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

February 27, 2025

The **Park and Recreation Commission (PRC)** and the **Sports Commission (SC)** convened their meeting at **6:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, February 27, 2025.**

PRESENT (IN-PERSON)

PRC Members Only

PRC Chair, Jill Barker
PRC Vice Chair, Gary Shinnors
Commissioner Erika Allen
Commissioner Andrew Damitio
Commissioner Nelson Dimpster
Commissioner David Earley
Commissioner Daniel Garay
Commissioner Neal Hunter
Commissioner Claire Pascocello
Commissioner Adam Rasmussen
Commissioner Melissa Riggio
Commissioner Alex Sanders

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)

At-large Commissioner Nia Bagley, Planning Commission

ABSENT

Commissioner William Way

STAFF

Gregory Anselene, DPR, SC Staff Liaison
Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison
Erik Beach, DPR
Bethany Heim, DPR
Kisha Holland, DPR
Mariah Leonard, DPR
Jane Rudolph, DPR

PUBLIC COMMENTERS

None

-
- [Link to Teams Recording](#)
-

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Introductory Remarks (PRC and SC Chairs) and 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 2026 Budget Presentation and Discussion

Jane Rudolph, DPR, presented on the DPR Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 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).

The SC and PRC discussion included but was not limited to:

- Closing of the Madison Community Center preschool program.
 - Attendance of the other DPR-sponsored preschool programs and cost recovery questions. Ms. Rudolph detailed that there is better attendance and cost recovery overall from the other two programs. However, there is a County subsidy for the preschool programs and expanding childcare access is a County goal.
- Allocation of invasive treatment, tree maintenance, and deer management funds for one year, as opposed to splitting the amount in half and funding for two years.
 - Ms. Rudolph responded that there are specific tasks (like deer management or watering new trees that will soon be established) that are being done. Additionally, there is also base funding that will pay for additional years.
- Preparation for population displacement and the decreased revenue.
 - Ms. Rudolph mentioned that Congressman, Don Byer is holding an online employment fair that may assist with future employment opportunities. DPR will continue its fee reduction program and is promoting hardship policy as a bridge to ensure continuation of programs.
 - The County is planning for loss of revenue, and the proposed budget includes an attachment that suggests additional cuts, if needed.
- Potential for new County partnerships.
 - Commission members asked if the County has new partners, like Boeing, to help offset costs. Ms. Rudolph shared that the County is open to new partnerships, and commission members asked about the timeline for the Boeing sponsorship timeline for the athletic fields versus the aquatics center. Mr. Beach stated that he will investigate this further and report back.
- Mowing athletic fields.
 - There were concerns about mowing athletic fields two times per week. Ms. Rudolph shared that the dry summers cause the grass to grow slowly, and this practice can be revisited if the grass length becomes an issue. An SC member shared that the fees for the Field Fund were set three years ago and have "not been touched" and that the SC should revisit this.
- Concerns about the cost of competitive gymnastics.
 - Ms. Rudolph responded by detailing that the gymnastics program is highly specialized and does not score well with the County's cost recovery goals. Therefore, the proposed fee was increased. An SC member voiced that that competitive gymnastics may become a "rich kids" program given the increased cost.
- County benchmarking fees/costs with groups in neighboring jurisdictions.
 - Ms. Rudolph responded that benchmarking was difficult since the County offers staff retirement and healthcare benefits, which is not offered in the private sector.

- [Presentation Link](#)

Ice Breaker (What is your favorite park, facility, public space, or program? – Small Group Discussion) & FY 2026 Budget Letters (PRC and SC)

- The PRC and SC participated in an ice where commissioners detailed their favorite park, facility, public space, or program.
- FY 2026 Budget Letters (PRC and SC): Staff acknowledged that each commission will be authoring their own letters associated with the FY2026 Budget.

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

1. *Discussion of the FY 2026 Budget (SC Chair, John Mingus will introduce discussion)*
2. *DPR Programming (PRC Chair, Jill Barker will introduce discussion)*

Both discussion items were considered simultaneously during the report out by both commissions. The PRC and SC discussion focused on the following:

- During the small group discussion, one group suggested that the Commission should be provided more information on how the cost recovery process (or model) works and the "pyramid" model Ms. Rudolph referenced previously.
- A commission member asked why the County is in the preschool "business" and suggested diverting this program and funds to APS.
- A commission member suggested that allowing more rentals at Long Bridge Park is warranted. Furthermore, the commission member detailed that the County and APS should coordinate their timing of community use and rental hours. This includes further clarification regarding drop-in play at the County's various facilities.
- Additional information and progress on summer camp programming and timing for registration was discussed further.
- The County's efforts to mitigate any potential losses stemming from reduced federal funding. Further discussion regarding the County's efforts to stabilize and balance budget priorities with the potential of increased tax revenue.
- Parking opportunities at recreational facilities and in the context of Quincy Park. It was detailed that Quincy Park will be part of a future master planning process that may address this further.
- A suggestion was provided that the County or APS should explore starting a school bicycle convoy for children who would like to ride to and from school.

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

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

Meeting adjourned at **8:38 p.m.**