

December 12, 2023

Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission 2024 Work Plan

Dear Chair Dorsey,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) appreciates the opportunity to update the County Board on the commission's work plan for 2024, including our priority areas and ongoing objectives:

Participate in park, public space and recreation facilities planning processes: PRC members will continue to participate in design, park renovation, and park restoration processes. We will discuss proposals for park name changes and memorial benches and plaques, as necessary, while participating in ongoing discussions and provide advice concerning revisions to the county policies. In an effort to educate our commissioners and, improve our ability to both evaluate and support Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), the commission will continue to schedule presentations from staff on parks and recreation topics during our monthly meetings. In 2024, we will build off of the learnings from the Stormwater Management Zoning study and Gulf Branch Stream Resiliency Project by continuing to advocate for thoughtful design and proper treatment of open space and stormwater management.

Assist DPR with Planning, Resourcing, Budgeting, the Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC), and Land Acquisition: The commission notes that an important responsibility is to offer the board advice on DPR program planning and budgeting. We will continue to review and provide suggestions on the department's proposed budget for FY 2024. As in years past, the commission supports striking a balance between natural resource preservation and sports/recreation programs. As part of the PSMP-IAC, we will continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2019 PSMP paying special attention to potential cooperation and enhancement of partnerships with NOVA Parks and National Parks Service whose lands comprise a large amount of open public space in Arlington. Finally, we will review the PSMP to offer advice on coordinating its directives with CIP priorities, with an emphasis on the need for additional land acquisition, coordinated storm water/open space planning, and the fulfillment of longstanding master park planning goals. The commission will pursue its ongoing interest in promoting additional land acquisition for parks, recreation and open, public space. We look forward to the county's application of the specific land acquisition guidelines, ideas and strategies incorporated in the PSMP. In 2024, we will look for ways to emphasize the interconnections between important sustainability initiatives in the county including the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP), Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Community Energy Plan (CEP), and other upcoming engagements.

Apply Design Guidelines, Needs Assessment and Biophilic Principles to County and Private Open Space Projects: The commission's ongoing participation in the Site Plan Review, Public Facility Review and other county planning processes ensures that each new development is part of a collective whole to address area parks, public space and recreation needs. The urban design guidelines included in the PSMP should assist in short term development and long term planning as we consider anticipated population increases and demographic changes in our community. We will continue to work with county staff, developers, and other commissions to apply biophilic principles, as represented by the county's April 2020 joining of the Biophilic Cities Network, in public and private planning and design processes. PRC members will continue active representation on the Public Facilities Review (Career Center) and Site Plan Review Committees

Commission Members

Shruti Kuppa
Jill Barker
Sarah Baryluk
Nelson Dimpter
Dean Foster
Colt Gregory
Gretchen Hickey
Neal Hunter
Mark Lincoln
Claire Pascocello
Adam Rasmussen
Melissa Riggio
Alex Sanders

(SPRC). Major PRC themes will involve the attainment of suitable community benefits in the form of cash contributions, land donations, or development of publicly accessible private parks and plazas.

Stormwater management

Participate in Community Involvement and Engagement: The commission will continue to take an active role in responding to community concerns involving park and recreation center planning, usage, and maintenance opportunities. We will listen to residents and confer with DPR staff to get constituent issues raised. We also look forward to enhanced discussions with civic groups, sports organizations and other community groups on issues of mutual interest.

Enhance coordination with other commissions and committees on areas of overlapping interest: PRC will continue to seek opportunities to work on issues of mutual interest with other commissions including the Sports, Forestry and Natural Resources, Planning, Natural Resources Joint Advisory, Climate Change, Energy and Environment, Arts, Joint Facilities, the Pedestrian Advisory, the Bicycle Advisory, and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committees.

Adjudicate the Bill Thomas Award: We continue to seek out and honor citizen volunteers who make meaningful contributions to our parks and public spaces.

We appreciate having this opportunity to share our 2024 work plan with you.

Sincerely,

Shruti Kuppa



Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation