

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

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

- Commission consideration of January 19, 2021 minutes

Public Comment (7:05-7:15)

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

Discussion on Hardscape and Construction Considerations on Public Space Projects [Bernadette Grullón, DPR] (7:15-7:30)

Update on the Livability22202 Open Space Report [Carol Fuller and Mike Dowell, Livability22202] (7:30-8:00)

Update on Crystal City Water Park Site Plan Amendment [JBG Smith] (8:00-8:40)

Staff Report (8:40-8:45)

Commission Member Reports (8:45-8:50)

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
 - *There was an hour-long program on the Arlington Independent Media (AIM) TV channel (channel 38 on Verizon) last week "Untold: Stories of Black Arlington" hosted by Wilma Jones, a long-time resident of Hall's Hill in Arlington. This particular program in the series of Untold episodes told of the history of the "Negro Recreation Section" of the Arlington County DPR which was established in 1948 and operated within DPR until 1963 when racial integration finally arrived in Arlington's park and recreation activities and programs. Ms. Jones interviewed several black participants (obviously 55+ in age) who were active in the segregated program-many of whom were tutored and instructed by Earnest Johnson who was the section director and also a remarkable civic leader and mentor to the youth of that time.*

- *If you ever have the opportunity to see this program, I highly recommend it. It is a real eye opener and is relevant to several issues our PRC deals with today, such as the naming and history of some of the parks and other recreational facilities in the predominantly black areas of the County.*
- Alcova Heights (Colt Gregory)
 - *No Issues in this reporting period.*
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
 - *Career Center – project is currently on hold.*
 - *The Heights – A study is currently being performed for that area. APS has not been advised when the firehouse will be relocated and there currently isn't funding for a project or a timeline. How that area will be utilized is TBD.*
 - *Reed – Phase 1 will be completed along with school and phase 2 will follow completion of school. APS is currently in the process of finalizing the MOA with the County for Phase 2.*
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award (Neal Hunter/Dean Foster)
 - *Three nominations have been received and the selection committee is forming. The commission will vote on the nominees at its March meeting.*
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Steve Finn)
 - *The 3d online engagement closes on Feb. 22. The presentation may be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hlr_UUTfb1k*
 - *The 2d virtual LRPC is on Mar. 3. Information is available at the Clarendon Sector Plan Update Homepage at: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/clarendon-sector-plan-update/>*
- Community Energy Plan Implementation (Jill Barker)
- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk/David Howell)
- Crystal City Building Heights Study (Shruti Kuppa)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Field Fund Working Group (Steve Finn)
 - *There was no meeting of the FFWG in the last month. The drafting of the FFWG report/proposal is ongoing. I would note that the online feedback period for the DPR Athletic Field Availability and Utilization study is open until Feb. 25. Information is available at: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/athletic-field-availability-and-utilization/>*
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (David Howell)
 - *The January meeting of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission included four agenda items. 1) A presentation by Richard Dooley, DES, on the current public engagement draft of the Community Energy Plan Implementation Framework. This was the same presentation as was provided to PRC a few days*

before. 2) Continued discussion by commissioners on issues relating to concern about plans, resources and results for NOVA Parks stewardship of its natural lands in Arlington. Letter content was discussed, and it is anticipated that a letter to the County Board about these concerns will be approved at the February meeting. 3) An update by Vincent Verweij, Urban Forest Manager, on the activities and impacts of ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) since approval of that program. 4) An overview by Verweij and discussion about proposed State legislation under consideration in this session to provide expanded authority to local jurisdictions to preserve tree canopy.

- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
 - *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) (Howell/Gregory/Barker)
 - *Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update - David Farner reported that the County has received ~ 1100 responses (~600 individuals) to the FNRP public engagement effort. The first draft plan will emerge in Spring/Summer timeframe. It is an iterative process with several opportunities to comment.*
 - *NRJAG received presentation on the Visitor Use Management and Trail Use given by Jeffery Marion (USGS Recreational Ecologist). This was result of a 3-yr. study of the Appalachian Trail. Also studied our local area Billy Goat trail where 151 informal trails were counted. Found informal trail creation can have adverse effects on the trails and plant ecosystems. Stressed use of Adaptive Management Approach. Much Q&A centered on issue of mountain biking in Arlington parks. Public comment was received on this issue.*
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
 - *There was a discussion given by the PAC and a presentation surrounding Vision Zero progress and the draft plan for Arlington County's Vision Zero. [ACVZ Winter 2021](#) the progress towards vision zero will incorporate parts of the county and adding additional areas that are also of interest to the PRC, those details will be provided when they are brought up in meetings.*
- Plan Lee Highway (Cindy Krech/Julie Mullen)

- *Plan Lee Highway coordinators Paul Holland and Sandi Chesrown will attend the April PRC meeting to review the project and discuss with the commission land acquisition and other open space opportunities.*
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
 - *Public online engagement concerning field availability and assumptions is currently taking place.*
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
 - *David and Bill have been reviewing the most recent plans for the ART bus facility in Four Mile Run.*
- Site Plan Review Committee (Bill Ross)
 - 1901 N. Moore St. – RCA Building (Dean Foster)
 - *The first meeting of the SPRC occurred on February 11th. The SPRC reviewed and discussed the on-line engagement comments and topics from January. Of relevance to the PRC is that the applicant recognized the importance of an appropriate connection between the building and the Gateway Park across the street will consider and work with staff to determine the best way to ensure enhancements to the park as a part of its community benefits package. The developer also is exploring the use of bird-friendly glass for those portions of the building facade that are most vulnerable to collision due to bird migration along the Potomac River between the heights of eight feet and thirty-six feet on the north elevation and wrapping around the corner of N. Lynn St. The architect also paid homage to the biophilic aspects of the design pointing out among other items including the green roof design that the open, treed area beneath the skywalk will make use of dappled outdoor natural lighting available to nearly all the units and an effort is being made to keep as much of the building as feasible in natural light. The next SPRC meeting will be on March 4th.*
 - 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. A 9,700 sq. ft. green space noted in the Sector Plan as Park #8 is absent from the developer proposal. 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. Moving forward into the Site Planning Process the JBGS redesign removes 9,700 square feet of open green space and substitutes 5,200 SF. of privately-owned public space for a pedestrian passageway.*

- *In the upcoming Site Planning Review Commission meeting is on Feb 18th 7pm.*
- 2050 Wilson Blvd – Courthouse Landmark Block (Bill Ross, Neal Hunter)
- Crystal City Water Park (Bill Ross)
 - *The commission will review the plans at its February 16 meeting. The County Board will take up the proposal at its March meeting.*
- Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell)
- Park Shirlington (Dean Foster)
 - *Park Shirlington consists of two parcels of land with a total of 294 residential units divided by 31st St. South. At its January meeting, the county board gave notice of intent to exercise an option to purchase the southern parcel of land containing 105 residential housing units to ensure the units remain affordable. The county will continue to explore options for preserving the affordability of the 189 units on the northern parcel. The developer, Standard Foundation Park Shirlington, by August 1, 2021, is to repay a \$6 million loan from the AHIF which enabled the developer to purchase the property. Any previous development proposal by the developer for the property will not be moving forward.*
- PenPlace Phase I (Shruti Kuppa)
- Potomac Yard Land Bay East (David Howell/Sarah Baryluk)
- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
- Sports Commission (Mark Lincoln/Steve Finn)

Other Business (8:50-9:00)

- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Discussion

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)