

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, 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 November 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.*

Follow-up Discussion on Memorial Plaque Request for Mr. Larry Finch [Diane Probus, DPR] (7:15-7:25)

- PRC Vote on Memorial Plaque Request

Tentative Dates for 2022 Park and Recreation Commission Meetings [Marco Rivero, DPR] (7:25-7:30)

- *Meetings shall be organized virtually through Microsoft Teams for the time being, unless otherwise specified. Meetings to begin at 7 p.m.*

Discussion of the 2021 PRC Year End Report and 2022 Plan of Action for the Parks and Recreation Commission [Bill Ross, Chair and Shruti Kuppa, Vice Chair] (7:30-7:45)

Staff Report (7:45-7:50)

Commission Member Reports (7:50-8:00)

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
 - *In recognition of Arlington's 55+ Program pandemic response, the program received the Best Health and Wellness Initiative award from the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society at the society's annual conference in November. Some specific 55+ programs cited in the award were addressing food insecurity with emergency meal deliveries and working to overcome social isolation by*

providing educational, fitness, wellness, and recreational programs both virtually and outdoors during the pandemic restrictions. The 55+ centers have reopened and some in person classes and programs are able to resume with continued attention to the COVID restrictions. The Winter 2021/2022 issue of the 55+ Guide was distributed via email earlier this month. The Guide is now up to 37 pages of offerings of social fun, wellness, lectures and learning, sports, and fitness. The 55+ weight rooms hours have also returned and the special pink punch ticket is no longer required (only the required 55+ Gold Pass). The 55+ hours for the weight room at Langston-Brown are: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and at Madison Community Center: 8 a.m. to 11 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Alcova Heights Park Renovations (Colt Gregory)
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award 2021 (Dean Foster/Melissa Riggio)
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Sarah Baryluk)
 - *The LRPC met last week to review the proposed plan and map revisions as well as continue discussions of the future for the fire station parcel on 10th St. The county offered alternatives for the fire station remaining, and two alternatives for if the fire station was able to be relocated. Discussion generally determined that the alternatives that allow for more park space are preferred, though there wasn't an official conclusion on the exact alternative that the LRPC recommended. The next step of the process will be the official proposal to the Planning Commission, followed by the County Board in February.*
- Community Energy Plan (Jill Barker)
 - *Implementation Framework/Roadmap: below is an excerpt from the C2E2 October minutes, "Staff received a draft [Community Energy Plan Implementation Framework] Roadmap from the contractor. This draft included comments that were submitted by EC [Energy Committee] and [Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission] C2E2 members. The strategies were reduced to 42 from 63. Staff looked through the draft and provided comments to the contractor. The contractor is bucketing the strategies into short, medium, and long-term actions. The narrative is also in development. Staff expect an update of the Roadmap from the contractor in mid-November and plan to pass along the draft to the [Climate Change, Energy and Environment] Commission shortly thereafter."*
- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Field Fund Working Group (Mark Lincoln/Adam Rasmussen)
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (David Howell)
 - *The November meeting of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission included a presentation by Matt Mattauszek of CPHD and Ryan Delaney of DPR*

on the Pentagon City Area Plan. This was the same presentation that PRC received in November. The 3rd draft of the plan was released the week following and is open for comment until December 31. FNRC considered and approved advisory letters on the Missing Middle Housing Study and the Deer Management issue. FNRC also discussed and approved, pending some edits, the annual report for 2021 and workplan for 2022.

- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)
 - *Status - 12-13-2021 Preliminary Draft Plan not yet released. Contractor lead American Forests has provided all the draft report materials and those are under review by the County. Public engagement roughly scheduled for March 2022.*
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
 - *The Four Mile Run Joint Task Force met on December 2 after a nearly 2-year hiatus. This is an advisory group made up of staff and volunteer representatives from Alexandria and Arlington to review and advise on the shared interests we have for the riparian border territory along Four Mile Run, from Shirley Highway to the Potomac River. Topics included bridge repair/replacement at East Glebe, streambed dredging, Dominion Energy undergrounding high tension lines between Rt 1 and the substation next to the water treatment plant, bridge repair/replacement in Four Mile Run park, and connections between natural areas along the stream. Another meeting is anticipated for spring.*
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
 - *Status: 12-13-2021 - Project remains in 30% design phase and needs further Public Engagement. Funding for design was approved in the CIP. Contractor will begin analysis of tailored approaches for each stream section. Project Mgr. reports a new round for Advisory Group meeting and public engagement early 2022.*
- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Construction (Colt Gregory)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Gregory/Barker/Howell)
 - *Received brief on Virginia's Invasive Plant Species Working Group. A legislative committee was formed to study the possibility of introducing legislation to curb sale of invasive plants and list new ones.*
 - *The County has successful Fall restoration planting season. County worked with Tree/Parks Stewards in placing over 2000 native plants.*
 - *Learned David Farner will be leaving his position as Deputy Division Chief, Parks and Natural Resources in Arlington and moving to Montgomery County. He will be greatly missed!*
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
- Others – George Mason University Project (Colt Gregory)
 - *Status: 12-16-2021*

- *Holding construction pre-bid conference Public hearing held to field questions from interested bidders.*
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
 - *No Updates*
- PenPlace Park Master Plan (PMP) and Design Guidelines Process (David Howell)
 - *The PenPlace Public Space Master Plan online engagement has opened again this month. The first engagement was in June. Public space design revisions have been made based on the previous online engagement and the PenPlace SPRC process. The second online engagement provides a look at the revisions and more detail on the myriad features in the 2.5 acre public space on that development project.*
- Plan Langston Boulevard (Shruti Kuppa)
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Vacant/Sergio Enriquez)
- 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)
 - Macy's (Dean Foster/Melissa Riggio)
 - *As of December 12, the development of the Macy's site in Ballston is apparently still in the preliminary development proposal stage and is not listed as an active site plan submitted for public comment and SPRC review and approval. Courtney Badger is the county planning staffer assigned to the project and at our request, she has agreed to notify Melissa Riggio, David Howell and myself of the schedule for any notices for comment and SPRC meetings on this project. We are particularly interested in the biophilic, open space (or contribution for open space), bird safety and interconnectivity of the project for pedestrians and bicyclists.*
- Marbella Apartments (David Howell)
- PenPlace (Shruti Kuppa)
 - *the PenPlace SPRC kicked off on 12/6 with an overview of building architecture and open space. Comments were provided asking the applicant to focus on the green spaces connecting the buildings to the central public area. There was also enthusiasm for the future park planning process. The recorded meeting can be found on the PenPlace project page for anyone to watch.*
- Pentagon City Sector Plan Study (Shruti Kuppa)

