



**PARK AND RECREATION
COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201**

Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021

****Due to the Countywide precautions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams.***

Commission Members Present:

Bill Ross, Chair
Nia Bagley (Ex Officio, Planning Commission Liaison)
Duke Banks
Jill Barker
Sarah Baryluk
Sergio Enriquez
Steve Finn
Dean Foster
Colt Gregory
David Howell
Neal Hunter
Mark Lincoln
Drew Murray (Ex Officio, Sports Commission Liaison)

Guests:

Nick Anderson
John Beinert
Bernard Berne
Matthew Clark
Nicholas Cummings
John Lutostanski
Felicia McFail, Arlington Commission for the Arts
Steve Smith
Jesse Van Wick

County Staff:

Marco Rivero, Principal Planner, PRC Staff Liaison
Richard Dooley, Environmental Management Specialist, Principal, DES
Diane Probus, Associate Planner, DPR
Jennifer K. Smith, Media Relations/Communications Manager, CMO

PRC members not in attendance:

Michael Grace
Cindy Krech
Shruti Kuppa, Vice Chair
Julie Mullen

Chairman's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

PRC Chair, Bill Ross provided a brief introduction and PRC Staff Liaison, Marco Rivero reviewed details associated with Microsoft Teams. PRC Chair Ross introduced County Board Member, Takis Karantonis, who is the new County Board liaison to the PRC. County Board Member Karantonis discussed his interests with the PRC and various public and open space initiatives within the County.

Several PRC members provided comments and questions to County Board Member Karantonis and they included (but were not limited to the following):

- Land acquisition goals and potential Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) considerations.
- Climate change and implementation of the County's Community Energy Plan (CEP).
- Designing quality public spaces within site plans.
- Negotiations for community benefits.
- Biophilic principles and goals.

The Commission considered its December 15, 2020 Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting minutes. With no objections, the Commission approved the minutes as presented.

Public Comment

- **Bernard Berne, Arlington County resident** provided comments on the Courthouse Landmark Block site plan project. The proposal will convert a section of North Uhle Street to a pedestrian-only area. The developer shows a few trees and no natural areas; the proposal is unacceptable. This is a 100-foot-wide area, and 50 feet will be paved completely. Turning radius issues can be remedied through other streets. This is not a biophilic proposal, and the North Uhle Street corridor needs to be addressed. The rest of the block will be paved if this is not addressed further. Regarding the proposed, draft naming policy for County parks and other public facilities: Mr. Berne raised issues with the proposed eligibility requirements and inconsistency with previous standards.

Agenda Items

Community Energy Plan Implementation Framework

Richard Dooley, DES, provided a presentation on the Community Energy Plan Implementation Framework. Mr. Dooley stated that the website for the two forums will be shared with the Commission on the meeting chat and will occur on Monday, January 25 from 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. and on Tuesday, January 26 from 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Commissioner comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Environmental conservation and biophilic principles are intertwined and reinforce one another. In the CEP, education and changing people's behavior is mentioned in one of the sections. What strategies stand out in order to change people's mindset to be more aware of the environmental/ecological needs? Mr. Dooley emphasized that educational tools for changing these behaviors are very important. The CEP contains six different goal areas and chapters which are broken out with corresponding strategies. Education/human behavior strategies are listed on the plan (either on page 108-109 of the CEP). Strategy

#42 highlights the importance of biophilic design. This corresponds well with the work the PRC does and the work within parks and recreation.

- Did the process for public engagement contain a complete and comprehensive list? Mr. Dooley clarified there was a list that was used in the past, and it was revived. More meetings will be provided with EcoAction Arlington and Washington Gas, among others that have been listed. Requests are being accepted by other organizations.
- Arlington Environmental Justice may also request a presentation if needed. Mr. Dooley provided a link to upcoming forums on the PRC's virtual meeting chat box, and the Konveio engagement website is provided. Letters from different groups would be accepted by the appropriate staff members.
- The Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Plan work is occurring as well and sometimes there may be some tension with certain goals between two or more plans. One thing that would be helpful is a Countywide policy or tool that can help make decisions on various environmental considerations that should be prioritized. If there is some way of consolidating these ideas it would be helpful. Mr. Dooley stated that there should continue to be synergy within the various plans within the County's Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, these plans should not be at odds with any other County initiatives or plans, and goals should be aligned accordingly (an example, the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) should be coordinated with CEP goals among other plans, Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP), etc.).

