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

March 19, 2024

The **Park and Recreation Commission (PRC)** and the **Sports Commission (SC)** convened their meeting at **6:30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024.**

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)

PRC Members Only

PRC Chair, Jill Barker
Commissioner Andreama Lin
Commissioner Mark Lincoln
Commissioner Adam Rasmussen
Commissioner Melissa Riggio
Commissioner Alex Sanders
Commissioner Gary Shinnars
At-large Commissioner Elizabeth (Lizzy) Stell, Sports Commission*

**At-large Commissioner Stell joined officially as a member of the Sports Commission.*

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)

At-large Commissioner Gerald Brandt, APS

ABSENT

Nelson Dimpter
Dean Foster
Neal Hunter
PRC Vice Chair, Shruti Kuppa
Claire Pascoello

STAFF

Tyler Remerow, DPR, SC Staff Liaison
Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison
Michael Cullen, DPR
Jennifer Fioretti, DPR
Kisha Holland, DPR
Meghan Lawler, DPR
Jane Rudolph, DPR

PUBLIC COMMENTERS

None

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- [Link to Teams Recording](#)
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SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

PRC and SC Chairs' Introduction and Ice Breaker

- The PRC and SC chairs provided introductory remarks and an ice breaker was done where commissioners detailed their favorite park, facility, or public space.
- FY2025 Budget Letters (PRC and SC): Staff acknowledged that each commission will be authoring their own letters associated with the FY2025 Budget.

Public Comment

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

- No public comments were provided at this meeting.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Presentation and Discussion

Jane Rudolph, DPR, presented on the DPR Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget. The discussion included DPR expenses, revenue, budget changes, reductions, additions, proposed capital projects, and next steps for consideration by the County Board (including public hearing dates and adoption dates).

- [Presentation Link](#)

SC and PRC Discussion Only Topics (small group discussions followed by large group discussion)

1. *Athletic Field Availability Project Follow-Up Discussion (Next Steps)*
2. *Function of PRC/SC*
3. *Arlington 2050: Envisioning Tomorrow Together*
4. *Ball Recycling Programs*
5. *Report out on the Promise Working Group and Next Steps*

Discussion Item #1: PRC and SC discussion focused on QR codes are good ideas (as well as with usage for casual use users), encourage coaches/leagues to use it more often; better automation tracking utilization of fields and for up-to-date information provided for constituent groups, tracking the demand of use accordingly; questions about who is not getting the spaces they want and availability, use of turf field when it rains, tracking weather; pilot will provide useful data, but the scale needs to be at a more significant level to provide more meaningful data.

Discussion Item #2: PRC and SC discussion focused on notification process gaps should be resolved, regarding the MOUs there are various points of view regarding their implementation; consensus to continue to provide information sharing between DPR/APS on field cancellations, among other related items; do something with technology to notify people about inclement weather events; potential for centralized software/dashboard to collect information about field usage (potentially consolidating how these processes are done), "pre-hold" on certain facilities (an early warning of what facilities may be used).

Discussion Item #3: PRC and SC discussion focused on connecting the County to the river (the Arlington Boathouse project can provide that) especially for community use, fields at Long Bridge can provide additional access as well; there is a general lack of awareness by some/continue to learn; coming up with ways to create recreational spaces in locations that may not normally be considered (i.e., using

parking decks, etc.); not much information has been put out to the general public overall, the County can put more information (i.e., questionnaire, engagement opportunities).

Discussion Item #4: PRC and SC discussion focused on issues related to litter and secondary use of tennis balls by dogs/dog owners; considerations on staff time associated with this, potential data collection on this; potentially reaching out to the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to have more information provided (both PRC and SC); challenges with resources being used for low payoff, large recycling containers within the County can potentially provide opportunities to recycle tennis balls other sports equipment, but the County would need to take a greater role in this overall.

Discussion Item #5: PRC and SC discussion focused on providing further information and work related to the work group's activities; people are interested on an update on where the group is currently (it will be on the April agenda for the Sports Commission); provide guidance to youth organizations to take on these challenges and provide guidance to improve organization awareness, identifying blind spots to look at processes and procedures.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

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

Meeting adjourned at **8:32 p.m.**