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

October 24, 2023

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023.**

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)	PRC Vice Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker Commissioner Sarah Baryluk Commissioner Nelson Dimpter Commissioner Dean Foster Commissioner Mark Lincoln Commissioner Claire Pascocello Commissioner Adam Rasmussen Commissioner Melissa Riggio Commissioner Alex Sanders Commissioner Gary Shinnars At-large Commissioner Gerald Brandt, Arlington Public Schools
ABSENT	PRC Chair, Shruti Kuppa Sergio Enriquez Gretchen Hickey Neal Hunter
STAFF	Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed, CPHD Michael Cullen, DPR Ryan Delaney, DPR Irena Lazic, DPR
PUBLIC COMMENTERS	Jean Henceroth
OTHER ATTENDEES	None

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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 September 19 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.*

- **Public Commenter #1: Jean Henceroth (of the Leeway Overlee Civic Association)**, spoke on the draft Langston Boulevard Area Plan and specifically the former Lee Community Center. Ms. Henceroth asked that the County conduct a short- and long-term evaluation of the community center and its associated park. There is a need for art studio and other community-centered amenities within this part of the County. Destruction of native tree canopy and other green space is an issue for this area.

Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) Update (Follow-Up Presentation and Discussion)

Ryan Delaney, DPR provided an update on the FNRP efforts and the current process to date. Mr. Delaney also explained edits to the current draft of the FNRP guided by community discussion and engagement (this also included refined strategic directions).

The PRC discussion included increased metrics for the implementations proposed and deer management plan overlap. Mr. Delaney will check in with the project manager for the deer management plan effort to find out more about how this effort relates with the recommendations proposed within the draft FNRP.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Plan Langston Boulevard Follow-Up Discussion

Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed, CPHD provided a follow-up presentation and discussion on the Plan Langston Boulevard efforts and the current process to date. Ms. Alfonso-Ahmed further explained the various frameworks including but not limited to future land use, building form and height, public spaces, among others. The presentation also detailed which proposed policies were removed, including implementation recommendations for those policies still on the draft plan.

The PRC discussion included the proposed tree canopy goal (35%) and how that may be in conflict with what is being proposed in the draft FNRP Countywide (40%). Ms. Alfonso-Ahmed discussed the importance of accomplishing 40% for the majority of the sites but also review how these goals may be tiered based on the parcel sizes. Ms. Irena Lazic, DPR, added the similarities with the tools that were provided within the Pentagon City Sector Plan (PCSP) which also functioned as part of a tiered approach (where more plantable spaces are possible). Increased density proposed means that there may be a need for additional athletic facilities. Ms. Alfonso-Ahmed detailed that the analysis of additional athletic facilities may need to be explored further as part of a future planning process associated with the Langston Boulevard corridor area. This may include repurposing or rethinking of existing site as well. There is also the need for additional parcels needed for affordable housing opportunities. Lee Center changes and envisioning how that space may be used is supported by the PLB (for public space purposes and others, but the timing for when that will be explored may need to be discussed further by the County Board.

Removing certain planning districts within Housing Conservation District (HCD) areas within the PLB planning district. The issue of active, public space amenities not being planned for clearly within the plan and this needs to be prioritized within the proposed plan. This cannot be addressed with Publicly Owned Private Spaces (POPS). Conversion of POPS as more active amenities. Ms. Lazic detailed that site plan/master planning development processes will determine what amenities are proposed for any planned, public space area. For any site plan development in the future, they need to be planned closely

with the PRC and the community to assess the various amenities (including those recommendations within the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)).

- [Presentation Link](#)

Staff Reports

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), including an oral update on the Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award recognition ceremony and reception on Tuesday, 11/14.

Commission Member Reports

Additional items discussed during this section included:

- PRC Vice Chair Barker spoke about the Gulf Branch Stream Restoration effort and a walk-around meeting that will occur tomorrow evening, including any issues that have been raised. There is a potential sewer issue with this area. Also, the change from “restoration” to “revitalization” effort may have significant environmental impacts. Commissioner Sanders detailed some of the issues related to stormwater management that may be associated with this effort.

Other Business

- Letters to the County Board
 - Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (December 2023)
 - PRC Vice Chair Barker will update the submitted letter to the CB. PRC Chair Kuppa and Commissioner Baryluk will serve on the review committee.
 - Plan Langston Boulevard (November 2023)
 - PRC Vice Chair Barker will compose the letter, and Commissioners Baryluk and Sanders will be on the review committee.
 - Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Processes (November 2023)
 - Commissioner Rasmussen will compose the letter and PRC Chair Kuppa will also review.
- Goodwill Site Plan (PRC Participation: Primary and Alternate)
 - Commissioner Sanders (primary) and Commissioner Rasmussen (alternate).
- River House Neighborhood Site Plan (PRC Participation: Alternate)
 - Commissioner Shinnars (alternate).
- Pentagon Centre Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP) (PRC Participation: Primary and Alternate)
 - PRC Vice Chair Barker (primary), Commissioner Baryluk (alternate), Commissioner Shinnars (alternate #2).
- Community Energy Plan (potential change to Climate Action Plan)

- Redoing the CEP should involve a greater opportunity for a Climate Action Plan, and the PRC generally supports this effort. However, there may be consideration to continue to invest resources to existing plans given limited staff resources.
- PRC Vice Chair Barker will discuss concerns (native plants, stormwater, park space, etc.) with the NRJAG.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

No motions and actions (with documented votes) were taken on any items presented at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at **8:47 p.m.**