
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE HYBRID
ARLINGTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

September 19, 2023

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023.**

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)	PRC Vice Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker Commissioner Sarah Baryluk Commissioner Nelson Dimpter Commissioner Colt Gregory Commissioner Mark Lincoln Commissioner Adam Rasmussen Commissioner Melissa Riggio Commissioner Alex Sanders At-large Commissioner Gerald Brandt, Arlington Public Schools
PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)	<i>Commissioner Sergio Enriquez, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due to a personal matter that prevented their physical attendance.</i> <i>Commissioner Dean Foster, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due to a personal matter that prevented their physical attendance.</i>
ABSENT	Gretchen Hickey Neal Hunter PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa
STAFF	Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed, CPHD Michael Cullen, DPR Max Ewart, DPR Walter Gonzalez, DPR Irena Lazic, DPR Nick Rogers, CPHD
PUBLIC COMMENTERS	William Barratt (only written comment) Anne Bodine
OTHER ATTENDEES	Gary Shinnars Ryan Bouma

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- [Link to Teams Recording](#)

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Chair's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Commission consideration of the August 15, 2023 minutes.
- The minutes were adopted as prepared with no objections (*in-person quorum was achieved at 7:10 p.m.*).

Public Comment

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

- **Public Commenter #1: William Barratt (Mr. Barratt was not present at this evening's meeting, however PRC Vice Chair, Jill Barker summarized Mr. Barratt's comments),** spoke on the draft Langston Boulevard Area Plan on behalf of Rivendell School, a small private school which has operated in Arlington since 1989, serving about 150 K-8 students, many of whom are Arlington residents. Particularly, any effects associated with the Lee Center.
- **Public Commenter #2: Anne Bodine,** spoke on the draft Langston Boulevard Area Plan regarding building density and infill development in particular and how many of the proposal may be in conflict with other Comprehensive Plan goals. Missing middle housing priorities and its relation to proposed density along this corridor was discussed.

Plan Langston Boulevard Presentation and Discussion

Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed, CPHD provided a presentation on the Plan Langston Boulevard efforts and the current process to date. A discussion on the proposed public space framework was also provided.

The PRC discussion included public plaza development and how they can be developed as actual public space for the community (any effects from potential outdoor café use or other private activation efforts). Land acquisition efforts for public space and considerations for the County to acquire/purchase publicly owned land. Potentially through excess public right-of-way or other neighboring properties that may be considered. Green spaces vs. park/public spaces and what that actually means within the proposed plan. Privately-owned public space development and maintenance of these spaces by private developers and how that may affect uses/amenities that may be designed and maintained accordingly. Tree canopy coverage and considerations within the draft plan. Tree canopy coverage targets will be defined further within the draft plan.

Additional density envisioned within the corridor will require additional opportunities for park and public space development. Definition of classifications of "green spaces", would this be a consideration? Pedestrian crossings and other walkthrough areas within the very busy Langston Boulevard (and are there opportunities for additional green/public spaces there). Added street trees, bicycle lanes, green buffers, additional crosswalks, and improving key intersections for safety purposes. Encouraging the use of transit through Langston Boulevard (reducing the headways so that buses travel the corridor more expediently). Public space use for stormwater mitigation is important for various environmental considerations (opportunities for stronger language within the draft plan for greater stormwater goals). Traffic considerations for the corridor and analysis regarding additional density considerations and changed traffic flow (using the MWCOC model). Net increase of 10,000 units is projected within this draft plan. The impacts of additional families/people within the corridor and active recreational spaces for people of all ages. Community center redevelopment (effects of the Lee Center in Arlington).

Request to Advertise (RTA) draft for the plan will come in late September and County Board consideration of the RTA will occur in October (potential consideration of a follow-up presentation on developments after the RTA for the October PRC meeting).

- [Presentation Link](#)

Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Processes Presentation and Discussion

Nick Rogers, CPHD, Walter Gonzalez and Irena Lazic, DPR provided a presentation on the use permits for public spaces design processes. Policy considerations were detailed further for additional zoning flexibility. Smaller amenities within parks/public spaces currently have setback allowances already embedded within the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO) as of March 2023. County Board public hearing and action is proposed to occur in December 2023.

The PRC discussion included case-by-case considerations for zoning flexibility within parks/public spaces. Design changes for public spaces may be needed for park development. Going further for public space development flexibility (not through the use permit process). Defining a structure for setbacks and heights that may be considered for a Phase 3 consideration (taking it out of the use permit process altogether). Flag poles and their considerations within public spaces and how they may be implemented where no main buildings are located.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Review of 2022 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award Process and Awardee

- *PRC Vote on Awardee*

2022 Awards Committee Chair, Commissioner Riggio provided a brief update to the PRC on the process and the proposed awardee to Beth Kiser.

The PRC discussion included potentially separating individuals versus groups for the awards.

Staff Reports

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), including confirmation of a reception for the awardees from the last three years at the County Board's October recessed meeting.

Commission Member Reports

Additional items discussed during this section included:

- Vice Chair Barker provided an update on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) and what has been discussed to date.
- Commissioner Baryluk provided an update on the NRJAG discussion regarding the Community Energy Plan (CEP) update, potentially revitalizing the plan to include overall climate change adaptation and resilience (potentially a climate action plan). Former PRC Commissioner David Howell provided more discussion at NRJAG (building a comprehensive plan element for this initiative).

Other Business

- Vice Chair Barker recognized Commissioner Colt Gregory's influence on the PRC for the past five years as he will be stepping down this month.
- Letters to the County Board
 - Plan Langston Boulevard (Shruti Kuppa/Jill Barker)
 - It was discussed that PRC Chair Shruti Kuppa will compose the letter with Commissioner Baryluk serving on the review committee.
 - Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Processes (Shruti Kuppa/Adam Rasmussen)
 - It was discussed that PRC Chair Shruti Kuppa will compose the letter with serving on the review committee.
 - 2022 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award
 - It was discussed that Commissioners Melissa Riggio, Nelson Dimpter, and Alex Sanders will compose the letter for the 2022 awardee.
- Clarendon Presbyterian Special GLUP Study (PRC Participation: Primary & Alternate)
 - It was discussed that Vice Chair Jill Barker and Commissioner Sarah Baryluk will participate in this process.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

PRC Member Melissa Riggio moved that the Commission recommend to the County Board that Beth Kiser be named the winner of the 2022 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award.

- Commissioner Rasmussen 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 **9:03 p.m.**