

## **Park and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, March 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 February 16, 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.*

#### **Update and Discussion on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) [Larry Wiseman, American Forests and David Farner, DPR] (7:15-8:15)**

#### **Overview of Market Common Public Space Site Plan Amendment [Regency Centers] (8:15-8:25)**

#### **Lyon Park Citizens' Association Memorial Plaque Request for County Board Member, Erik Gutshall (at Zitkála-Ša Park) [Diane Probus, DPR] (8:25-8:40)**

#### **2020 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award [Neal Hunter/Dean Foster/Bill Ross] (8:40-8:55)**

- PRC Vote on Nominees

#### **Staff Report (8:55-9:00)**

#### **Commission Member Reports (9:00-9:10)**

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
  - *The Spring, 2021, edition of the 55+ Guide is the first quarterly issue of the digital Guide. Going to quarterly classes and registrations in place of bi-monthly allows for longer term planning for staff and registrants. The 55+ YouTube channel is proving quite a success with over 500 subscriptions to date. Registrations under the new quarterly program began on February 24th.*

- Alcova Heights (Colt Gregory)
  - *No updates.*
  
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
  - *Reed School Project:*
    - *Phase 1 work is in progress*
    - *Phase 2 design work is proceeding forward*
    - *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with County & use permits will go to both the County and School Boards this month.*
  
  - *Career Center Project:*
    - *No updates provided.*
  
  - *The Heights School:*
    - *No updates provided.*
  
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award (Neal Hunter/Dean Foster)
  - *The Bill Thomas Selection Committee met virtually this past Wednesday to discuss scores and thoughts on the three award nominees. After discussion and consideration, the committee has agreed to present the award to Glenn Tobin for his various efforts and projects in and among the parks in Arlington County. His commitment of time and efforts have clearly shown a vested interest in sustainability of the projects for the futures as well as a significant, measurable positive impact for Arlington green spaces. Acknowledgment of effort and commitment will be given to the other two nominees with some language of encouragement for their nomination next year.*
  
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Steve Finn)
  - *The Clarendon Sector Plan Update LRPC met March 3. Presentations from Joyce Motors, Bingham Center, Wells Fargo, and St. Charles Church were made available prior to the meeting and are on the website. The focus of the March 3 meeting was on building height and form. In that discussion, the primary issue from the PRC perspective is impact on the planned linear park on Fairfax Dr. The St. Charles Church concept includes, in part, a shopping building up to 110' with limited setback or taper and moving the church to the parking lot area of the present site. This is on the north side of the linear park, so it would not interfere with sunlight. The south side of the linear park presently has smaller buildings that do not impact sunlight, but the plan envisions redevelopment with taller buildings. Some members felt that was unlikely. Nonetheless, we expressed concern, with another commission member, about creating a canyon feel in the linear park under the plan. The next meeting is April 14 and the subject is open space.*

- 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)
  - *The Field Fund Working Group did not meet this month. The draft of the recommendations is underway.*
  
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (David Howell)
  - *The February meeting of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission included three primary agenda items. The first was a presentation and discussion by county and contractor staff on the Forestry and Natural Resources Master Plan. This included an overview of the status and themes from engagement activity so far. PRC has a similar presentation slated for the March meeting. Second, FNRC commissioners reviewed the County Manager's budget proposal regarding DPR and discussed concerns about some impacts. It was agreed that an advisory letter should be prepared on this issue. Finally, commissioners reviewed and approved two advisory letters that had been prepared after earlier discussions. One pertains to the concerns that NOVAS Parks is under-resourcing maintenance and invasive plant removal in its Arlington properties. The other provides advisory comments on the CEP Implementation Plan draft, which had been the subject of a presentation previously.*
  
- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)
  - *Please see NRJAG summary.*
  
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
  - *No updates.*
  
- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Update (Colt Gregory)
  - *No issues identified during this period; please see staff report.*
  
- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (Bill Ross)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Howell/Gregory/Barker)
  - *Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update - The FNRP was provided by David Farner (DPR) with American Forests (consultants). [Any errors in this report are mine]. The process is proceeding on schedule with the near completion of the Community Engagement segment in month of May. Note that because this was a review of over 3500 individual comments, themes identified are generalizations of comments received. Found six themes: Improve Planting Practices, Discourage or Limit Development, Strengthen Zoning Ordinances & Regulations, Improve Maintenance & Mgt Practices, Educate and Foster Stewardship. Focus group interviews identified request for benchmarking our Arlington natural*

*resources (tree canopy & wildlife); work with APS to maximize green space; prioritize tree planting in South Arlington, and better manage what we have + promote biodiversity.*

