

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

Chairman's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes (7:00-7:05)

- Commission consideration of July 27, 2021 and August 24, 2021 minutes

Public Comment (7:05-7:15)

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

Discussion with Arlington County Chief Race and Equity Officer, Samia Byrd and PRC Considerations (7:15-7:40)

Presentation and Discussion on the Proposed Pentagon City Planning Study [Matt Mattauszek, CPHD] (7:40-8:10)

Update on Crystal City Water Park Project [JBG Smith and Design Team] (8:10-8:25)

Staff Report (8:25-8:30)

Commission Member Reports (8:30-8:40)

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
 - *Walter Reed and Arlington Mill Community Centers remain open for the Public Health Department's expansion of their vaccination outreach. They use all the WRCC facility and the AMCC gym. All programs that were taking place at WRCC have moved to either AMCC, Lubber Run or Aurora Hills. The 55+ Guide has been updated to reflect the changes. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics that were scheduled to be held at WR and AMCC have been moved to Lubber Run and TJ.*
 - *Drop-in programs at the senior centers have returned. However, due to COVID social distancing, attendance capacity is monitored and restricted.*
 - *Vaccination updates. The county announced that all staff, contractors, vendors and volunteers will be required to be vaccinated. If not vaccinated, they will have*

to go for weekly testing. The process for volunteers to submit vaccination cards has not been released yet as of September 15.

- *Both the new Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center and the new Lubber Run CC are now open and are generating public interest and attendance. The annual 55+ Fitness Day was held in September and had a successful turn out of about 50 people at the LRCC. A variety of twelve classes were offered with five sessions including yoga, meditation, full fitness, kukawa, barre, Zumba, self-defense, etc.*
- Alcova Heights Park Renovations (Colt Gregory)
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award 2021 (Placeholder)
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Steve Finn/Sarah Baryluk)
- Community Energy Plan (Jill Barker)
 - *On September 1, the County staff briefed the Energy Subcommittee of C2E2 on the following, but the final Implementation Framework and Roadmap are not yet issued.*
 - *What to expect on CEP Implementation Framework strategies consolidation / prioritization / selection.*
 - *What to expect from the CEP Implementation Roadmap (lenses, co-benefits, timelines, matrices).*
- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Field Fund Working Group (Steve Finn)
 - *In the July member notes, I provided the recommendations of the Field Fund Working Group (FFWG). The FFWG has completed drafting their final report which was discussed by the Sports Commission at its July meeting. The Sports Commission approved the final report and has forwarded it to the Board for consideration for inclusion in the FY22 fee schedule. Members of the Sports Commission will be presenting to interested commission in the coming months. The report is available here: <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/07/Field-Fund-Working-Group-Final-Report-July-13-2021.pdf>. As the PRC member of the FFWG, I wanted to provide a synopsis of our key considerations prior to the Sports Commission's presentation to the PRC.*
 - *A fundamental consideration was whether assessing a field user fee is appropriate and if so, whether the fees are presently set at the appropriate level. There remains some pushback in the community on whether fees should be assessed. However, the FFWG determined that field users receive a benefit not available to the general public in the form of scheduled, exclusive access to a public asset. The FFWG noted that the current fee level has not changed since 2010 even though DPR's field-related maintenance costs have risen and the current fee doesn't account for inflation. Additionally, Arlington's present fee is below that of most comparative jurisdictions. The FFWG also considered that although there are principally two youth sports seasons—spring and fall—youth*

sports activities occur all year. But, participation in summer and winter seasons is limited. Therefore, usage is not significant and the FFWG felt that it was unnecessary to assess fees for those seasons at this time.

