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

October 22, 2024

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, October 22, 2024.**

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)

PRC Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker
Commissioner Erika Allen
Commissioner Andrew Damitio
Commissioner Neal Hunter
Commissioner Shruti Kupp
Commissioner Mark Lincoln
Commissioner Melissa Riggio
PRC Vice Chair, Gary Shinn
At-large Commissioner Nia Bagley, Planning Commission
At-large Commissioner Lizzy Stell, Sports Commission

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)

Commissioner Daniel Garay, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due to an illness that prevented their physical attendance.

Commissioner Claire Pascocello, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due to an illness that prevented their physical attendance.

Commissioner Adam Rasmussen, participated virtually from Virginia (via Microsoft Teams) due a personal matter that prevented their physical attendance.

ABSENT

Commissioner Nelson Dimpter
Commissioner Andreana Lin
Commissioner Alex Sanders
Commissioner William (Will) Way

STAFF

Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison
Bethany Heim, DPR
Walter Gonzalez, DPR
John Marlin, DPR
Aileen Winquist, DES

PUBLIC COMMENTERS

Bernard Berne

OTHER ATTENDEES

Gabriela Cañamar Clark
 Suhang Liu
 Karolina Pazdrazdis
 Dolores Navia
 Mary Senn
 Luke Takashima
 Kedrick Whitmore

- [Link to Teams Recording](#)

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS*Chair's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes*

- *Commission consideration of the September 24 minutes.*
 - *The September 24 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: Dr. Bernard Berne**, spoke about the Harris Teeter public space naming process. As the president of the Buckingham Community Civic Association (BCCA), he detailed that the BCCA voted on July 27 to recommend the naming of the park that will be constructed at 624 N. Glebe Road in accordance with the Harris Teeter site plan as "Buckingham Pollinator Park". The park will be within the BCCA's neighborhood. On August 21, the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) also voted to recommend the naming of the park as "Buckingham Pollinator Park". On September 12, the Arlington Neighborhood Committee (ArNAC) similarly voted to recommend the naming of the park as "Buckingham Pollinator Park".

The park will be located on the former sites of an automobile dealership's parking lot and a halfway house. It will be outside of the Buckingham Village Historic District. As the site never contained any of the Village's buildings or grounds, it has no significant historical importance. The Park and Recreation Commission will consider the following three names that County staff and Southeastern Company have proposed for this park: (1) Buckingham Pollinator Park, (2) Buckingham Meadow Park, and (3) Buckingham Garden Park. All three names identify the Buckingham neighborhood. The first name also emphasizes the importance of adding plants within the park and neighborhood that will increase populations of monarch butterflies and other native pollinators. Those populations have declined within the County because of its development and urbanization. The Buckingham neighborhood now mostly contains townhouses, multifamily dwellings, and grassy lawns. As a result, the neighborhood does not have many such plants. BCCA members supported the name "Buckingham Pollinator Park" because the park will help the neighborhood restore its historic pollinator populations. The park's so-called "Pollinator Meadow Zone" will be quite narrow. It is not likely to resemble an actual meadow. The name "Buckingham Meadow Park" would therefore not be appropriate for the park. The park will not contain a garden. The name "Buckingham Garden Park" would therefore not be appropriate for the park. Please therefore vote to recommend that the County Board name the park "Buckingham Pollinator Park".

Harris Teeter Site Plan, Public Space Naming – Follow-Up Discussion

- *PRC Vote on Proposed Name*

Walter Gonzalez, DPR and Mary Senn, Southeastern Company presented an information item for the proposed naming of the Harris Teeter site plan public space area.

PRC discussion included but was not limited to the discussion on supporting the proposed name “Buckingham Pollinator Park” for the proposed public space area. It is an appropriate name that provides context for what will be found within the public space and that the neighborhood, the ArNAC, and the HALRB all support this name. There would be an opportunity to provide wayfinding/signage as an opportunity for educational purposes as well.

The PRC nominated the name “Buckingham Pollinator Park” for County Board consideration, with Commissioner Damitio moving to approve the nomination, seconded by PRC Vice Chair Shinnars. The vote was **10-0 (of those attending in person and virtually at the time of adoption).**

- [Presentation Link](#)

Crystal City Block W Site Plan Presentation and Discussion

JBG Smith, represented by Karolina Pazdrazdis and Dolores Navia, as well as Gabriela Cañamar Clark from LandDesign provided a presentation and discussion on the proposed, Crystal City Block W development project, the private open space development, and how it affects public space development adjacent to the site (as part of the Crystal City Sector Plan’s vision for “Park #13 – Crystal Park”) with approximately 38,000 square feet of public space. In addition, the applicant team addressed coordinated frontage along the park and how it would frame the future public space.