2050 Wilson Blvd. (Courthouse Landmark Block) Update

Representatives from Greystar, Cooper Gary, and Land Design provided a presentation on the 2050 Wilson Blvd. (Courthouse Landmark Block) site plan project. The presenter for this group was John Beinert with Greystar, Development Director. Implementation of the pedestrian promenade on North Uhle Street was presented as well. Mr. Beinert clarified that a 20-foot-wide vehicular access width needs to be maintained for emergency vehicles, so bollards will be implemented on the proposed, pedestrian promenade. Mr. Beinert also noted that there is a possibility of making 15th Street North a curbsless environment.

Diane Probus, DPR, also provided a presentation on broader planning guidance from the County Board-adopted 2015 Courthouse Sector Plan Addendum. Comprised in the plan are ten (10) top priorities or "big ideas" to be implemented through the plan, including the 21st Century Civic Square and the 15th Street North Promenade. Under-grounding of the existing surface parking lot to create the new square/open space is also a priority.

Commissioner comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Is the 2015 Courthouse Sector Plan Addendum still the vision for this area? Ms. Probus stated that is still the overall vision/goal for this area.
- Further description of the building skin/façade materials was provided.
- What has been considered for bird-friendly design? Mr. Beinert clarified that the design team is still working with the glass manufacturers on this effort, especially within the first 35 feet of building façade. The SPRC website project details provide more façade details.
- Bird friendly glass was committed to for this project. Another consideration being done was to the contribution for the future public square and how that may develop. There were some discrepancies on what the retail viability is on the pedestrian promenade. Mr. Beinert provided some updates on the efforts made to make outdoor seating viable.
- Having a well-designed, wide pedestrian passageway space is important for public events and other purposes. The desire for more natural plantings is noted, and hopefully that can

be done within the public square when the time comes as well. The viability of the natural plants within two large buildings may be difficult.

- What do the shadow studies show regarding the viability for tree and plant growth? Mr. Matthew Clark of the applicant team explained that the south facing exposure for the promenade are currently being worked through further. Mr. Steve Smith of the applicant team clarified that several shadow studies have been provided, and during the middle of the day, much sun is provided. The design team feels good about the amount of light that will be provided within the promenade.
- Not sure if this size building fits within the Courthouse area. One suggestion provided is that at the ground level, the building design should have a minimal number of straight lines and 90-degree angles. Meanders and shallow curves may be able to assist with providing people access points but also great opportunities for focal points within natural features and provide different activities (sitting opportunities, etc.). Greater creativity may be achieved with many of these features, especially at the curbsless environment at the south end of the site. The design can be more “cautiously interactive” and be a great transition into the future park space. Furthermore, more than 35 feet for bird-friendly glass is highly encouraged as well.
- When will this project be presented to the Planning Commission? Mr. Nicholas Cummings of the applicant team detailed that this may occur by next month or so.

PRC Discussion on the County Manager’s Draft Policy for Renaming Parks, Facilities and Streets

PRC Chair Ross led a discussion on the County Manager’s Draft Policy for Renaming Parks, Facilities and Streets. Prior to the discussion, Jennifer K. Smith, CMO, provided a quick presentation on the proposed draft policy. For new parks, the Park Master Plan (PMP) process should explore the potential names for new parks and should be consistent with the current naming policy. This item was originally scheduled for County Board consideration in January but is now anticipated for County Board review in February. Online public feedback will be captured through Friday, February 5.

