



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

Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 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  
Jill Barker  
Sarah Baryluk  
Gerald Brandt (APS Staff Liaison)  
Sergio Enriquez  
Steve Finn  
Dean Foster  
Colt Gregory  
Peter Harnik  
David Howell  
Neal Hunter  
Shruti Kuppa, Vice Chair  
Mark Lincoln  
Drew Murray

**Guests:**

Jim Finch  
Sarah Meservey  
Anne Wilson

**County Staff:**

Marco Rivero, Principal Planner, PRC Staff Liaison  
Diane Probus, Associate Planner

**PRC members not in attendance:**

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. Mr. Rivero also specified that this would be a recorded meeting of the PRC.

The Commission considered its June 22, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting minutes. With no objections, the Commission approved the minutes as presented.

## Public Comment

No public comment was provided. Public comment for the PRC regular agenda item “Proposed Memorial Plaque Application for Mr. Larry Finch” was taken after staff’s presentation of this discussion item.

## Agenda Items

### Proposed Memorial Plaque Application for Mr. Larry Finch

Diane Probus, DPR, provided a presentation on the proposed memorial plaque application for Mr. Larry Finch.

Commissioner comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Public comment on this item was received by Anne Wilson, Donaldson Run Civic Association and Sarah Meservey, Friends of Arlington Parks.
  - **Ms. Anne Wilson** thanked the PRC on its review of this item. Ms. Wilson stated that Mr. Larry Finch had a great passion for the natural environment and volunteered his time on various initiatives, committees, and other activities throughout the County. Mr. Finch was also a previous recipient of the Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award and the Sun Gazette Cup.
  - **Ms. Sarah Meservey** stated that Mr. Finch was a stalwart to the community. He was also an amazingly skilled person, could speak convincingly about various subjects and was a great writer. Mr. Finch was a great champion for nature within the County.
- Ms. Probus mentioned that this plaque request will be going to the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) for review. The PRC will consider this request once again in September 2021 for a vote and recommendation to the County Board.
- Mr. Jim Finch (son of Mr. Larry Finch) also spoke about this request and provided his support for the proposed memorial plaque. Mr. Finch mentioned that his father loved working with staff and the community on various projects within the County. Mr. Finch is very appreciative of this request and is happy to see it move forward.
- Commissioner Barker affirmed that the sponsor of the plaque spoke with Elenor Hodges, Executive Director of EcoAction Arlington and is very pleased with this request moving forward.
- PRC Chair Ross detailed after joining the PRC in 2013, he first heard of Mr. Larry Finch and participated in a PRC meeting regarding a potential sale/acquisition of personal property next to a County park that could be incorporated (Mr. Jim Finch provided more insight on this occurrence). This ultimately did not occur, but it was an appreciated gesture.
- The PRC is appreciative of the opportunity to review this plaque and looks forward to the reviews from HALRB and NCAC.

*\* At this point, the meeting continued with Vice Chair Kuppa leading the PRC meeting (PRC Chair Ross transitioned to another County meeting).*

## Staff Report

Staff provided no additional updates to the staff report but did note that there are continued

discussions at the County level regarding the transition to hybrid virtual/in-person commission meetings beginning this September. Several commission members expressed their concerns regarding in-person meetings and the current guidance moving forward given the Delta variant of COVID-19. Many expressed their concerns with safety and the ability to hold virtual meetings efficiently without the need to meet in person.

**11<sup>th</sup> and Danville NC Park Project** – The County Board approved the Fall 2020 Neighborhood Conservation funding round at the April 2021 board meeting. 11<sup>th</sup> and Danville was one of the projects approved as part of the funding round. The first design meeting has been coordinated with the civic association and will be held July 15, 2021 online via the Clarendon Courthouse Civic Association meeting.

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Street Park – No Updates**

- DPR staff is currently reviewing 90% plan set for the DES 15th Street realignment project.
- Staff continues to work on developing the engagement plan and schedule to kick-off the project in the latter part of the year.