- *(The following is from PRC Chair Ross): On Saturday, the County Board approved advertisement of the study for final public review and a hearing scheduled for the Board's February meeting. Bill summarized the commission's letter. The commission may want to weigh in a couple areas of caution that arose from comments at the Saturday meeting. The owner representing the Brookfield properties cautioned on its ability to support the proposed width (up to 60 feet) of the Green Ribbon that might run through its property. Also, the JBG representative (owners of the very large River House property expressed concern about what it considered a very ambitious 20% tree canopy coverage goal for the study area. Finally, there was a discussion on a 15th St. protected bike lane and its possible effects on street widths and with it, width for tree streetscape. These are areas that the commission may want to weigh in on for the next round of public input.*
- Wendy's Site (Neal Hunter)
 - *SPRC was held on November 18th. Discussion was had on building standards and adherence to expectations. Focus was given towards sustainable design aspects and encouragement was made to have the applicant explicitly state their intention to incorporate bird-friendly glass within their building design. The applicant is planning to construct to LEED Gold standards with numerous affordable units incorporated within the building. Continued interest and discussion were had surrounding the community benefits portion of the SPRC. A letter was drafted to encourage the applicant to commit a per-unit monetary amount to county efforts to cultivate green space and parks within the vicinity of the project. Emphasis was placed on past precedent and success with other county partners who have contributed in such a manner.*
 - *(The following is from PRC Chair Ross): The last SPRC was held for this residential project on November 18. The major issues for the building that will be built on a very constructed space in Court House involve biophilic amenities, bird protection and the design of the small publicly-accessible plaza, the pedestrian experience this prominent crossing location, and the possible level of monetary contribution for public space improvements elsewhere in the Courthouse area. Using established precedents from other communities' policies and precedents from recent Arlington private developments, a contribution of at least \$1 million might be recommended. Bill produced a draft letter that can be reviewed by the commission in preparation for Planning Commission and County Board hearings early next year.*
- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
- Sports Commission (Mark Lincoln/Adam Rasmussen)
 - *Notes from the 11/18 meeting:*

- Field Scheduling Presentation by DPR
Greg Anselene presented the system used to schedule fields in Arlington County. There were very few comments on the system as it appears to work well.
- New Career Center Site Update
A short discussion of the progress made on the new Career Center site and that APS has selected the fourth option which had been previously specified as their preference.
- *Combating Hate in Sports Working Group (12/6 Meeting)*
 - *The majority of the meeting was focused on the results on the online survey where the members selected the sports organizations that they felt provided some of the better policies and procedures for combatting hate. The policies, procedure, and guidelines of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the National Hockey League (NHL) were clear leaders in the survey results so their policies and procedures will provide the foundation of the working group deliverables. There was also a discussion of how to get the sports organizations in Arlington County to contribute to our effort so that they feel a sense of ownership in what we produce. It was felt that doing this will result in a better outcome rather than simply mandating policies and procedures.*
- Vision Zero Action Plan Updates (Neal Hunter)
 - *The Vision Zero team has released their first mid-year action report. The report runs through crash data and safety metrics from the start of the year through July. This report continues to highlight significant problem corridors through the county and identifies a number of improvement projects that have been completed or will be completed to help ensure safety of pedestrians and cyclists. They will be having a mid-year progress and external stakeholder meeting on December 14th from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Here is the link:*
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/transportation/documents/vzac-mid-year-report-fall-2021-final.pdf>

Other Business (8:00-8:10)

- Letters to the County Board

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 7:00 p.m. (tentative date to be confirmed in early January 2022) (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)

2022 PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

TENTATIVE DATES

All meetings to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams beginning at 7:00 p.m. (unless otherwise specified).

PRC Meeting Date	County Holidays
Tuesday, January 18, 2022	<p>Friday, December 31, 2021 – New Year’s Day (Observed)</p> <p>Monday, January 17, 2022 – Martin Luther King Day</p>
Tuesday, February 22, 2022	Monday, February 21, 2022 – Presidents Day
Tuesday, March 15, 2022	
Tuesday, April 19, 2022	
Tuesday, May 24, 2022	Monday, May 30, 2022 – Memorial Day
Tuesday, June 21, 2022	Monday, June 20, 2022 – Juneteenth (Observed)
Tuesday, July 26, 2022	Monday, July 4, 2022 – Independence Day
Tuesday, August 16, 2022 or Tuesday, August 23, 2022 <i>(potential field trip day off site)</i>	
Tuesday, September 27, 2022	Monday, September 5, 2022 – Labor Day
Tuesday, October 25, 2022	
Tuesday, November 15, 2022	<p>Friday, November 11, 2022 – Veterans Day</p> <p>Thursday, November 24, 2022 and Friday, November 25, 2022 – Thanksgiving Holiday</p>
Tuesday, December 13, 2022	Friday, December 23 or 26, 2022 – Christmas Holiday (Observed)