- The FFWG consider whether fees should be fixed for all participants regardless of age and amount of use, i.e., fixed or sliding scale. Youth sports activities in Arlington continue to evolve and grow. There is intense demand for fields but especially for the highest quality fields. To consider this question, the FFWG looked at the County's Cost Recovery Model Pyramid which links fees to individual benefit. Other DPR fees, i.e., swimming/AAC, relate usage or benefit to the amount of fee paid. Additionally, field access, time and quality, often relate to age groups with older players generally seeing greater access to quality fields than groups with younger players. As a result, the FFWG proposed sliding scale by age using the age groups in DPR's Athletic Field Allocation Guidelines. In a similar vein, the FFWG recommended adding a separate fee for travel players given their greater access to high quality fields based chiefly on benchmarking with other jurisdictions.
- The FFWG recommended disposing of the existing two fund account structure between rectangular and diamond fields. Fields are increasingly shared between differing youth sports groups. Additionally, the current process especially for spending of diamond field funds, which are smaller and spread between several user groups, was not productive.
- Regarding use of the funds, the FFWG considered that presently no funds are allocated to support field maintenance which is a considerable cost to the County across grass fields whereas synthetic fields have significant capital costs. The group believes it is important that the user groups have confidence that their fees are being used appropriately. Thus, there needs to be clear, justifiable use for the increased resources derived from the proposed increased fee.
- The community opposed use of funds to pay for currently incurred costs and seeing fees as an allocation of additional resources became the consensus position. Of note, Arlington allocates significantly less money to field maintenance than the benchmarked jurisdictions. Arlington simply lags in care and maintenance of its field assets. The FFWG sought to return to the original intent of the Field Fund for maintenance and capital projects. The FFWG noted that ASA provides by far the greatest amount of funds in this process and it has a strong interest in synthetic fields, that is largely shared by the remainder of the youth sports community. The FFWG felt it best to divide the Field Fund for both maintenance and capital activities, which would generally afford benefits to both diamond and rectangular field users. To implement use of the funds, the FFWG determined that the likely best method of prioritizing use of the funds for synthetic field conversions would be consider the recommendations in the PSMP.
- Lastly, regarding equity, the FFWG considered the equity across topics. The FFWG does not want fees to become a barrier to participation and DPR noted its policy not to charge the Field Fee to any child participating in a

partner youth sports program who has been provided a program fee waiver or scholarship. If partner youth sports organizations absorb the cost fee waiver participants, the FFWG found no basis to charge the Field Fee because it would be an additional cost for the affiliates that they are not recouping.

- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (David Howell)
 - *The September meeting of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission included three primary agenda items. The first was a presentation by Mark O’Hara, landscape architect on the recent minor amendment request for the Crystal City Water Park. PRC will have this presentation at the September meeting. The second item was a presentation by David Farner and Alonso Abugattas, DPR, on the recently completed study of the Arlington White-tailed Deer population. The study indicated a population of an estimated 290 deer. Next steps include further analysis and assessments of whether there is a need for active management, as well as what options may be appropriate if such management is desired. The third agenda item was consideration FNRC sending an advisory letter to the County Board on the final draft of the Public Art Master Plan. Commissioners agreed that a letter should be sent.*

- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)
 - *A Preliminary Draft Plan is planned for September 2021. There will be two rounds of Public engagement in Oct/ Nov with a Final Draft slated for February 2022. Completion goal is May 2022.*

- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Construction (Colt Gregory)
- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (Bill Ross)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Gregory/Barker/Howell)
 - **Deer Management Update - NRJAG:**
 - **August** - *Received Humane Society presentation the regarding Deer Management and the no kill approach. Stressed the importance of having a management plan in place.*
 - **September** - *Received results of the Arlington Deer Survey.*
 - **Approach:** *The Drone study was performed by Stewart Green LLC (Used in Wash, D.C., Fairfax). Using both heat signatures and video drones covered on 11 areas, 14,098 acres/22 square miles. Worked with Arlington Co. Police for relevant cooperation with various federal/govt authorities. Study was performed April 8-12 using 65 flights early in the morning and at dusk (when deer are most active). No flyover access to Arlington Cemetery, Pentagon, or GW Parkway. Had some view into these areas as drone view extended to 400ft altitude. Note that counting methodology was established to eliminate double counting.*
 - **Results:** *Positive identification of 290 deer with concentrations along*

Military Road, 4 Mile Run corridor, Army/Navy Country Club, Bon Air/Bluemont and Potomac Overlook + a few others. Note: Balanced population of deer is 15-20 deer per square mile. Arlington has 2.3 square miles of parkland counting NOVA parks and federal lands (e.g. Iwo Jima).