#### **4MRV – Jennie Dean Park – No Updates**

Construction is progressing on the park and will continue through the year. Construction is anticipated to last 12-14 months and the park should re-open 1st Quarter of 2022. The existing buildings and park flood lights were demolished last month, and underground utility work is continuing this month.

#### **APS Projects**

- **Dorothy Hamm Middle School (formerly H-B Woodlawn Secondary School and location of the former Stratford Program, now Eunice Shriver Program) - No Updates**
  - Progress is being made on the three-story addition.
  - For additional details on the status of the project see [Dorothy Hamm MS](#) where APS posts construction updates.
- **Education Center Reuse - No Updates**
  - Completion of the [building renovation](#) is anticipated in January 2022. See the June 2021 update on the webpage.
- **Cardinal Elementary School**
  - See detailed APS progress reports on the [webpage](#).
  - The school will be completed for the 2021 – 2022 school year.
  - On July 28 at 7:00pm a virtual meeting will be held to review the 90% designs for the vault, discuss plans for safely managing the vault construction while school is in session and answer questions from the community.
  - County work on Phase I (the installation of the inlet and outlet structures for the underground stormwater detention system) will be completed this summer.
  - [Cardinal Elementary School Stormwater Vault - Projects & Planning \(arlingtonva.us\)](#)

#### **Ballston Pond Retrofit/Beaver Pond Park Improvements**

- County Board consideration of the construction contract award will be on the July 17 consent agenda.

#### **Crystal City Water Park**

- Staff has provided comments to the applicant. The comments included increasing visibility of the proposed bike racks, identifying different seating types (fixed vs flexible) and, generally, where they would be located, and to make the locations where pedestrians and cyclists intersect safer for both mode users.

#### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021

#### **Gunston Park Enclosed Athletic Facility – No Updates**

- Project is currently out to bid.
- Project construction anticipated to start 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021.

#### **Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1**

- Site rough grading in progress.
- Stormwater materials on site. Installation of stormwater structures and piping in progress.
- Shade structure installation scheduled to start this week.
- Baseball field fence foundation's in progress.
- Placement of concrete footings for the restroom facility in progress.
- Anticipated completion 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022.

#### **John Robinson Jr. Town Square**

- The sculpture footer and steel bridge on hold until permit for statement of special inspection and zoning is complete.
- A use permit request for a public park within a C-2 zoning district was approved by the County Board at their July 20 recessed meeting.
- The project is anticipated to be completed 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2021.

#### **Long Bridge Park Aquatic Center**

- **Pools 50 M and Leisure** Dept. of Health inspection this week the Leisure Pool, 50 M pool and spa have all been passed.
- **Interior Building** Wi-Fi system is now up and running in the building. Waiting on material for remaining stations to be installed in ceilings. Exterior Wi-Fi hot spots installed at 50%. Low Volt permit for Productive AV can be finalized without the LED video screen wall installed. Productive AV will start installing the LED video screen by early August.
- **Site Work.** Artwork coordination for lighting installation and programming. Lighting controls for the artwork to start July 19. Equipment and computer have been delivered to the site. Punch list work on the exterior continues this week. Dead plant material removed. Additional mulch installed.
- Anticipated completion July 2021.

#### **Madison Manor Park Restroom Renovations**

- Awaiting plumbing fixtures.
- Roofing demo to start the week of 7/19/2021.
- Anticipated completion August 2021.

#### **Marcey Road Park – No Updates**

- Renovation of the tennis courts, basketball court, picnic shelter, parking lot, site circulation, site furnishings, stormwater management, and landscaping.
- Currently working with Purchasing to go out to bid.
- Construction anticipated to start 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021

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

- As part of design development, DPR staff is coordinating with DES staff to complete the South Eads Street redesign and the streetscape.
- Additionally, staff is beginning the land use approval process for rezoning and park naming.

#### **Oakland Park**

Coordination efforts amongst the contractor and County to provide solar power to the park. Anticipated project completion in August 2021.

