

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 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 March 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.*

The Crossing Clarendon Public Space Site Plan Amendment Follow-Up Discussion [Regency Centers] (7:15-7:30)

Discussion on 2001 S. Clark St. (Crystal Plaza 1) Site Plan [JBG Smith] (7:30-7:45)

Vision Zero Action Plan Update [Christine Baker, DES] (7:45-8:10)

Staff Report (8:10-8:15)

Commission Member Reports (8:15-8:25)

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
 - *55+ Seniors are looking forward to the opening on or after July 1 of the new Lubber Run Community Center and the Long Bridge Aquatic Center with the funding in the new county budget and later return to indoor fitness classes and activities.*
- Alcova Heights (Colt Gregory)
 - *No Issues in this reporting period.*
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
 - *No updates for this reporting period.*
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award (Neal Hunter/Dean Foster)

- *The County Board recognized both Glenn Tobin and last year's award winner at their board meeting this past week. The award process for this year has been finalized.*
- **Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Steve Finn)**
 - *The LRPC met April 14, 2021. Staff presented a follow-up and update to the building height and step-back requirements from the March 3 meeting. The central concerns raised by Staff included large block facings and providing mid-block access. These issues primarily impact the planning of the future design for the St. Charles' block. Regarding open space, Staff noted the Fairfax Drive linear park proposal has strong public and community support. Staff presented two options under consideration. The first includes mid-block access through the St. Charles site and a bicycle/alley vehicle lane on the south side of the park along the DPR maintenance building and Northside Social corridor. The second also has mid-block access through the St. Charles site but moves the bicycle/alley vehicle lane to the north side of the linear park onto the St. Charles site. A more limited access lane would remain on the south side of the park for service of the businesses along that side. St. Charles strongly objected to both proposals. The second option is very favorable for open space design and received support at the meeting.*
- **Community Energy Plan (Jill Barker)**
 - *There is nothing to report at the moment on the Community Energy Plan, but the County Board provided specific directions to the County Manager regarding climate issues in preparing the FY 2023 budget, including developing a "whole of government" approach. The full directive on climate is copied below and can be seen on the county website at this link. <https://budget.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/04/FINAL-CBO-FY-2022-BudgetGuidance.pdf>*
 - *"14. Climate Change & Sustainability: The County Board directs that the County Manager develop a recommendation to coordinate a "whole of government" approach to achieving Arlington's Climate Change and Sustainability goals. The recommendation should include the staffing model and budget necessary to:*
 - a) Integrate sustainability goals and best practices into County plans, procurement, programs and operations consistent with the CEP Roadmap (under development) which will provide near, mid, and long-term strategies to achieve climate change goals;*
 - b) Coordinate and optimize inter-departmental projects and areas of work;*
 - c) Monitor and escalate disagreements among departments to the County Manager and County Board for resolution, when competing County policy priorities are at issue as;*
 - d) Determine the metrics, reporting and communication necessary to present a consolidated understanding of Arlington's Climate Change and Sustainability goals;*

e) As part of the CEP Roadmap implementation carry out a communications and engagement plan that includes APS, residents, other community stakeholders and regional partners; and

f) Identify innovation in sustainability practices and developments in climate science to provide current and continuing education for staff and policymakers. The recommendation should be shared in time for the Board to incorporate guidance as part of the FY23 budget process."

- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Field Fund Working Group (Steve Finn)
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (David Howell)
 - *Board member Libby Garvey and Delegate Pat Hope provided an update on some of the legislative initiatives at the State level this year. Members asked questions and there was discussion about the status of some enacted items as well as the potential for future changes to code and regulatory provisions to help conserve nature in urban areas.*
 - *Forestry manager Vincent Verweij provided an overview of the policies and practices on use of non-native trees by Arlington County programs. These cases are limited to circumstances where species resilience is a significant factor for trees to survive/thrive in some planting contexts. No non-native species used in these limited circumstances are considered invasive species.*
 - *Commission members discussed the content and timing of a second letter to the board regarding funding for important initiatives and needs. An initial letter focused on proposed cuts to the upcoming budget. All of those cuts were restored. A second letter would address additional funding needs, perhaps with some Covid relief funds anticipated by the county. Consideration of a second letter will continue in the May meeting.*
- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)
 - *The FNRP overview was provided by David Farner (DPR) with American Forests (consultants). FNRP discussions focused on the identification of key elements that should be included in the plan. Topics areas included: linking spaces to form wildlife corridors, improved education and public awareness, support for the Homegrown National Park concept (make nature in small areas), bringing nature into the Lee Highway and Livability 22202 plan, working with conservation trusts, addressing park-related equity and inclusion and incorporation of a deer management component.*
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
 - *No issues during this reporting period.*
- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Update (Colt Gregory)