Commissioner comments included but were not limited to the following:

- PRC Chair Ross clarified that there are many questions associated with this potential effort, including the possibility of a County-wide advisory group/committee making decisions on park naming.
- The Civic Federation has a duty to provide guidance on civic association names and neighborhood boundary disputes. Does this proposal take off responsibilities from the PRC and provide this to the new committee reviewing names? Also, why will the County Board review these proposals only twice a year for review? Some of the names proposed have provided some historical significance discussions, and maybe doing this sporadically throughout the year may be more helpful.
- Ms. Smith specified that this item will likely be considered by the County Board in February, but it is still unclear if it will be discussed at the Saturday, February 20 or Tuesday, February 23 meetings.

2021 Plan of Action for the Park and Recreation Commission

PRC Chair Ross will be sending the final plan of action letter to the County Board as soon as possible.

Staff Report

No additional updates were provided.

15th Street Park

Staff has begun early internal discussions regarding easements for future parks, both temporary and permanent, related to a future site plan and street redesign.

2020 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award

- Applications are now being accepted for the 2020 Bill Thomas Volunteer Award. Details and nomination form can be found [here](#).

4MRV – Jennie Dean Park

Construction has started on the park and will continue through the year. Construction is anticipated to last 9-10 months and the park should re-open 3rd Quarter of 2021. This month will see the installation of tree protection and sediment and erosion control measures and site and building demolition.

705 31st Street South (adjacent to Fort Scott Park) – No Change

House is boarded up and rodent controls are in place. The house will be placed on the regular site mowing schedule.

APS Projects

- **Dorothy Hamm Middle School (formerly H-B Woodlawn Secondary School and location of the former Stratford Program, now Eunice Shriver Program) – No Changes**
 - The construction on the school addition and sitework is nearly complete and APS anticipates having their occupancy permit in December. Right of way work is continuing Vacation Lane and Old Dominion.
 - For additional details on the status of the project see [Dorothy Hamm MS](#) where APS posts construction updates.
- **Education Center Reuse**

APS plans to start construction of the [building renovations](#) in January 2021.
- **Elementary School at Reed Building**
 - The school [construction](#) is proceeding, see latest December 2020 update on their webpage.
 - The school will be completed for the 2021 – 2022 school year.
 - At their December [Recessed Meeting](#) the County Board approved an interagency funding agreement between Arlington County Government and Arlington Public Schools for Phase 1 of the design and construction of stormwater infrastructure at Reed Elementary School.

Ballston Pond Retrofit/Beaver Pond Park Improvements - No Change

- Next steps are to complete permitting and then to obtain construction bids.
 - Late 2020 – Begin Procurement
 - July 2021 - Estimated start of construction

Benjamin Banneker Park Improvements

- Park opened late December
- Contractor is still addressing punchlist items.

Bluemont Park (Neighborhood Conservation Project)

Invasive plant management treatments continued into Fall 2020. The entrance to Bluemont Park at the 1st Street North entrance was planted late November. Park signage and benches have been installed by PNR staff. Deer cages for the new trees will be installed in the coming months to prevent deer browse. Re-naturalization signage has been received and will be placed on the edges of areas where invasive plant removal has occurred.

Crystal City Water Park

JBG Smith has applied for a minor site plan amendment to add retail area and redesign the existing Crystal City Water Park. The applicant hosted their own community outreach process and amended their proposal based on those comments, as well as staff comments. As part of the agreement, the applicant is granting a public access easement for portions of the Crystal City Water Park that are not occupied by proposed retail and other privately-owned structures.

Forestry and Natural Resources Plan

The Forestry and Natural Resources Plan online engagement closed on Dec. 23. The three categories: Nature in Arlington, Natural Areas and Tree Canopy resulted in 1,081 total responses from 576 individuals. Engagement continues through February with stakeholder interviews. This Spring the vendor will begin creating a draft outline of the plan, engagement will resume in the late-summer, early-fall for the draft plan outline. The development of this plan is an 18-month long process with the goal of going before the County Board by May 2022.

