022 PRC Year End Report and 2023 PRC Plan of Action (Write-Up Information)
 - PRC Chair Kuppa plans to submit drafts to the Commission in January 2023.

- Potential Improvements to the South Section of George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and the Mount Vernon Trail ([National Park Service](#))
 - PRC Chair Kuppa stated that it is imperative we get as many public comments as possible on this and added the PRC cannot write a coordinated letter for this specific effort. However, PRC Chair Kuppa encourages the Commission and community to do so as individuals.
- PRC Commissioner Representation (Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC)) (*PRC representation needed prior to 01/05/23*)

PRC members volunteered as illustrated below to represent the Commission on multiple SPRC efforts:

- The ARVA (2201 Arlington Boulevard) SPRC Sub-Group
 - PRC Commissioner, Adam Rasmussen (primary)
 - PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa (backup)
- Crystal Towers 3 (1600 S. Eads St.) SPRC Sub-Group
 - PRC Commissioner, Kevin Manuel (primary)
 - PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa (backup)
- Wakefield Manor (2025 Fairfax Drive) SPRC Sub-Group
 - PRC Vice Chair, Jill Barker (primary)
 - PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa (backup)
- YMCA Project
 - PRC Commissioner, Sarah Baryluk (primary)
 - PRC Commissioner, Adam Rasmussen (backup)

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

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

Meeting adjourned at **8:59 p.m.**