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

June 24, 2025

The **Park and Recreation Commission** convened its meeting at **7:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025.**

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)	PRC Chair, Commissioner Jill Barker Commissioner Erika Allen Commissioner Andrew Damitio Commissioner David Earley Commissioner Daniel Garay Commissioner Neal Hunter Commissioner Nelson Dimpter Commissioner Claire Pascocello Commissioner Adam Rasmussen Commissioner Melissa Riggio Commissioner Alex Sanders PRC Vice Chair, Gary Shinnars Commissioner William Way At-large Commissioner Hamilton Humes, Sports Commission
PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)	None
ABSENT	None
STAFF	Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison Bethany Heim, DPR Joshua Serck, DPR
PUBLIC COMMENTERS	None
OTHER ATTENDEES	Susan Cunningham, County Board Member (PRC CB Liaison) David Howell

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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 May 13 minutes.*
 - The May 13 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.*

- No public comment was provided at this meeting.

Discussion with County Board Member and PRC County Board Liaison, Susan Cunningham

County Board member and PRC County Board Liaison, Susan Cunningham reintroduced herself to the PRC and discussed several topics of interest with the PRC.

PRC discussion included but was not limited to the County's Comprehensive Plan updates, the site plan review process, allowances to have larger commission committee participation (multiple members/more than the two allowed per commission), the County's stormwater infrastructure and proposed improvements, missing middle housing and how that is impacted within the County's Comprehensive Plan (affordability versus attainability of different owner-occupied housing types and the County's goals for diverse housing types), areas of focus for the PRC, among others.

County Board member Cunningham detailed that the PRC can further discuss complementary ways of maximizing the County's public spaces and facilities. The Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC) is one way where these discussions may occur. The Youth Wellness Plan and 55+ programs are examples of initiatives that have many intersecting areas of focus, especially pertaining to the use of the County's facilities. Changes to the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO), underlying General Land Use Plan (GLUP), and other administrative procedures are ways in which public spaces may be impacted accordingly. Community benefits (particularly during a Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) process) and associated site plan conditions were discussed further including what is allowed for the County to consider for any site plan development project. The Hotel Pentagon site was discussed further as an example of a project approved where various site plan measures were explained in detail as part of the County Board's presentation for the project. The differences between the County's site plan process and other jurisdictions' proffer processes were explained further. County Board member Cunningham detailed that the County Board will be working with County staff to best explain how the current site plan system benefits the County more than the proffer system that other jurisdictions use. In some of the County's sector plans, development priorities are sometimes listed and expanded upon further for future development proposals. For example, stormwater management and tree canopy requirements will impact how development proposals evolve.

The County's Low Residential Study is something that is coming forward for community review, where different lot coverage requirements will be analyzed further (flexibility on setbacks, side yards, main structure considerations, opportunities for greater planting areas for residential zones, etc.). The VHC site on South Carlin Springs Drive was discussed further (including the opportunity to expand Long Branch Nature Center and Glencarlyn Park where possible). A few immediate considerations are for expanded trail connections and parking serving the Nature Center and the surrounding area. The Trade Center area in Shirlington was also discussed further and the management of its current facilities. Finally, the Climate Action Plan and the evolution of this effort and the staff supporting this effort was discussed in greater detail.

Presentation and Discussion on Biophilia with Former PRC Member and Current Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (FNRC) Member, David Howell

Former PRC Member and Current FNRC Member, David Howell, provided a presentation and discussion on biophilia and its application in various forms.

Staff Reports

Mr. Rivero provided the staff reports ahead of time to the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting.

Commission Member Reports

No additional items were discussed.

Other Business

- Letters to the County Board
 - Ballston One Site Plan Letter (Andrew Damitio/Melissa Riggio)
 - Commissioner Damitio detailed the project further which is a conversion of an office building to residential (it has gone through the SPRC process). This will likely be considered by the County Board in July 2025.
 - Commissioners Damitio and Riggio will be drafting a letter that will be reviewed two weeks prior to the next PRC meeting and various viewpoints can be expressed accordingly by the Commission.
 - One Rosslyn Site Plan Letter (Claire Pascocello)
 - Greater incorporation of biophilic elements throughout the site and its relationship to the future, Gateway Park.
 - There were discussions regarding the existing eastbound pedestrian bridge atop Langston Boulevard.
 - Rosslyn Inn Site Plan letter will be considered for next month.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

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

Meeting adjourned at **9:21 p.m.**