- **Next Steps:** *Conduct detailed assessment of the raw data, conduct public engagement, develop a deer management plan and implementation plan if needed.*
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
 - *No Updates.*
- PenPlace Park Master Plan (PMP) and Design Guidelines Process (David Howell)
- Pentagon City Planning Study Update (Bill Ross)
 - *The PRC will see a presentation on the draft plan for this area at our meeting. We should count on discussing it an offering reaction to it with a letter to the County Board, who will take it up this fall.*
- Plan Lee Highway (Shruti Kuppa)
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
 - *The committee will begin meeting in October to monitor progress on various initiatives.*
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
- Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) and Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)
 - Pentagon City PDSP (Shruti Kuppa)
 - Crystal City Building Heights Study (Shruti Kuppa)
 - Crystal City Water Park (Bill Ross)
 - *The commission will receive a presentation on proposed changes which will involve the removal of several more trees than had been planned initially.*
- Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell/Bill Ross)
- PenPlace (Shruti Kuppa)
- Macys (Dean Foster)
 - *Insight Property Group, owner of the Macy's at Ballston, is proposing to demolish the department store in Ballston and replace it with a 16 story, 555-unit apartment complex atop a planned grocery store. The developer has informed the county it plans to designate 236 of the units as affordable and further requests the flexibility to possibly dedicate almost one-half the square footage toward elder care. The building would be 198 feet tall and have 41,500 square feet of ground floor retail space. The residences would be split between a northern tower with an entrance*

from Wilson Boulevard and a southern tower with entrance from Glebe Road. The main grocery store entrance will be on Wilson Blvd., and the store will have 148 parking spaces-split between underground and second floor parking. Residents will have 214 underground spaces. The architects presented the plans and drawings to the Bluemont Civic Association at the end of August. The BCA membership will further discuss and comment on the presentation at their meeting on September 29. Insight will also provide parking for bicycles and open an underutilized alley to the building to be "...an inviting, safe, curb less shared space for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles." Sidewalks will be upgraded, and public art and other community contributions will be provided.

- Wendy's Site (Bill Ross)
 - *This is an updated plan for the site at Courthouse which had originally been proposed as a commercial office building. It is now proposed as a taller residential building. There is a small pedestrian/retail plaza proposed. We will want to weigh in on recommendations for biophilic and bird friendly design well as a possible community benefit to support future development of the Courthouse square open space.*
- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
- Sports Commission (Mark Lincoln)
 - *Sports Commission Response to Arlington Analytics Projects: Discussion of the Arlington Analytics Projects and how the Sports Commission should analyze the resulting data and provide feedback to the Arlington County Board. The Sports Commission is planning on doing a data analysis and then preparing a letter for the Arlington County Board with the results of their analysis. There is some concern about assumptions and specific bias in the assumptions made in the data and the conclusions that were reached during the original projects.*
 - *Combatting Hate in Sports Working Group: A brief report was provided to the Sports Commission, however, since the working group has only had two (2) meetings so far and is just getting started on tasks, there was little substance to report at this time.*
 - *Communications Working Group: There was an interesting discussion about the accomplishments of high school and club athletes and how to recognize them with the general public. This morphed into a discussion on how to inform the general public on the workings and accomplishments of the Sports Commission. Apparently, there is a belief that the residents of Arlington County have little knowledge of what the Sports Commission does.*
- Vision Zero Action Plan Updates (Neal Hunter)
 - *The Vision Zero Action Plan released an August update. You can view the update [here](#) which disaggregates a number of the various crash reporting data*

that is available for Arlington County. In November or December, they will also be releasing the updated 2021 ESG report.

Other Business (8:40-8:45)

- Letters to the County Board

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)