

October 3, 2024

Honorable Libby Garvey, Chair  
Arlington County Board  
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) 2023 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award (BTPVA) Nominee

Dear Chair Garvey:

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) would like to inform you of our 023 BTPVA nominee. The BTPVA subcommittee evaluated several very impressive nominees this year. After thoughtful deliberation, we nominated Caroline Haynes to receive the award this year. This was voted on during our September 24, 2024 PRC meeting to a unanimous vote.

Caroline's decades of work within parks and nature organizations across Arlington will have lasting positive impacts on our communities for generations to come. She led the effort to establish the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists and served as the founding president, shaping it into an organization with hundreds of members leading service and educational efforts across Arlington parks and natural areas. She is also a volunteer Park Steward and educator, using her passion and expertise to teach members of the community about biodiversity, invasive species removal, and native habitat restoration.

Caroline has also held many influential positions across County advisory groups. During her nine years on the Park and Recreation Commission, she expanded the role of the group in the Planning Commission Site Plan review process and participated in subcommittees that provided critical budget and design guidance on projects for Long Bridge, Lubber Run, and Jennie Dean parks. In addition to her work on this body, she also helped to establish the Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG), was a leading voice to update and adopt the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) and worked with County leaders to establish the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) as a new element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Any single one of these volunteer activities is worthy of the BTPVA for overwhelming positive change to parks and natural spaces across Arlington County. Considering Caroline's thousands of hours of individual service as well as the scaled impact from her leadership in building organizations and lasting policies, it is a great honor to acknowledge her with this award.

#### Commission Members

Jill Barker, Chair  
Gary Shinnars, Vice Chair  
Erika Allen  
Andrew Damitio  
Nelson Dimpter  
Daniel Garay  
Neal Hunter  
Shruti Kuppa  
Andreana Lin  
Mark Lincoln  
Claire Pascocello  
Adam Rasmussen  
Melissa Riggio  
Alex Sanders  
William Way

Sincerely,  
Nelson Dimpter, Co-Chair of the 2023 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award Committee – Park  
and Recreation Commission

Sent by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill M. Barker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jill Barker  
Chair, Park and Recreation Commission

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