Fort Scott Park Restroom and Parking Lot Renovation – No Updates

- Renovation to include interior and exterior improvements to the restroom, repaving of the parking lot, and ADA access.
- Planning to start construction 1st Quarter 2021

Gunston Park Enclosed Athletic Facility

- Consultant architects (MTFA) are working on construction documents for a replacement structure for the Bubble, which is expected to have a metal frame with canvas cover.
- Restrooms are included and will be renovated to meet permitting requirements
- Currently updating plans to include restrooms for resubmittal to permitting.
- Project construction anticipated to start 2nd Quarter 2021.

Zitkala-Ša Park (Formerly Henry Clay Park)

- Contractor installed the waterproofing material at the urban bio-retention. Concrete walkways being formed around the site.
- The County Board approved renaming the park to Zitkala-Ša Park on December 12, 2020. Entrance signs for the park have been ordered and will be installed in the spring.

Highlands Urban Garden

- The temporary demonstration garden in Virginia Highlands Park, next to the tennis practice court, is being managed and maintained by the [Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture](#) in partnership with Livability 22202 and Arlington County. It showcases modular, low-impact design principles, sustainable water management practices, and incorporates smart technology to collect agriculture metrics (daily solar exposure, temperature, moisture and soil health).

- For more information [Highlands Urban Garden](#).

John Robinson Jr. Town Square

Installation of the stage wall is complete, and the County has agreed to allow for parging of the wall without the sandblasting. The 3rd and final urban bioretention facility is being constructed, concrete walls poured, and weirs are installed, soil media to take place soon. Site grading is underway to prepare for the formwork associated with the plaza. Curb and gutter poured at the Shirlington and 24th Street South area. Stage wall concrete poured.

Long Bridge Park Aquatic Center

- Site Work Esplanade stainless steel railing and pavers being installed. They are working their way towards the East entrance of the building at the esplanade. Trees and shrubs have been planted to the South end of the site where it meets Long Bridge Park Phase I.
- Building Phenolic panels, lighting at the East and West entrances installation being completed. Standing metal seam siding tie in to roof standing metal seam panels. Pinned letters for the building name and address being installed at the front entrance.
- Ceiling tiles and finishes continue within the interior. Finish painting, interior framing for store front glass and doors being installed. HDPE bench tops and countertop at the spectator seating area 50 M pool are being installed.
- Deck Tile at the 50M pool being installed.
- General cleanup of the interior is ongoing as the GC preps for flooring, concrete finishes, mill work and cabinetry installation.
- Communication, Audio/Visual, security infrastructure coordination and installation work continues.

Madison Manor Restroom – No Updates

- Renovation to include interior and exterior improvements.
- Planning to start construction 1st Quarter 2021

Marcey Road Park – No Updates

- Currently in permitting.
- Anticipated spring 2021 construction start.

Mosaic Park

Dominion, Verizon and Comcast started their utility work inside the park. Park-goers must adhere to the appropriate CDC and County guidelines on use during the COVID pandemic. Certain parts of the park may remain closed, pending on that guidance at the time of completion of the park. As the construction comes to an end, the remaining park features will become available. These include an interactive water feature, two circular play elements, two dynamic urban plazas and additional site lighting. Learn more about what to expect by visiting the Mosaic Park project [webpage](#).

New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive (former “Teardrop Parcels”)

A public engagement process has kicked off for the 0.9-acre public space known as the New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive (formerly known as the “Teardrop Parcels”). This project is adjacent to the existing Altaire residential building and planned 400 11th Street South, LCOR residential building in Crystal City. The kickoff, virtual engagement opportunity focused on visioning was launched on September 30 and continued until October 14. The second virtual engagement opportunity presented three (3) proposed, park design options to the community (The Meander, The Canal Walk, and The Central Hub). This engagement opportunity was launched on December 28 and will continue through January 15.

Oakland Park – No Updates

Contractor tested the manual operation of the irrigation system with PNR and PNR staff will operate manually until the electrical is connected. Currently working with the electrician and Dominion Energy to get pricing for the electrical service. Winterization to take place by the County's PNR Staff.

