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

February 20, 2024

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, February 20, 2024.**

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)	PRC Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker PRC Vice Chair, Commissioner Shruti Kuppaa Commissioner Sarah Baryluk Commissioner Nelson Dimpter Commissioner Mark Lincoln Commissioner Claire Pascocello Commissioner Adam Rasmussen Commissioner Melissa Riggio Commissioner Alex Sanders Commissioner Gary Shinnars At-large Commissioner Gerald Brandt, APS At-large Commissioner Elizabeth (Lizzy) Stell, Sports Commission
PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)	None
ABSENT	Commissioner Dean Foster Commissioner Neal Hunter
STAFF	Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison Michael Cullen, DPR
PUBLIC COMMENTERS	Beth Kiser
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 January 16 minutes.*
- *The January 16 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.*

- **Beth Kiser**, spoke and presented on the potential for stormwater management improvements associated with Woodlawn Park and its association with the Lubber Run watershed improvements that have been discussed to date. The stormwater detention vault explored for the park would be large and expensive. There are concerns from neighbors expressed including but not limited to: concentration of flood risk for homes abutting the park, some of which are already in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain and are in the Resource Protection Area (RPA). A 2-3 year loss of the portion of the park proposed for this feature would disrupt adjacent neighbors. Finally, the process did not include engagement of other County experts, other County priorities such as the adopted, Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) and tree canopy considerations or investigation of non-vault alternatives.

PRC Discussion of the County's Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Operations Budget

PRC Chair, Jill Barker and the PRC discussed the FY2025 Operations Budget in more detail. Many of the items discussed included the potential topics raised related to the creation of the budget details. Tax increase action prior to budget report? Other items included potential for trail maintenance and other volunteer activities may ease budget concerns. Volunteerism within Arlington Public Schools (APS) and having opportunities for high schoolers and others participating accordingly within the County's parks and public spaces/facilities. Perspective of recreational sports and Full Time Employees (FTEs) involved and how potential cuts may affect these programs (the potential for volunteers to support here as well). There may be potential fee increases to cover the various programs (especially based on demand from the community). Tax increase, revenue increase, and other areas will need to be addressed accordingly in the PRC's budget letter. Close out funding (end of the year funding), and how this may be used for parks and recreation needs (i.e., potentially using for land acquisition purposes). Potentially providing a co-signed letter with various commissions and community organizations emphasizing equity, education, public health, schools, among others.

Quick Discussion of PRC and Sports Commission (SC) Items of Joint Interest

PRC Chair, Jill Barker and PRC Vice Chair, Shruti Kuppa discussed the potential items of joint interest for the March 19 PRC and Sports Commission joint meeting. These items include but are not limited to: (1) Athletic Field Availability Project (Follow-Up) (potentially staff-led and joint commission discussion); (2) Function of PRC/SC; (3) Separate and Mutual Interests (joint commission discussion); (4) Arlington 2050: Envisioning Tomorrow Together (SC Chair, John Mingus will lead discussion); and (5) Ball Recycling Programs (joint commission discussion).

The PRC discussion included a discussion on the Athletic Field Availability Project and the statistics associated with what metrics were used and how data has been relayed. Related to ball recycling (tennis balls) potentially the County or tennis clubs can sponsor tennis recycling boxes which would then be collected for processing by another organization/entity. Potentially, review the County's tennis court reservation page to see if something can be addressed there, and potentially coordinating how this may be related to the County's Vision Zero program. Potentially a sixth item (or within the function of PRC/SC item) on how DPR functions/communicates/collaborates with APS. This plays a larger role with school/facility closures as they are related to climate-related closures. MOUs between DPR, high schools, and colleges for the use of play fields (potential sixth/seventh) item. Ex-Officio Commissioner Member, Lizzy Stell also provided some insight on the field/facility coordination and communication challenges between the County and APS. Discussion on the prioritization process for use of facilities and how that discussion is had between the County and APS. An eighth item potentially is the Combating

Hate in Sports Working Group and progress on its work. A report out to both commissions may be helpful (by the Sports Commission).

Staff Reports

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), with no additional items presented. PRC Vice Chair Kuppa reiterated the meeting location (Lubber Run Community Center, Multipurpose Room #121) and new time (6:30 p.m.) for the joint PRC/SC meeting on Tuesday, March 19.

Commission Member Reports

Additional items discussed during this section included:

- PRC project/committee assignments were discussed further. The following assignments were made:
 - YMCA Site – 3400 13th Street North, new primary contact will be Melissa Riggio taking over for Sarah Baryluk who will be stepping down on the PRC this month.

Other Business

- Letters to the County Board
 - FY 2025 Operating Budget Letter
 - PRC Chair Jill Barker will draft the letter, and PRC Vice Chair Shruti Kuppa will serve as editor.
 - PRC members will be able to contribute as needed.
- PRC Discussion on Natural Surface Trails Study (First Online Engagement is available through Thursday, 2/22)
 - PRC discussion included the assessment of trails through Arlington County. This is still in its initial phase of public feedback and information gathering.
- Initial PRC Discussion on Site Plan Rubric Document
 - Potential collaboration with Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (FNRC) on SPRC review.
 - PRC discussion included how assignments are provided and how the PRC can provide organized feedback back to the SPRC/staff on various projects (this is a process that may be similar to what the FNRC does). Commissioner Shinnors mentioned that there is much overlap between the PRC and the FNRC on the issues/opportunities that should be discussed for any project. This may also include coordination of commission letters among the various groups and how this may minimize conflicts or other points of contention that need resolution. Commissioner Shinnors will help coordinate this effort with the PRC commission members assigned to any of the site plan projects.
 - Commissioner Dimpter provided an overview on the Barcroft Apartments Land Use Analysis Process and how that may impact what the PRC reviews for this effort.
 - Alignment with sector plan and General Land Use Plan (GLUP) guidance (and potentially addressing conflicts when it does not).
 - Existing site characteristics (existing useable green/public space, how it may be transformed, and what the expectations are).

- Potentially creating a Google document of the draft checklist so PRC members may provide edits/comments.
- Providing a list of concrete examples of how biophilic elements may be manifested into the projects (biophilic element list from the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP)).
- Providing for website comment ahead of time during SPRC online engagement opportunities prior to the structured SPRC meetings for “public space” development and other topics.
- Woodlawn Park and Related Lubber Run Watershed Improvements (DES Project)
 - PRC discussion included potentially getting an explanation/presentation on this effort from staff at the April PRC meeting (and how this relates to other potential projects/sites within the County).
 - Top Soccer (Arlington Soccer Association) organization run activities there (spring, summer, fall) at Woodlawn Park’s open field for mentally/physically disabled children. New stormwater vault facility activity may hamper what occurs here for a significant period of time.
 - There have been similar issues with use coordination between APS and the County when facilities are reserved (particularly at Cardinal Elementary School).
 - Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) approved funding for Lubber Run funding provides a greater breakdown of how this has been allocated and potentially implemented throughout the watershed area.
 - Potential discussion from DES on larger versus smaller infrastructure projects that may assist with stormwater management (coordination, budget consideration, design/implementation, maintenance).
- PRC Recruitment Opportunities
 - PRC discussion included potential applications for PRC recruits and the County’s support for this effort (especially within underrepresented communities).

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

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

Meeting adjourned at **8:58 p.m.**