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

February 23, 2023

The **Park and Recreation Commission (PRC)** and the **Sports Commission (SC)** convened their meeting at **6:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, February 23, 2023.**

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)

PRC Members Only

PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa
 PRC Vice Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker
 Commissioner Dean Foster
 Commissioner Colt Gregory
 Commissioner Neal Hunter
 Commissioner Gretchen Hickey
 Commissioner Mark Lincoln
 Commissioner Adam Rasmussen
 Commissioner Melissa Riggio
 At-large Commissioner Gerald Brandt, Arlington Public Schools
 At-large Commissioner Nia Bagley, Planning Commission

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)

Commissioner Sarah Baryluk, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due to a personal medical issue that prevented their physical attendance.

ABSENT

Sergio Enriquez
 Neal Hunter

STAFF

Tyler Remerow, DPR, SC Staff Liaison
 Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison
 Gregory Anselene, DPR
 Meghan Lawler, DPR
 Jane Rudolph, DPR
 Rebecca Schmitt, DPR

PUBLIC COMMENTERS

Jacqueline Jackson
 Tenley Peterson
 Melissa Ridgley
 Ahmad Shikarely

OTHER ATTENDEES

None

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

PRC and SC Chairs' Introduction and Ice Breaker

- The PRC and SC chairs provided introductory remarks and an ice breaker was done where commissioners detailed their favorite park, facility, or public space.
- PRC Chair Kuppa acknowledged the PRC letter that will be written for the Stormwater Management Zoning Study that will be considered for adoption by the County Board in March. PRC Chair Kuppa will author this letter.

Public Comment

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

- Melissa Ridgley, public commenter who spoke on pickleball activity at Walter Reed Community Center and how it affects her neighborhood, the need for potential sound mitigation measures and other mitigation efforts needed.
- Jacqueline Jackson, public commenter who spoke on pickleball activity at Walter Reed Community Center and throughout the County. Ms. Jackson is a pickleball player and requests that the County provide viable pickleball options throughout the various County public facilities.
- Ahmad Shikarely, public commenter who spoke on pickleball activity and what can be done throughout the County. The commenter also spoke about how the public engagement for this process needs to be assessed further.
- Tenley Peterson, public commenter spoke about summer camp registration related to changes on camp registration periods. This seems like an issue with logistical issues being resolved by limiting the number of summer camp applicants can be accepted. Three questions for consideration: 1. What is the rationale for this new, much later, two-step registration process (versus using the new waiting room feature that's been introduced recently)?; 2. What is the gap between the supply (capacity) of summer camps versus the demand?; and 3. What would need to be done to increase the supply/capacity to fill that gap? Questions will be shared accordingly to PRC staff.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Presentation and Discussion

Jane Rudolph, DPR, presented on the DPR Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget and implementation update on the approved FY 2023-32 CIP. The discussion included DPR expenses, revenue, budget changes, reductions, proposed capital projects, and next steps for consideration by the County Board.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Field Fund and Rectangular Field Use

Gregory Anselene, DPR, presented on the field fund and rectangular field use within County facilities. The presentation included a history of the field fund, project created through its use and review of new implementation measures considered.

PRC/SC discussion was associated with data collection on field usage by various age groups, field utilization. Staff acknowledged that the data will be collected once the fall/spring season for 2022-23

will be provided. The PSMP-IAC will be meeting again for April 2023. Specific staff hired for field maintenance was discussed. Staff provided an update that there will be a group that will be specifically maintaining synthetic fields throughout the County (team lead and team member who work on the field maintenance). What is meant by playability? Closing fields are necessary on occasion to provide the necessary maintenance for the activity that is on them. What services should be expecting on the field fund increases? No additional services but better maintenance is expected, and now the additional staff will provide better maintenance on natural grass (focusing only on that) as well as the synthetic fields. What is the projected revenue on new field fund? Staff will need to get that information and share with PRC/SC. Staff does not mandate how particular usage of a particular group's space is done. There may be an opportunity to look at the data in the future.

- [Presentation Link](#)

SC and PRC Discussion Only Topics

1. *Ball Recycling Program*
2. *DPR Summer Camp Registration*
3. *On-going Pickleball Efforts*

Discussion Item #1: PRC and SC discussion focused on potential ball recycling programs that may be used for various facilities within the County. There may be an acknowledgement of potential DES coordination, coordination with a contracted company for this work, etc. Potential APS pilot for such a program. SC will take this under advisement accordingly. County is supposed to be working on a zero-waste plan, and single stream recycling does not work well, and parsing out to different recycling bins would be a good option.

Discussion Item #2: PRC and SC discussion focused on the summer camp registration new format and the two-period registration period. Is breaking up the camp registration by activity better than by age group? What other factors can be considered to streamline this process? Survey data on what community members wanted may be shared accordingly. The basic switch to make the change was to be acknowledged further by staff, more information by staff for the March PRC meeting.

Discussion Item #3: PRC and SC discussion focused on short term conversations on SPRCs or better engage on planning for both commissions for pickleball usage. SC Chair acknowledged that the pickleball groups presented to the SC in September 2022 and tennis groups in October 2022. SC is in the midst of writing a letter on pickleball to the County Board acknowledging the public comment from the joint PRC/SC meeting. When courts are rebuilt, better lighting should be provided, and timers should be provided to shut off lights prior to park closing. Staff/PRC can discuss when Sports Commission should be involved in providing potential pickleball amenities within public spaces created as part of site plans or through a separate park master planning process. Lights will shut off at 10 p.m. but some people still play in the dark. Does it make sense to have the rovers stop by in the evening and enforce hours of operation? Perhaps look at other communities and see what's being done? Limited hours/days of use, striping courts across the County to diffuse play.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

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

Meeting adjourned at **8:45 p.m.**