Programs in the Park Engages Thousands of Arlingtonians

Starting in July amidst myriad COVID-19-related cancellations and closures, Programs in the Park has served as a lifeline for residents looking to stay active. With over 600 in-person programs welcoming 5,000 people to date, these inclusive activities range from fitness classes, preschool playdates, hikes, arts and crafts and lots more and are designed for all - from tots to seniors. Look for this initiative to continue into 2021. View the [Programs in the Park online calendar](#).

Rosslyn Highlands Park

Penzance continues construction of the Rosslyn Highlands Park, Fire Station #10 and 1555 Wilson Blvd site. The Fire Station is anticipated to be completed summer 2021. The park is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2021.

Rosslyn Highlands Park Playground

- The Board approved a \$1.46 million contract with The Donahoe Companies, Inc. to build a new playground at Rosslyn Highlands Park, 1615 18th St. N. on November 14.
- Our contractors have begun construction on the playground and anticipate completion by the end of 2021.

Site Plan Review

- **Potomac Yard Land Bay C – East**
 - Two residential towers, with ground-level retail
 - Building heights range from 11 to 14 stories proposed
 - 488 Total Residential units
 - Allow for conversion of previously approved office GFA to residential GFA
 - Separate Land Bay C into “East” and “West” final site plans.
 - Modifications requested for reduced residential and hotel parking ratio and other modifications as needed.
 - First SPRC engagement is planned for February 1st, 2021.
- **Ames Center (1820 Fort Myer Dr.)**
 - Rezone from C-O to C-O Rosslyn w/ 10.5 FAR
 - Construct two mixed use towers:
 - 31-story tower with 424 residential units
 - 30-story tower with 364 residential units
 - Existing gas station and church will remain
 - Modifications requested for bonus density, density exclusions, and parking
 - Went before Planning Commission on Jan. 11, 2021
 - County Board in January either the 23rd or 26th, final date is TBD
- **RCA Site (1901 N. Moore St.)**
 - Rezone from C-O and S-3A to C-O Rosslyn w/ 10.0 FAR
 - Construct 26 story mixed use building with 423 residential units and ground floor retail.
 - Site Plan infrastructure and improvements include:

- Removal of the existing skywalk and loop roads surrounding the site
- Community benefits package for additional density
- Utility fund contribution
- Streetscape improvements
- Public art contribution
- Affordable housing contribution
- LEED certification
- First Virtual SPRC is planned for February 4th, 2021
- **Crystal Plaza Block M. Long Range Planning Committee Review (LRPC) 2000/2001 S. Bell St. and 223 23rd St/2250 Crystal Drive (Crystal Plaza's 1 and 5 potential site plan applications)**
 - The first LRPC meeting occurred on September 10 via Microsoft Teams.
 - Three Major (Block Plan) issues consistently highlighted by the community included: (1) Street Network/Circulation; (2) Open Space; and (3) Underground Connection
 - Other Issues (which are site specific) may be more appropriate for SPRC discussion:
 - Architectural Features
 - Retail Frontages
 - Built-to-Lines
 - Loading and Vehicular Access
 - Second LRPC meeting occurred on October 19, where the topics above were discussed in greater detail. Public space discussion concentrated mainly on the delivery of public spaces (interim and permanent), the amount of public space proposed, characterization of “open spaces” and “passageway” on Open Space #8 (not double-counting sq. ft. for these features), among other points.
 - Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) review (first online engagement) for Crystal Plaza 1 site plan launched in late December and continued through January 11.

Temporary Uses – No Updates

In collaboration with 2 community groups in the Aurora Highlands and Rosslyn neighborhoods, DPR will be working on developing 2 temporary spaces: a temporary dog park in Gateway Park and a temporary dog run in Virginia Highlands Park. As these improvements were not planned for in the County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) or the Operating Budget, this partnership will provide private funding of these temporary amenities.

