

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

In-Person PRC Attendance:

2100 Clarendon Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Cherry Conference Room (Room 216)
and

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting:

Virtual Meeting Conference Access Links:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

+1 347-973-6905

Phone Conference ID: 579 599 569#

AGENDA

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

- Commission consideration of March 28, 2023 and April 18, 2023 minutes

Public Comment (7:05-7:15)

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

APS Career Center Project Use Permit Presentation and Discussion [Olivia Sontag, CPHD and APS Staff] (7:15-7:40)

Biophilia in Arlington (Site Plan and Development Implementation) [Kris Krider and Laura Shaub, CPHD] (7:40-8:05)

Staff Report (8:05-8:10)

Commission Member Reports (8:10-8:20)

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
 - *Welcome: Charles Limerick was introduced as the new tennis representative for the 55+ Sports & Fitness Committee. Sidney Reid Program Director thanked Emma Duffy, the outgoing tennis representative for her service.*
 - *Classes:*

- *Summer registration for 55+ classes will begin May 24th. The webpage for registering for classes has been changed. Information on the new webpage look and feel can be found in the May 55+ news email.*
 - *55+ Fitness Day and Health Fair will be held May 31st from 10 am to 12 pm at Lubber Run.*
 - *Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held June 1st at The Jefferson.*
 - *We are looking to hire two or three instructors for the fall session. We have an instructor interested in teaching spin, many interested in yoga, and we are also looking for someone to teach a low-level seated exercise class at Madison Center.*
 - *We hope to hire a Recreation Assistant to replace Linda Bernstein. This is a part time position of 10 hours per week.*
- *Pickleball: There is a pickleball instructor on staff. Instruction costs \$48 for 8 classes (only \$6 per class).*
- *Weight Room: Michele Atkin provides orientation on the equipment at Lubber Run, Madison and Langston-Brown.*
- *Aqua Classes: Aqua classes are going smoothly.*
- *Biking Group: The 55+ Biking Group is averaging 6-10 people per ride. We are looking for a new biking representative for the 55+ Sports & Fitness Advisory Committee.*
- *Golf: Now is a good time for Arlington residents to join the Arlington Senior golf club since there is no waiting list. The golf committee is working on having early morning shotgun starts so that players can finish before it gets too hot during the summer. The golf committee is trying to get people away from writing checks to pay for their sessions.*
- *Ice Skating: Monday 55+ ice skating sessions are averaging over 30 people. The rink will be closed on Memorial Day.*
- *Walking Club: Walks are averaging 15-20 people per week.*
- *Tennis: Many of the Arlington tennis courts are reported to be in bad shape. The number of 55+ players have been declining, and the new representative, Charles Limerick would like to find ways to revive interest.*
- *Open Forum:*
 - *Senior Olympics Summer Games registration will be held from July 6 until August 24. The games will be held from September 9-24.*
 - *A 55+ Sports & Fitness annual questionnaire is out so that participants can provide feedback.*
 - *Throughout the Sports& Fitness meeting there was a lot of discussion about where to find more information about 55+ classes and other 55+ activities. The information can be found in the 55+ Guide, but many people are not reading it on-line, and members don't have hard copies of the Guide to pass along to friends who might be interested in 55+ programs. It was highly recommended that Office of 55+ Programs budget for a return to printing hard copies of the 55+ Guide for those who find it easier to read than the on-line version.*