#### **Rosslyn Highlands Park – No Updates**

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**

- Received and planted remaining plantings
- Installed play equipment
- Poured-in-place surface installation on-going.
- Anticipate completion by the end of 2021 although the contractor is ahead of schedule, and it could be earlier.

#### **Site Plan Review**

- **PenPlace (block bound by Army Navy Drive, 12<sup>th</sup> Street South, South Fern Street, and South Eads Street; formerly 550 Army Navy Drive)**
  - The proposal includes approximately 3.3 million square feet divided across four buildings.
    - Three 22-story office buildings with ground floor retail
    - One destination- and amenity-focused building called “The Helix,” a unique biophilic double helix structure with plantings native to the Mid-Atlantic region.
  - In addition, the proposal includes a 2.5-acre public space, detached retail pavilions, and underground vehicular access. Specific details of the public space will be evaluated through a Park Master Plan (PMP) process occurring concurrently with the site plan review.
  - The LRPC process concluded on July 13 after convening three meetings. The process will be entering the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) phase in the fall. Additionally, the first online engagement opportunity for the amended, park master plan was launched on May 12 and was active until June 2. Over 160+ comments were provided, and they included reactions to the proposed park layout, amenities, circulation, tree canopy, plantings, and other associated features. A second PMP engagement is envisioned in the fall.

#### **Temporary Uses – No Updates**

In collaboration with 2 community groups in the Aurora Highlands and Rosslyn neighborhoods, DPR developed 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 interim dog park at Gateway Park is built and open to visitors.
- The interim dog run at Virginia Highlands Park is built and open to visitors. 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:**

- Our urban forest got hit by a big storm over the 4th of July weekend. Over 80 trees fell on public land and were cleared by staff and contractors.
- A demonstration on Soil Profile Rebuilding will happen in Bon Air Park for staff and private developers, to show how this process improves soil quality and stormwater retention.
- Staff walked with planning commissioners and county staff in Pentagon City, to identify opportunities for biophilic design, as part of the Pentagon City PDSP. The project is looking for a "green ribbon" to go across PC, and the group helped identify potential locations.
- Crystal City Water Park – Staff is still working with the applicant to ensure appropriate soil volumes and tree protection methods are used for this project. Additionally, species selection will be revised, and current tree placement is not appropriate in certain areas given the proposed uses.
- Marbella Apartments (1300 N Pierce St) – A new site plan project in Fort Myer Heights. Current impacts for this project appear to be fairly high, with no on-site conservation.
- Rosslyn Highlands – New trees on site have bounced back with the cooler weather and regular watering.
- Zitkala-Sa – Tree planting will occur within the next week. The park should now be completed by late July.
- Jennie Dean – Site deconstruction is progressing. All trees are being adequately protected.
- Long Bridge – Remaining site trees will be planted in October.
- Lubber Run Bridge Replacement – The core team met to discuss options for replacement. A consensus could not yet be reached. More to come.
- Glencarlyn Bridge Replacement – The core team will be reviewing 90% plans in the coming weeks. Tree impact is low.
- Towers – The park will go out to bid shortly. Due to costs associated with the Pandemic, some play equipment had to be altered. Tree impact is still very low.
- Walter Reed school is finishing up tree planting. They are watering every day, to help deal with higher temperatures
- Tree planting was completed on 6/21 and the tree planting coordinator is working on Final acceptance. About 590 trees were planted this spring, compared to the 630 scheduled. Tree availability was a problem, with some species sold out.
- Eden Stern, a student of University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, is helping pilot the Arlington Forestry Instagram account. We are seeing how much engagement we can get with this form of outreach. You can find it here:  
<https://www.instagram.com/arlingtonforestry/>
- Adam Lipera will be leaving Arlington County for a promotion at Fairfax County. We are excited to see him progress in his career. Unfortunately, it leaves us with only 1 forester

right now, but we are seeking to hire 3 foresters as soon as we are able. Look for the first postings on July 2.

- The tree crew will get more strata in their positions, with the creation of a Senior Tree Maintenance Worker, with the intent to improve management and coordination with our tree maintenance needs.