- *No Issues in the reporting period. See staff report.*
- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (Bill Ross)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Gregory/Barker)
 - *NRJAG received a legislative overview from the Urban Forest Manager, Vincent Verweij, the Watershed Programs Manager, Jason Papcosma and the Natural Resource Specialist Jen Soles. Trees and shrubs are now part of the County stormwater management approach. Virginia has added 6 new noxious weeds to the state invasive list.*
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
 - *The PAC held open the opportunity for members of the PRC to join their meeting earlier this month to discuss areas of common interest and areas of diversion. Bill spoke at length of the common interests that keep both parks and pedestrians in a common focus in many of the projects considered in our dealings with site plans and park designs. Areas of tension arise when canopy or green space is compromised in the effort to streamline the pedestrian pathways being constructed as is the case in the Crystal City Water Park. We will look for more opportunities to incorporate pedestrian focused initiatives like Vision Zero into plans moving forward.*
- 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)
 - *Cardinal Elementary School (former Elementary School at Reed) Plan Review (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.*
- Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) and Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)
 - 1901 N. Moore St. – RCA Building (Dean Foster)
 - *Participated in the two SPRC meetings on February 11 and March 15. At the request of PRC rep, developer is exploring design for bird-friendly glass for high risk portions of the building facade along Potomac River, particularly those from 8-36 feet on the north elevation and wrapping around the corner of N. Lynn St. For 76 linear feet. Also, there will be increased attention to biophilic features, such as, drought tolerant plants and irrigation efficiency improvements, native and adapted pollinator-friendly planting species to promote year-round biodiversity. As the building will have some above grade inside parking, screening will be lined with active uses, architectural treatment artistic and visual interest. A potentially larger public art community benefit contribution will be*

Discussion from March 25 Meeting:

- *Minutes Approved:*
 - *Re-approval of January meeting minutes because the Field Fund Working Group presentation was omitted. Prior meeting minutes were approved.*
- *County and APS Budget:*
 - *Discussion and approval of letter on the Arlington County budget. On the APS budget, there is a proposal to eliminate late busses and middle school sports. There is a proposed fee schedule for participation in high school sports. This opened a huge discussion on equity and how the less well-off children in the county will have fewer opportunities after school for activities, sports, and after school academic help.*
- *COVID-19 Protocols:*
 - *DPR presentation on COVID-19 protocols and then an APS presentation on COVID-19 protocols followed finally by a presentation on the FCPS on COVID-19 protocols. There was also a very short presentation from a representative from the Pacers group who organizes running races in Northern Virginia and their frustration that the various COVID-19 protocols are inconsistent and do not follow WHO and CDC recommended protocols when it comes to running activities outdoors.*
- *Racial Incident at Marshall High School:*
 - *Discussion of the ongoing investigation and handling of the incident that happened during the Marshall High School versus Wakefield High School football game at Marshall High School. The biggest take away was that the adults on the field, the coaches and the officials, failed to act to handle the issue at the time it happened.*

Discussion from April 22 Meeting:

- *JFAC Presentation & Discussion*
 - *History and mission. Opportunities for collaboration between the Sports Commission and JFAC.*
- *Aquatics Committee Update*
 - *New Chair and Vice-Chair elected at last meeting. Revenue is up and will meet the expected target even with COVID-19 factored in.*
- *C2E2*
 - *Discussion of lighting, the dark sky issue, and plans for turfing fields.*
- *PSMP Comments*
 - *Upcoming meeting on casual use space and utilization.*
- *Chair Updates*
 - *County Board adopted the budget. DPR got some federal money and was able to restore some of the budget items that were previously cut.*
- *Planning for a discussion on racism in youth sports*
 - *Discussion on groups and participants to bring in to discuss experiences and strategies for handling the issue. This all stems from the incident that*

occurred between the Wakefield High School and Marshall High School football teams.

- *Sports Commission Mission and Agenda setting brainstorming*
 - *Discussion on a strategy to handle the discussion with Civ Fed and the Livability 22202 group.*

Other Business (8:25-8:30)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)