- The public engagement for the interim dog park at Gateway is complete and the feedback is posted to the project page. The project was approved by the Director of DPR. An email notification was sent to people who signed up for project updates. Construction is expected to begin in mid to late January.
- The public engagement for the interim dog run in Virginia Highlands Park is complete and the feedback is posted on the project page. The project was approved by the Director of DPR and an email notification was sent to people who signed up for project updates. Construction will begin once the Donation and Collaboration Agreement is finalized and the funds are transferred to the County. Lighting the interim dog run will be evaluated after it has been operational for at least 1-year, further site evaluations will be performed, and additional public input has been gathered.
- The recently adopted, scaled-down one-year CIP, identifies \$500,000 to upgrade a portion of the right-of-way at S. Clark and Bell Street in Crystal City for temporary use as a public space. Staff will be developing a public engagement approach when the funding becomes available. The PSMP (Action 1.10) calls for enhancing public spaces with temporary uses and 'pop-up' programming, and these projects are in line with that recommendation.

Urban Forestry Office Updates:

- The Forestry and Natural Resources Plan has completed its first public engagement. Focus group interviews are being performed now. Find out more at <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/fnrp/>
- Tree maintenance staff are continuing to work on incoming tree maintenance requests. Staff is in catch-up mode, to address outstanding issues from the summer.
- Staff is working on Edison, Marcey Road, Long Bridge, and Jennie Dean from initial reviews to final inspections. Long Bridge park's tree replacement was completed on Pentagon grounds, with 500 trees being planted.
- New site plans are being reviewed for tree impact and planting potential. Two projects with potentially high tree impact remain the Fort Henry Gardens and Crystal City Water Park projects. A newer high impact project is being proposed at 1201 N Vernon St, proposing to clear a site of trees for a double residence development. A high opportunity site for tree planting is the Potomac yard development. This project will also contain a large public open space.
- Columbia Gardens Cemetery are looking to expand their grounds within their property line, which may impact trees in the cemetery.
- Tree planting orders for the Fall are being planted. We're anticipating a little under 300 trees for this season being planted.

Wi-Fi Available in Arlington Parks

With the temporary closure of our community centers during the COVID-19 pandemic, Arlington Wireless Wi-Fi has been added to several our Arlington parks and outside of select centers to continue to provide this ever-important amenity to our residents. You can find Wi-Fi access at these DPR locations:

- Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center
- Carver Community Center
- Charles Drew Community Center
- Fairlington Park (patio area)
- Langston-Brown Community Center & Park
- Lubber Run Park
- Madison Community Center
- Oakland Park
- Thomas Jefferson Community Center
- Virginia Highlands Park
- Walter Reed Community Center

Learn more about Wi-Fi access and locations [here](#).

Commission Member Reports

RED = Text added at PRC meeting.

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
 - *This week, I received this report from Jim Joyner A/K/A "J.J." an active participant in the 55+ program.*
 - *Re pickleball: Booming outdoors. No indoor pickleball in Arlington until further notice. The Walter Reed (WR) 3 outdoor courts are almost always fully in use. We start play before sunup (these days about 0645). And the 4 tennis courts at WR, now lined for PB, are almost always crowded as well. The 4 beautiful new lighted courts at Lubber Run are getting more and more play with even a modicum of evening play under the lights. The court at "Old Glebe Road" is almost always in use.*
 - *As is said, "the fastest growing sport in the world".*