PRC discussion included but was not limited to discussion on the development area’s evolution through the SPRC process and how greener/biophilic spaces were incorporated accordingly. Providing for primarily, native plantings within the site would be important to coordinate further. Other discussion points were the connection between proposed retail and the future public space area, incorporation of bird-friendly glass on the building, and tree pit depths on Crystal Drive (developer will have a 6-foot landscape buffer). The development team detailed that there will be a continuous landscape zone along Crystal Drive. Furthermore, 40 Electric Vehicle (EV) parking spaces will be provided. Additionally, Mr. Rivero detailed what the future park master planning process could be and what coordination will be needed with the development team, the community, and the various County commissions (including the PRC). Pedestrian and vehicular crossings were discussed further as part of the PRC discussion. Finally, dog relief areas within the development area are welcomed. The development team also clarified that the park easement area that will be provided to the County in a contiguous condition and Mr. Rivero clarified that it will be considering the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP), Level of Service analysis, the Crystal City Sector Plan (CCSP) guidance, and current usage for master planning purposes as well. Finally, proposed, bicycle parking (location and number) was discussed further. The PRC will be drafting a letter to the County Board for this project.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Deer Management Project Update and Discussion

John Marlin, DPR provided a project update and discussion on the Deer Management Project and its next steps. New information provided includes the formulation of a management plan by January 2025 and associated activities through the year, by winter 2025/2026 professional sharpshooting will commence and there will be community outreach as necessary before these activities occur. The County Board will vote on November 16 to consider the Deer Management Program formally.

PRC discussion included but was not limited to the proposed strategies that will be implemented for deer management and reiterating the process moving forward.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Stormwater Management Projects Update

Aileen Winquist, DES provided a presentation and discussion on various, County stormwater management projects and initiatives. Discussion points included strategies for reducing flood risk including but not limited to enlarging stormwater pipes/secondary pipes, adding storm drain inlets, stormwater detention, property acquisition, and potential for multi-purpose use of public lands.

PRC discussion included but was not limited to how new detention facilities are being tracked for effectiveness (usually through sensors tracking activity), and this is specifically being used at the Cardinal Elementary School stormwater vault. Water quality can be managed in diverse ways with smaller facilities which improve water quality and reducing runoff and quantity with larger facilities with the goal reduce flooding. Other opportunities include the voluntary property acquisition program and coordination with DPR on how to provide for these opportunities especially for the County's public spaces/lands. Ms. Winquist detailed that flood resilient design and construction standards will likely be developed for residential/commercial development purposes.

Land acquisition (land area, money provided, and County classification for public space purposes within the PSMP), Ms. Winquist detailed that 7 residential lots were acquired as part of the County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and will be managed by the DES accordingly with coordination with DPR. Potential for the PRC to work with DES staff on the potential flood resilient design/construction guide and how this can inform private development and future proposals. Could this be discussed as part of the community benefits negotiation for future development? Opportunity for Spout Run Parkway redevelopment along Langston Boulevard and how that can be incorporated for a future stormwater vault (as part of implementation of Plan Langston Boulevard). Finally, residential stormwater credits and the credit program were discussed further. Lot coverage percentages are governed by the Zoning Ordinance, and they provide some influence on stormwater management implementation. The County Board will likely be reconsidering these issues in the future.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Staff Reports

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC). Mr. Rivero reiterated a new park master planning effort for Metro Market Square in Crystal City and its first

engagement opportunity (open house) occurring tomorrow evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at 251 18th Street South (Conference Rooms A and B).

Commission Member Reports

Additional items discussed during this section included:

- PRC project/committee assignments were discussed further. The following assignments were made:
 - **Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) will now be assigned to PRC Vice Chair Shinnars.**
- PRC Chair Barker discussed the on-going work regarding the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) Transportation Advisory Group and Commissioner Garay's work on this effort.

Other Business

- Letters to the County Board
 - Harris Teeter Public Space Naming
 - The PRC will send a letter on this effort to the County Board, and it will be authored by PRC Chair Barker.
 - Crystal City Block W Site Plan
 - The PRC will send a letter on this effort to the County Board, and it will be authored by Commissioners Pascoello and Kuppa.
 - Deer Management Project Updated Letter
 - The PRC will send an updated letter on this effort to the County Board, and it will be authored by PRC Chair Barker.
- PRC Representation to the Sports Commission
 - Commissioner Lincoln detailed that there should be PRC representation on the Sports Commission, and Commissioner Rasmussen will be taking on that role after Commissioner Lincoln steps down from the PRC in November.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

As recorded earlier in the meeting, the PRC moved **10-0 (of those attending in person and virtually at the time of adoption)** to nominate the name "Buckingham Pollinator Park" for the new Harris Teeter public space.

Meeting adjourned at **9:05 p.m.**