- *NRJAG general sentiment was that the FNRP should be part of an overall comprehensive approach that works with DES and CPHD for overall plan alignment.*
- *Next engagement steps are Interviews with County Board Members.*
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
  - *The PAC discussed changes in design to the Crystal City Water Park, discussion was given to adding into their letter to the county board of a general approval of the suggestions of the PRC regarding planting width and tree space in final designs. The PAC acknowledged the plans to meet jointly with PRC in April and plans to look into areas of joint interest between the commissions to discuss.*
  - *The PAC discussed the VDOT Route 1 vision and different concept designs for changes. Changes include significant expansion of the width of the road, potentially impacting trees incorporated in median sections and along the shoulder of the route. Continuing to monitor any changes as time moves on.*
- Plan Lee Highway (Cindy Krech/Julie Mullen)
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
  - *Elementary School at Reed Update (Colt Gregory): Meeting held to receive comments on the underground Storm water Management retention vaults on the site. One significant tree will be removed. No community objection was received. See also staff report.*
  - ART Bus Facility (Bill Ross)
- Site Plan Review Committee (Bill Ross)
  - 1901 N. Moore St. – RCA Building (Dean Foster)
    - *The next meeting of the SPRC will be this Monday, March 15, at 7:30 pm. In addition to requests for enhancements to the adjacent Gateway Park and access thereto as part of the developer community benefits package, and bird friendly glass design and biophilic features, the committee will be considering the issues of unprotected bike lanes along 19th St., the parking ratio in the building parking garage and the projected pedestrian experience along the 400 feet length of the block.*
  - 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. Feb 18th SPRC was*

*presented with the open space plan for a Pedestrian walkway. Concerns voiced about the proposed walkway were too much hardscape/impervious surface, need for green walls/sound reduction, potential lack of soil volume to support landscape trees, lack of adequate light in the high-walled corridor to support proposed plantings and lack of a design alternative to see the space as a linear park instead of pedestrian thoroughfare.*

- *In the upcoming Site Planning Review Commission meeting is on March 18<sup>th</sup>.*
- 2050 Wilson Blvd – Courthouse Landmark Block (Bill Ross, Neal Hunter)
- Clarendon Market Commons (David Howell)
- Crystal City Water Park (Bill Ross)
  - *The County Board will take up a deferred proposal on the project at its 3/20 meeting. PRC will be sending in a letter and making comments.*
- Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell)
- Park Shirlington (Dean Foster)
  - *Following the withdrawal of the private developer, the County exercised its option to purchase the southern parcel of land containing 105 residential units to preserve the affordability of the units. The County will be exploring other options for preserving the affordability of the 189 units on the northern parcel.*
- 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)
  - *Presentation from DPR on FY 22 Budget*
    - *Planning for no COVID-19 pandemic lock downs going forward.*
  - *PSMP Post Implementation Update*
    - *Very few people provided responses to the community survey. Apparently, the tool used to collect the data from the community was found to be difficult to use which intimidated many users and reduced the number of responses collected.*
  - *Aquatics Committee Update*
    - *Pools have stayed open and have been used at a greater rate than might have been expected with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is discussion of having DPR run classes at the new Long Bridge pool while classes run at APS pools would be run by APS.*
  - *Parks and Recreation Commission Update*
    - *Summary of the Livability 22202 presentation we heard at our last meeting.*

- *Field Fund Working Group*
  - *Work still progressing on the document with the recommendation for the management and use of the Field Fund going forward. Work has been slowed somewhat by the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *Jennie Dean Park Constriction Update*
  - *Construction anticipated to finish at the end of 2021. No net loss of parking when the project is complete.*
- *Reed School Update*
  - *Stormwater control using pipes, vaults, etc. will be able to control flooding and will have a benefit to the Westover area to prevent future flooding events. Construction will delay access to the athletic field for another year. Project is already over budget. Funding coming from ongoing revenue from real estate taxes and the bond that passed in November 2020. There will be about two (2) feet of soil on top of the vaults so there is some concern about drainage of the athletic fields since the ground will not be as permeable as it was before with all the concrete for the vaults in the ground. There was also some concern voiced about the cleaning and removal of silt buildup in the vaults over time which will probably have to be done periodically to maintain proper function. The schedule and cost for this is not known currently.*
- *Final Discussion*
  - *County Board Member, Christian Dorsey had a discussion with Sports Commission Chair, Shirley Brothwell about the role of the Sports Commission going forward and that they should consider trying to find alternatives to having to spend so much time defending the athletic fields from attack from parts of the community. This discussion then moved to discussing the issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and why Arlington appeared being far more cautious regarding sports and community activities. The topic of APS barring the track and field athletes who had qualified for the VHSL State Championships from competing since much of the rest of the state competes without masks while APS requires their athletes to wear masks.*

#### **Other Business (9:10-9:20)**

- PRC Discussion on Febrey House Historic Designation Request

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)**