- *To all - STAY SAFE AND WELL.*
- Alcovia Heights (Colt Gregory)
 - *No Issues in this reporting period.*
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award (Neal Hunter/Dean Foster)
 - *Deadline for nomination is February 5th. It is encouraged to share this opportunity with any individuals who may be interested.*
- Civic Federation (Duke Banks)
 - *At the last Civic Federation meeting, a white paper in draft form concerning equity issues with parks and recreation was reviewed. Open data information was used for this paper. Using the equity lens, areas within Columbia Pike are void of having natural areas, and this may need some readjustments within the PSMP. This brings out the importance of qualifying the space and where people can access these spaces. This paper will be voted on in February.*
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Steve Finn)
 - *Staff conducted the second online engagement for the Clarendon Sector Plan Update LRPC from December 18 to January 8. Public comments on session two closed on January 8. The next step is the third online engagement session followed by a virtual LRPC meeting.*
- Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission (C2E2) (formerly E2C2) (Colt Gregory)
 - *On Environmental Assessments in Arlington County - The C2E2 group reported that Rich Dooley (Community Energy Coordinator - Arlington County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management) presented a revised process to abide by Arlington Rule AR4.4, that requires Environmental Assessment for County projects.*
- Crystal City Building Heights Study (Shruti Kuppa)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Field Fund Working Group (Steve Finn)
 - *The Field Fund Working Group (FFWG) conducted its last meeting January 13. The FFWG reached consensus on a proposal for an overall increase of the field fee to include of step increases by age and a higher fee for travel players that recreational players, both reflecting greater field usage. The proposal also includes ending the separation of funds between diamond and rectangular field users and terminating the diamond field committee under the Sports Commission. The proposal also recommends application of the funds to increased maintenance and capital investments. The next steps are to begin drafting the proposal and meet with interested commissions including PRC.*
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (formerly UFC) (David Howell)
 - *The December meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was the last meeting under that name. Beginning in January, the name is changed to the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission. The December agenda included a presentation on the use of conservation easements in Arlington as a means of conserving natural space, by Alan Rowsome and Matt Gerhart of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. A conversation followed about space for conservation, tax benefits,*

collaboration with NVCT board members, stormwater mitigation, what neighbors can do to encourage conservation, recent easements in Arlington, cost, and realistic assessment of ecosystem value.

- *The second agenda item was a continuation of prior discussion on NOVA Parks land stewardship, natural resource conservation and maintenance. One exhibit was a letter received from NOVA Parks in response to a commission request for information about NOVA Parks' maintenance of invasive plant and natural space maintenance. A discussion followed about the lack of content to the letter, and the desirability of issuing an invitation to the executive director of NOVA Parks to present on this subject to FNRC.*
- *The final primary agenda topic was consideration of the draft UFC Annual Report and draft FNRC Work Plan. Additions and edits were suggested to add information on the Tree Canopy Fund and climate change to the Work Plan. These were made, and the plan was approved to be shared with the Board, unanimously.*

- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory/Duke Banks)
 - *No issues in this reporting period.*

- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Update (Colt Gregory)
 - *No Issues in the reporting period.*
 - *Update as per staff report: Construction has started on the park and will continue through the winter and into next year.*

- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (Bill Ross)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Gregory/Barker)
 - *Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update - Received the monthly update from the FNRP consultants. While NJRAG does get briefed by the consultant, the areas actually covered by the plan have not clearly emerged. Various aspects covered in the benchmarking process may or may not represent components of the plan. Areas covered were: Visitor use, Volunteer management, Protected areas, Backyard habitat improvement, Schoolyard habitat, Increasing the % of natives planted on various projects, Equity/cost barriers, and use of the total landscape approach. NRJAF feels that Deer Management must fall into one of those topic areas.*
 - *Interestingly no other community has a consolidated forestry and natural resource plan.*

- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
 - *No updates at this moment.*

- Plan Lee Highway (Cindy Krech/Julie Mullen)
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
 - *The working group will meet in February to discuss a framework for a public engagement process concerning assumptions around Field Utilization. We will also continue discussions around definitions of Casual Use Space.*

- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
- Site Plan Review Committee (Bill Ross)
 - 1820 Fort Myer Dr. – Ames Center (Bill Ross)