- Alcova Heights Park Renovations (Colt Gregory)
 - *Status unchanged from previous report. Phase 1 and 2 construction continues.*
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award 2022 (Melissa Riggio/**Vacant**)
- Crystal and Pentagon Cities Council (CPCC) (Shruti Kuppa)
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (Colt Gregory)
 - *The April meeting of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission began with the Tree Canopy Fund update provided by Elenor Hodges and Kisha Sogunro of EcoAction Arlington. Through this program, owners of private property, including single-family homes, townhouses, condos, and places of worship, can apply to get a native tree planted on their property. Grants are also available for the maintenance of large mature trees. The program is seeing potential issues with the receipt of pot-bound trees from the tree provider. The Commission also received a presentation from Vincent Verweij on Climate and Pest-Sensitive trees that will influence future County tree selections for use in our area. Kristin Conrad, of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service spoke to the Commission about the identification and reporting of the invasive Spotted Lanternfly. The Commission discussed writing the Board in support for a grant under the Inflation Reduction Act for proactive tree maintenance, tree planting on and near schools, and invasive plant control.*
 - *Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) Update: Staff reported that final drafting and internal review of the FNRP continues. Release of the next draft is expected sometime late spring with public engagement slated for June.*
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (Colt Gregory)
 - *No updates.*
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
 - *Status unchanged from previous report. Draft Design not complete.*
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Barker/Gregory/Baryluk)
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (**Vacant**)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
- 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)
 - 2500 Wilson Boulevard Special GLUP Study (Shruti Kuppa/Sarah Baryluk)
 - The Arva – 2100 Arlington Boulevard (Adam Rasmussen/Shruti Kuppa)
 - Ballston Holiday Inn (Melissa Riggio/Jill Barker)

- *The Holiday Inn project in Ballston had its final SPRC on 4/20. It was generally agreed among the commissioners present that the project had gone a long way from the initial suggestion from the developer. While there are always improvements to be made- there was much discussion of how to mitigate the traffic issues coming off of the 66 ramp there, especially in a residential development - they were explained thoroughly by the developer as to why certain things could not be done (usually due to needs for fire truck access at all times for the size of the fire trucks Arlington has.) There was also extensive discussion of biking safety, especially being so close to a dangerous intersection of Fairfax Drive and putting up extensive signage for both cars and bikers were expressed.*
- Bingham Center/Silver Diner Site (Sarah Baryluk/Adam Rasmussen)
- Crystal City Building Heights Study (Shruti Kuppa)
- Crystal Towers 3 (Shruti Kuppa)
- Fort Henry Gardens (Jill Barker)
- Joyce Motors Site – 10th and Irving (Sarah Baryluk/Shruti Kuppa)
- Macy’s (Dean Foster/Melissa Riggio)
- Wakefield Manor (Jill Barker/Shruti Kuppa)
- Wells Fargo/Verizon Site (Adam Rasmussen/Shruti Kuppa)
- YMCA Site – 3400 13th Street North (Sarah Baryluk/Adam Rasmussen)
- Sports Commission (Mark Lincoln/Adam Rasmussen)
 - Introduction: *The meeting started ten (10) minutes late at 7:10 PM and ended at 7:57 PM. No time for public comment was offered. It appears, based on the video, that there were only six (6) commissioners in attendance in person. It was hard to tell if this met the quorum requirement for the commission or not since nobody ever mentioned it. In addition, there was at least one (1) commissioner in attendance virtually who actively participated in the meeting.*
 - DPR Presentation on Rovers: *Covered the duties and responsibilities of the rovers and how one can contact them when needed. The rovers currently tend to negotiate often trying to appease all parties regardless of who has the permit for the facility.*
 - DPR Presentation on Summer Camp Registration: *In 2022, camp registration was a disaster with too much volume for DPR to handle. DPR added support staff to handle the registration volume for 2023 and so far, the process has worked better this year.*
 - Marymount University Proposal Discussion: *The Sports Commission is drafting a letter in favor of the Marymount University proposal; however, they had a lot of questions on things like field scheduling priority. Previously, APS had said that the Washington & Liberty teams would always have priority but the APS representative, Debra DeFranco, was not in attendance so she was not able to provide clarification.*

- *Combatting Hate in Sports Working Group (Promise Working Group): Again, nothing has been done. This is ridiculous. The Combatting Hate in Sports Working Group provided their final documents to the Sports Commission in June 2022 and the Sports Commission has just procrastinated doing anything. The Sports Commission was supposed to have provided documents to the sports leagues months ago. It appears, based on the evidence at hand, that the Sports Commission has no plans to do anything with the work done by the Combatting Hate in Sports Working Group.*
- Vision Zero Action Plan Updates (Neal Hunter)

Other Business (8:20-8:50)

- Letters to the County Board
 - APS Career Center Project
- August PRC Field Trip (Date Confirmation: August 15 or 22)
- Appointment of PRC Co-Chair for 2022 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award Committee
- Letter Regarding Quincy Park
- Potential Pickleball Opportunities
- PSMP-IAC Update

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting Only – Microsoft Teams)