
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL-ONLY
ARLINGTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

June 20, 2023

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, June 20, 2023.**

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)	PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa PRC Vice Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker Commissioner Sarah Baryluk Commissioner Nelson Dimpter Commissioner Sergio Enriquez Commissioner Dean Foster Commissioner Colt Gregory Commissioner Mark Lincoln Commissioner Adam Rasmussen Commissioner Melissa Riggio Commissioner Alex Sanders At-large Commissioner Nia Bagley, Planning Commission At-large Commissioner Gerald Brandt, Arlington Public Schools At-large Commissioner Elizabeth Stell, Sports Commission
ABSENT	Commissioner Peter Harnik Commissioner Gretchen Hickey Commissioner Neal Hunter
STAFF	Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison Ryan Delaney, DPR Max Ewart, DPR Walter Gonzalez, DPR Brett Wallace, CPHD
PUBLIC COMMENTERS	Bernard Berne
OTHER ATTENDEES	Ashton Allan Nayan Patel Matt Roberts Sarah Whiteley

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- [Link to Teams Recording](#)
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SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Chair's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

- *Commission consideration of the May 23 minutes.*
- *The minutes were adopted as prepared with no objections.*

Public Comment

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

No other public comment was provided at this time.

Follow-Up Discussion on Facility Naming at Highview Park (diamond field) to "Alfred Forman Sr. Field"

- PRC Vote on Facility Naming Recommendation

Max Ewart, DPR, provided a follow-up discussion on the facility naming at Highview Park for the diamond field proposed to be "Alfred Norman Sr. Field".

PRC discussion included recognition from other coordinating commissions supporting the proposed name for the diamond field. The design of the commemorative plaque was discussed, and it will be placed within a safe location within the park (PNR staff will be involved in its coordination).

- [Presentation Link](#)

The ARVA Site Plan (2201 Arlington Boulevard) Applicant Presentation and Discussion

The item began with public comment taken on this specific project:

- **Public Commenter #1: Bernard Berne** spoke on the ARVA site plan project, specifically inconsistencies within landscape plan sheets and what is being proposed for tree canopy and planting for the site. Concern about lawns proposed which are not biophilic and would not support Monarch Butterfly species among others. Native pollinator plants should be used for this site accordingly. Common Milkweed and other pollinator species should be used. Rooftop planted species should be reviewed further as well.

The Arlington Boulevard, LLC development team's Matt Roberts, Ashton Allan, Sarah Whiteley, and Nayan Patel presented on the ARVA site plan project located at 2201 Arlington Boulevard. The presentation provided an overview of the site plan development, architectural façade review, and landscaped areas proposed throughout the site and potential public space area.

PRC discussion included the public/private partnership for public space development, additional dog facilities within the private space, rooftop landscaped elements, maintenance of the space (developer-maintained public space area). A public access easement will be provided for the ultimate public space (10,000+ sq. ft.). Impermeable surfacing versus green space (final ratio/square footage number is TBD), the underground parking garage proposed will be free/clear of the public park space. Bicycle station access on the VDOT right-of-way (potential for a bicycle fix-it station). Some designed aspects of the rooftop areas will be for stormwater purposes, but there will be a blend of site plantings that will be used (this will be sunny space). General support for the public space development as part of the community benefits process. The public space will go through a developer-led engagement process but will mirror DPR engagement processes for park master planning (with staff heavily involved within the process). The rooftop area will contain two occupied roof spaces (lower and upper legs), the lower leg will contain a pool, landscaped areas for the corresponding gym, and other items. The upper leg/high roof will have an overlook, community room, grills, and landscaping to support those facilities. Tiered plantings throughout the site (ornamentals, shrubs, grasses, etc.).

- [Presentation Link](#)

Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) Update

Ryan Delaney, DPR, provided an update to the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP). Request to Advertise during Fall 2023 with full County Board discussion and consideration by the winter (targeting December 2023). Various updates to the draft plan on native planting goals (making a native plant requirement for public/private sites), tree canopy coverage goals, biophilic design, tree equity goals, among other draft goals and priority action items. There will be a 30-day engagement period which will close on 6/30 (including an online comment form), open house (last week), drop-in office hours on 6/26 and 6/28, as well as commission briefings.

PRC discussion included finding areas in the County (smaller properties, rights-of-way, school areas) where native plantings can be implemented, dark sky lighting and other targeted recommendations and responsible lighting techniques reviewed for private development projects (site plans for example).

- [Presentation Link](#)

Future of Outdoor Dining (FOOD) Study Presentation and Discussion

Brett Wallace, CPHD, provided a presentation and discussion on the FOOD Study. It is important to note that previously approved Temporary Outdoor Seating Areas (TOSAs) which were approved during the pandemic will expire on August 15, 2023. The new ordinance adopted by the County Board for these spaces will be the governing document and restaurants/businesses will need to reapply for them. The need to streamline the outdoor café process was voiced by various community members/business owners. The County currently has approximately 75 Privately-Owned Public Spaces (POPS) which equate to approximately 18 acres. This item will be discussed and acted by the County Board at its July meetings.

PRC discussion included biophilic elements incorporated within outdoor café design (planters, connecting the streetscapes with planted elements, etc.), using parking spaces for people instead of cars, privately-owned public spaces and the potential loss of green space for outdoor dining spaces (issues with potential outdoor café spaces on privately-owned public spaces that were negotiated as community benefits during the site plan/private development public review process). The study should incorporate what the standards will be for privately-owned public spaces.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Staff Reports

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) and provided an update on the PRC's field trip during its August meeting date (August 15 or 22).

Commission Member Reports

Additional items discussed during this section included:

- No other specific updates provided by PRC members.

Other Business

- Letters to the County Board ***(First four items will be considered by the County Board at its July 15 or 18, 2023 meetings; FNRP Update PRC letter should be provided prior to July 1).***
 - Highview Park – Diamond Field Naming to “Alfred Forman Sr. Field”
 - PRC Chair Kuppa will be writing this letter. Editing committee: Commissioner Rasmussen and Foster.
 - The ARVA Site Plan
 - Commissioner Rasmussen will be writing this letter. Editing committee: PRC Chair Kuppa, Commissioner Baryluk, Commissioner Sanders, and Commissioner Dimpter.
 - FOOD Study
 - PRC Chair Kuppa will be writing this letter. Editing committee: Commissioner Riggio and PRC Vice Chair Barker.
 - Bingham Center/Silver Diner Site Plan
 - Commissioner Baryluk will be writing this letter. Editing committee: PRC Chair Kuppa and Commissioner Rasmussen.
 - FNRP Update
 - PRC Vice Chair Barker will be writing this letter. Editing committee: Commissioner Baryluk and Gregory.
 - Potential Pickleball Opportunities
 - **Table this conversation to a later date.**

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

PRC Chair Kuppa moved that the Commission recommend to the County Board that the new park facility name (diamond field) at Highview Park be “Alfred Forman Sr. Field”.

- Commissioner Baryluk seconded the motion.
- The Commission unanimously supported the motion **9-0** (of those PRC members who attended the meeting at that time).

Meeting adjourned at **8:53 p.m.**