- *This project will be taken up for the County Board at its January meeting.*
- 1900 Crystal Drive (Center Park) (Dean Foster)
 - *No issues in this reporting period.*
 - *Marco is the main DPR staff contact person for this project. He advises me that the park planning process this has yet to be determined for when it will be funded and begin accordingly. Approved as part of the plan was a grand staircase element which includes park-like features into the existing Center Park space. Further details are found in the March 6, 2020 letter from the PRC to the county board and the staff report for the board's March 21, 2020 meeting.*
- 1901 N. Moore St. – RCA Building (Dean Foster)
 - *Following staff and applicant online presentations, the county provided on January 7-13, an online engagement opportunity to comment on the land use and GLUP designation, planning guidance and summary of the site layout, building form and architecture, open space transportation, community benefits and sustainability. Comments particularly addressed possible contribution by the developer to the Gateway Park which is in close proximity to the development, biophilia aspects of the development and potential avian impact.*
 - *The first review (virtual) by the SPRC committee will be on February 4.*
- 2001 S. Clark St. – Crystal Plaza 1 (Colt Gregory)
 - *JBG Smith Project - Proposed re-development of an existing office building into 2 residential towers with ground-floor retail. In the Sector plan this area was to include Park Space #8 of 9,700 square feet. Moving forward into the Site Planning Process the JBG redesign removes 9,700 square feet of open green space and substitutes 5,200 SF. of privately-owned public space for a pedestrian passageway. PRC concerns center on the possibility that this planned for green space could disappear as other private developer needs and wants to press the County with their own requirements.*
 - *In the upcoming Site Planning process alternatives to the pedestrian passageway should be considered. For example, one could re-envision the developer passageway as a linear park.*
- 2050 Wilson Blvd – Courthouse Landmark Block (Bill Ross, Neal Hunter)
 - *The project will be presented and discussed at the PRC meeting.*
- Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell/Bill Ross)
- Park Shirlington (Dean Foster)
 - *This project is on hold pending the decision of the county board at its January 23 meeting (Agenda #39) on the applicant's following request:*
 - *Request for the County Board to amend the Arlington County Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF) loan agreement and associated documents with Standard Foundation Park Shirlington LLC to (i) extend the six million dollar (\$6,000,000.00) AHIF loan term which ends on Aug. 1, 2021 and (ii) amend the County Option Agreement and Memorandum of Option Agreement to extend the right to exercise the County Option to Purchase the parcel of land identified as Arlington County Real Property Code (RPC) Number 29018003 with buildings and improvements thereon, containing*

one hundred and five (105) residential apartment units, which expires on Jan. 31, 2021.

- *As of January 18, there is no county manager recommendation or report attached or linked to this item.*
- PenPlace Phase I (Shruti Kuppa)
- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
 - *Public engagement on the Sparrow Pond Restoration Project will continue with a virtual meeting at 6pm on Thursday, February 4. Details on this meeting are in the recent (January 10) PRC email from staff liaison Marco Rivero.*
- Sports Commission (Steve Finn/Mark Lincoln)
 - *Minutes Approved:*
 - *Prior meeting minutes were approved.*
 - *Virginia Highlands Lights Issue:*
 - *The Aurora Highlands Civic association placed lights without first getting approval. They ended up getting a special event permit so that the lights have a beginning and end date. There has been a long history of this civic association using Field #3 for community purposes. Typically, they get a special event permit. Their objective is to have field #3 decommissioned and turned into an open space park and their activities and actions have been focused on that objective. This has caused repeated friction with the sports community and the Arlington County Board.*
 - *Field Fund Working Group Report:*
 - *What should the fee amounts be? Who should pay the field fund? Should the fee be raised? Should travel players pay more than recreational players? Should non-residents of Arlington pay more than residents? These are all open questions that the group hopes to answer during their next meeting.*
 - *Civic Federation White Paper:*
 - *Discussion of the Civic Federation white paper on square footage of park space per census block and how segments of our residency are being excluded from county park space by way of age, income, and skill level criteria. There appear to be questions on the method and metrics used in the white paper to reach their conclusions, but few have had a chance to read the actual white paper at the moment. John Mingus provided some comment as he has had a chance to review parts of it.*

Other Business

- No other business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.