### Zitkala-Ša Park

- Basketball asphalt complete, painting the basketball court striping scheduled for this week. Poured-in-Place at the 2-5 play area complete and 5-12 old play area completion delayed due to shortage of binder materials. Plantings on site and will be installed week of 7/19 -7/31. Precast layout of the steps has been confirmed and will be installed. The shade structures canopy has been installed. Anticipated completion by end of July 2021.

### Commission Member Reports

*Red Italicized* = New information from meeting.

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
  - *As you know, the new Lubber Run Community Center had its grand opening on Friday, July 9th with a block party, entertainment, demonstration fitness classes and other activities for persons of all ages. Registration for new pop-up classes began the following Monday, July 12th via on-line and by phone for Arlington residents and for non-residents the following Tuesday, July 13th. Pop-up classes will run through August and include fitness, yoga, line dancing, volleyball, art and others. The classes are being held at Lubber Run, Aurora Hills and Walter Reed. The plan is to return to full in-person fitness classes in the Fall at the centers on September 13th with registration being on August 18th. Details will be in the 55+ Guide which will be mailed and be available on-line in August in advance of Fall registration. It is anticipated that the new Long Bridge Park Aquatic and Fineness Center will open on September 24th. The Annual Fitness Day will be held on September 10th at Lubber Run. It should also be noted that Arlington has again been named the Fittest City in the USA.*
- Alcovia Heights Park Renovations (Colt Gregory)
  - *A new update on this project: the design phase is moving forward, and Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project will move forward concurrently. Anticipated completion for this project is the End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022.*
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award (**Placeholder**)
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Steve Finn)
  - *The LRPC for the Clarendon Sector Plan Update met June 30. The meeting focused on non-open space issues to include land use mix, historic preservation, building heights, and updates to the fire station 4 plans. Most of the discussion focused on building heights and set offs. There's concern that changes could begin to create a canyon feel to Clarendon. Additionally, although some comments continue to suggest the County should find alternatives sites for the fire station, that does not appear to be an option. The next meeting of the LRPC is July 27.*
- Community Energy Plan (Jill Barker)
  - *CEP implementation Roadmap and All of Government Approach Update: County Board FY22 Budget guidance directed the County Manager to develop a strategy for an All-of-Government" approach to addressing climate change and meeting county*

*CEP and other sustainability goals to be completed prior to the County Board's guidance for the FY 23 Budget in November.*

- *The County staff has hired a contractor to develop a CEP implementation roadmap, which is expected to be completed in January 2022.*
  
- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Field Fund Working Group (Steve Finn)
  - *The Field Fund Working Group (FFWG) completed drafting their final report which will be discussed by the Sports Commission at its July meeting. The FFWG met over the past 18 months to consider changes to the field fee paid by sports user groups or partners using rectangular or diamond fields. The report itself is available on the FFWG website that can be linked through the Sports Commission web site. Or, you can link directly to the report here: <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/07/Field-Fund-Working-Group-Final-Report-July-13-2021.pdf>. The FFWG recommendations are:*
    - *Recommendation #1 - Approve the new fee structure below. Resident Recreational Youth 8U \$10, Non-resident Recreational Youth 8U \$25; Resident Recreational Youth 9+ \$15, Non-resident Recreational Youth 9+ \$30; Resident Travel Player \$40, Non-Resident Travel Player \$65; Adult Team Fee \$200*
    - *Recommendation #2 - Eliminate the existing Diamond Field Fund, and Diamond Field Fund Committee as approved by the County Board in FY 2014 and establish one account to hold all field funds contributed by youth and adult sports leagues.*
    - *Recommendation #3 - Use the new funds collected through the Field Fund in two ways:*
      - *Fund two (2) permanent full-time Athletic Field Maintenance employees; and*
      - *Fund synthetic field conversions with the funds collected in excess of the cost of the two additional employees.*
    - *Recommendation #4 - Use the Public Spaces Master Plan to identify the athletic fields to be converted to synthetic fields using the Field Fund with an eye towards creating multi-use athletic facilities.*
    - *Recommendation #5 – DPR should annually brief the Sports Commission about Field Fund revenues and implementation.*
  
