

January 17, 2024

Honorable Libby Garvey
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission Annual Report for 2023

Dear Chair Garvey,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) is pleased to submit the 2023 annual report to the County Board. In our letter on January 2023, we outlined several priority areas and ongoing objectives and report the following progress on each of these:

Participate in park, public space and recreation facilities planning processes: PRC members participated in design, park renovation, and park restoration processes across Arlington. In 2023, the commission wrote letters with our comments on the APS Career Center Project, Forestry and Natural Resources Plan, FOOD Study, Highview Park Diamond Field Naming Request (to "Alfred Forman Sr. Field"), Amended County "Weed Ordinance", Deer Management Project, Gulf Branch Stream Resiliency Project, and the Plan Langston Boulevard Area Plan.

Assist DPR with Planning, Resourcing, Budgeting, the Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC), and Land Acquisition: The commission engaged the County Board Office on the FY 2023 Budget through discussions with staff and letters. Through our participation in the PSMP-IAC, we gave guidance on the implementation of the 2019 PSMP and will continue to meet quarterly with staff and public on the plan's progress.

Apply Design Guidelines, Needs Assessment and Biophilic Principles to County and Private Open Space Projects: In 2023, we further invested in our commitment to Biophilic Principles by continuing commissioner education through presentations. At SPRCs, commissioners focused comments at SPRCs and LPRCs on attainment of suitable community benefits in the form of cash contributions, land donations, or development of publicly accessible private parks and plazas.

Participate in Community Involvement and Engagement: The commission took an active role in responding to community concerns involving park and recreation center planning, usage, and maintenance opportunities.

Enhance coordination with other commissions and committees on areas of overlapping interest: In 2023, the PRC continued its participation and direct engagement in the development of the Forestry and Natural Resources Management Plan (FNRP).

Adjudicate the Bill Thomas Award: The commission selected Beth Kiser for the award for this year. This was voted on during our 9/19/2023 PRC meeting to unanimous vote. Beth's work shows dedication to the Arlington Community and a genuine desire to improve parks across the county. Her work in connecting communities together through the Park Stewards program is invaluable. The events she organizes involving identification and removal of invasive species and other types of nature-relevant education are vital for awareness in the Arlington community. We are proud to have Beth as a member of the Arlington community and are excited to have honored her with this award.

Commission Members

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

Attached is a summary of accomplishments in 2023 where the commission participated with the community, deliberated, produced letters, or provided testimony. PRC members appreciate the chance to serve, while working with the Board, staff, fellow residents, and other members of the community. We are grateful for the many talented and dedicated staff with whom we work, both within the Department of Parks and Recreation and in other county departments.

Sincerely,

Shruti Kuppa



Vice Chair – Park and Recreation Commission

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

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING PROCESSES

Alcova Heights Park Renovations
Jennie Dean Park Renovations

PARTICIPATION IN WORK GROUPS, TASK FORCES AND OTHER COMMISSIONS

55+
Sports Commission
Forestry & Natural Resources Commission
Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG)
Crystal and Pentagon Cities Council (CPCC)
Plan Lee Highway Working Group
PSMP Implementation Advisory Committee
Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Senior Adult Advisory Committee
Arlington Public Schools
Four Mile Run Joint Task Force
Gulf Branch Stream Restoration
Public Facilities Review Committee
Vision Zero Action Plan Updates

SITE PLAN/LRPC REVIEW PROCESSES

2500 Wilson Boulevard Special GLUP Study
Ballston Holiday Inn
Clarendon Presbyterian Special GLUP Study
Fort Henry Gardens
Goodwill Site Plan – 10 S. Glebe Rd.
Joyce Motors Site – 10th and Irving
Macy's
Melwood Special GLUP Study, Tier II Review – 750 23rd Street South
Pentagon Centre PDSP – 1201 S. Hayes St. and 1200 S. Fern St.
Red Lion Inn – 1501 Arlington Blvd
River House Neighborhood – 1111 Army Navy Dr.
Wakefield Manor
Wells Fargo/Verizon Site
YMCA Site – 3400 13th Street North

PARK NAMING/PLAQUE REVIEW

Field Naming of Highview Park Diamond Field (to "Alfred Forman Sr. Field")