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (David Howell)
  - *A presentation by Matt Mattauszek, CPHD, on the Pen Place development project. This was a general overview of the development site, location, 4 structures, and public space. The presentation and meeting recording will be posted soon.*
  - *Tree Equity Map. Vincent Verweij, DPR, presented an overview of a new tool available to Arlington to help assess distribution of our tree canopy. The program can accommodate several kinds of data--geographic, economic, and natural resources—to create tree equity profiles for individual neighborhoods. This tool is believed to be useful in comparing conditions and needs for tree canopy in various areas across the county.*
  - *The meeting also included an informal discussion on urban threats to birds.*
  
- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)



- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Update (Colt Gregory)
- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (Bill Ross)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Gregory/Barker)
  - *No meeting in July.*
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (**Vacant**)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
  - *The PAC received a number of presentations regarding Vision Zero and VDOT planned changes to Route 1. Concerns persist with the plan to bring Rt 1 down to scale and how it will cause significant traffic diversions to the surrounding roads during peak hours.*
  - *The County is looking for a number of part time crossing guards to support the effective pursuit of vision zero.*
- Plan Lee Highway (Julie Mullen)
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
  - *Bill attended the Long Run Planning Committee's hearing on the planning staff's ongoing work plan to ask for a higher priority for a study of zoning regulations with respect to S3A and PS land categories. These are the zoning designations under which county parks are developed and regulated in terms of use. Park planning processes have been inhibited or slowed down several times in recent years because modern design needs such as for fencing, setback for park amenities, storm water, dog parks, and lighting considerations have been confronted by decades-old public space category zoning requirements*
  - *I reminded the LRPC that among scores of action items from the April 2019 approved PSMP, this zoning study was one of the top 5 priorities directed by the County Board. Such a study is listed by the current work plan as an interdepartmental process and thus seems to be shunted to a low level of priority. As we understand it, DPR staff has been ready to proceed in terms of staff resources in order to implement this study. But it needs the obvious expertise and leadership of planning staff to do the analysis.*
  - *It appears that not only park and recreation projects, but priorities of DES in terms of coordinated storm management, parking, and even bicycle lane priorities are inhibited by the failure to clean up the S3A regulations. I expressed my concern that if we don't pay attention to interdepartmental priorities and needs, then by definition, we are not doing comprehensive planning.*
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
- Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) and Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)
  - Crystal City Building Heights Study (Shruti Kuppa)
  - Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell/Bill Ross)
  - Park Shirlington (Dean Foster)
    - *The County Board on July 17<sup>th</sup> approved new financing for the Park Shirlington housing project. This project was to be a new development to include demolishing 189 of the 294-garden apartment housing units and replacing them with townhouse and in-fill development, many at market rate. The project will now be a rehabilitation/renovation of the existing 294 housing units. As the project will not involve any rezoning or new construction and development, there will not be a SPRC review.*
- PenPlace (Shruti Kuppa)

- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
- Sports Commission (Steve Finn/Mark Lincoln)
  - *June 24, 2021 Meeting:*
    - *Presentations – DPR Specialty Programs*
      - *Gymnastic programs, fitness programs*
    - *Commission Member Reports*
      - *Aquatics Committee Update – DPR and APS are in ongoing discussions about time allocation for the pools between APS programs and DPR programs. There is some concern that the time allocation should be reviewed and possibly adjusted.*
      - *PSMP Comments – Discussions continue on the open space versus programmed space qualification for the park space in the county.*
    - *Discussions*
      - *The “Combatting Hate in Sports Working Group” has been formed and the current representation was discussed as well as the tentative meeting schedule. It will have its kickoff meeting in August and will meet monthly starting in September.*
  - *July 22, 2021 Meeting:*
    - *Presentations*
      - *Arlington Aquatics Club & DPR Aquatics – We had an Aquatics and Arlington Aquatics Club (AAC) presentation that discussed the programs and the opportunities that they offer. There were questions about the membership of AAC and how they determine who is selected to join. Apparently, there is an evaluation process for membership, however, they emphasized that this is not a “cut” sport even though they do limit membership based on the number of swimmers they can accommodate. They typically perform the “evaluations” during the summer. They also emphasized that they do not teach swimming. Prospective members need to already be able to swim to be considered for membership.*
      - *Marymount Fall Sports – Apparently, Marymount has decided to start playing NCAA softball and have been in discussions with DPR on field space for practices and games. As it stands now, Barcroft #4 is to be used as the primary field for Marymount softball for Fall and Spring seasons. There are specifics on how and when they will be able to use it. Since this is the adult slow pitch softball field, Marymount will need to install a temporary outfield fence to be compliant with NCAA softball rules for field dimensions. Marymount will be required to install and remove the fence periodically so that it does not affect the adult slow pitch softball league usage. They will also be allowed to purchase, at their own expense, a field tarp for use on the field, however, they will only be allowed to deploy it on the field on rainy days if previously approved by DPR.*
      - *Field Fund Working Group – The Sports Commission reviewed the final report from the Field Fund Working Group. It included the new fee structure and fee amounts largely structured based on time using the fields. This means that higher use teams and players like travel sports would pay a higher fee than those playing recreational sports.*

*After a short discussion. the Sports Commission voted to approve the recommendations for the new field fund.*

- *Commission Member Reports*
  - *Virginia Highlands Controversy (again) – It appears that there is no peace yet between the Aurora Highlands neighborhood and the sporting community with regard to Virginia Highlands Park and specifically the full-size softball field #3. Specifically, there was an Aurora Highlands meeting where a vote was held (5 votes for, 3 against) to send a letter to the County Board requesting that Field #3 be changed from its current shared use model of casual use and programmed use for softball to a 100% casual use designation. When word got out to the larger Aurora Highlands community, a subsequent meeting was held where a vote (38 votes for, 5 against) was held to send a contrary letter to the County Board emphasizing the preference to stay with the current shared use model. A detailed description of all of this was published in ArlNow (<https://www.arlnow.com/2021/07/22/shared-use-of-softball-fields-divides-neighbors-in-aurora-highlands/>) just prior to the Sports Commission meeting.*

## **Other Business**

- Discussion on Bird-Friendly Policies
  - PRC Vice Chair Kuppa introduced this item and Commissioner Howell provided an update on the proposed policy discussion.
  - There is a good opportunity to explore with building windows and implementation of certain bird-friendly measures. There needs to be clarifying points within current policy that could make this easier to implement in the lower levels of larger/taller buildings.
  - A few months ago, there were articles regarding significant bird die-off in the County. Is there any other data or more recent articles have been provided to expand on this? Commissioner Howell clarified that Mid-Atlantic states more broadly have this issue; it is yet to be known what the cause is (bacteria/parasite?). People have been asked to take away bird feeders and other infrastructure to prevent any further die-off. There is so far not a clear its causes.
  - There should be continued emphasis on existing habitat loss and restoration of new habitat areas for birds. This item should be incorporated within the biophilic goals of the County and the work that EcoAction Arlington is doing as well. Commissioner Howell followed up by stating that all elements in nature are important and have many benefits for humans, animals, and other living organisms. There are dozens of window treatments that go in or on the glass that are potentially valuable and effective. There are other treatments regarding size, design, angles, façade architecture, that may reduce the risk of bird strikes when it comes to designing a building. Window size is one of those considerations. It is not one-size or one-cost fits all. There are cost-effective solutions that are customizable for a condition and may be simpler and more effective.
  - Vice Chair Kuppa expressed that these measures should be adapted within new building designs and concepts moving forward.
- Letters by the PRC
  - There are no official letters to be considered at this time. There one reminder that

a letter will be sent by the PRC to the County Board on the Memorial Plaque item for Mr. Larry Finch after September's PRC meeting and vote. There may be an e-mail of support sent by the PRC to the HALRB and NCAC for their consideration. Vice Chair Kuppa will be coordinating this accordingly.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**