

## **Park and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, January 19, 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 December 15, 2020 minutes

#### **Public Comment (7:05-7:15)**

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

#### **Community Energy Plan Implementation Framework [Richard Dooley, DES] (7:15-7:35)**

#### **2050 Wilson Blvd. (Courthouse Landmark Block) Update [Representatives from Greystar, Cooper Gary and Land Design] (7:35-7:55)**

#### **PRC Discussion on the County Manager's Draft Policy for Renaming Parks, Facilities and Streets (7:55-8:15)**

#### **2021 Plan of Action for the Park and Recreation Commission [Bill Ross, Chair] (8:15-8:35)**

#### **Staff Report (8:35-8:40)**

#### **Commission Member Reports (8:40-8:50)**

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
  - *This week, I received this report from Jim Joyner A/K/A "J.J." an active participant in the 55+ program.*
  - *Re pickleball: Booming outdoors. No indoor pickleball in Arlington until further notice. The Walter Reed (WR) 3 outdoor courts are almost always fully in use. We start play before sunup (these days about 0645). And the 4 tennis courts at WR, now lined for PB, are almost always crowded as well. The 4 beautiful new lighted courts at Lubber Run are getting more and more play with even a*

*modicum of evening play under the lights. The court at "Old Glebe Road" is almost always in use.*

- *As is said, "the fastest growing sport in the world".*
  - *To all - STAY SAFE AND WELL.*
- Alcova Heights (Colt Gregory)
    - *No Issues in this reporting period.*
  - Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
  - Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award (Neal Hunter/Dean Foster)
    - *Deadline for nomination is February 5th. It is encouraged to share this opportunity with any individuals who may be interested.*
  - Civic Federation (Duke Banks)
  - Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Steve Finn)
    - *Staff conducted the second online engagement for the Clarendon Sector Plan Update LRPC from December 18 to January 8. Public comments on session two closed on January 8. The next step is the third online engagement session followed by a virtual LRPC meeting.*
  - Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission (C2E2) (formerly E2C2) (Colt Gregory)
    - *On Environmental Assessments in Arlington County - The C2E2 group reported that Rich Dooley (Community Energy Coordinator - Arlington County Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management) presented a revised process to abide by Arlington Rule AR4.4, that requires Environmental Assessment for County projects.*
  - Crystal City Building Heights Study (Shruti Kuppa)
  - Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
  - Field Fund Working Group (Steve Finn)
    - *The Field Fund Working Group (FFWG) conducted its last meeting January 13. The FFWG reached consensus on a proposal for an overall increase of the field fee to include of step increases by age and a higher fee for travel players that recreational players, both reflecting greater field usage. The proposal also includes ending the separation of funds between diamond and rectangular field users and terminating the diamond field committee under the Sports Commission. The proposal also recommends application of the funds to increased maintenance and capital investments. The next steps are to begin drafting the proposal and meet with interested commissions including PRC.*
  - Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (formerly UFC) (David Howell)
    - *The December meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was the last meeting under that name. Beginning in January, the name is changed to the Forestry and*

*Natural Resources Commission. The December agenda included a presentation on the use of conservation easements in Arlington as a means of conserving natural space, by Alan Rowesome and Matt Gerhart of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. A conversation followed about space for conservation, tax benefits, collaboration with NVCT board members, stormwater mitigation, what neighbors can do to encourage conservation, recent easements in Arlington, cost, and realistic assessment of ecosystem value.*

- *The second agenda item was a continuation of prior discussion on NOVA Parks land stewardship, natural resource conservation and maintenance. One exhibit was a letter received from NOVA Parks in response to a commission request for information about NOVA Parks' maintenance of invasive plant and natural space maintenance. A discussion followed about the lack of content to the letter, and the desirability of issuing an invitation to the executive director of NOVA Parks to present on this subject to FNRC.*
  - *The final primary agenda topic was consideration of the draft UFC Annual Report and draft FNRC Work Plan. Additions and edits were suggested to add information on the Tree Canopy Fund and climate change to the Work Plan. These were made, and the plan was approved to be shared with the Board, unanimously.*
- **Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)**
  - **Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)**
  - **Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory/Duke Banks)**
    - *No issues in this reporting period.*
  - **Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Update (Colt Gregory)**
    - *No Issues in the reporting period.*
    - *Update as per staff report: Construction has started on the park and will continue through the winter and into next year.*
  - **Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (Bill Ross)**
  - **Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Gregory/Barker)**
    - *Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update - Received the monthly update from the FNRP consultants. While NJRAG does get briefed by the consultant, the areas actually covered by the plan have not clearly emerged. Various aspects covered in the benchmarking process may or may not represent components of the plan. Areas covered were: Visitor use, Volunteer management, Protected areas, Backyard habitat improvement, Schoolyard habitat, Increasing the % of natives planted on various projects, Equity/cost barriers, and use of the total landscape approach. NRJAF feels that Deer Management must fall into one of those topic areas.*
    - *Interestingly no other community has a consolidated forestry and natural resource plan.*

- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
  - *No updates at this moment.*
  
- Plan Lee Highway (Cindy Krech/Julie Mullen)
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
  - *The working group will meet in February to discuss a framework for a public engagement process concerning assumptions around Field Utilization. We will also continue discussions around definitions of Casual Use Space.*
  
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
- Site Plan Review Committee (Bill Ross)
  - 1820 Fort Myer Dr. – Ames Center (Bill Ross)
    - *This project will be taken up for the County Board at its January meeting.*
  
  - 1900 Crystal Drive (Center Park) (Dean Foster)
    - *No issues in this reporting period.*
    - *Marco is the main DPR staff contact person for this project. He advises me that the park planning process this has yet to be determined for when it will be funded and begin accordingly. Approved as part of the plan was a grand staircase element which includes park-like features into the existing Center Park space. Further details are found in the March 6, 2020 letter from the PRC to the county board and the staff report for the board's March 21, 2020 meeting.*
  
  - 1901 N. Moore St. – RCA Building (Dean Foster)
    - *Following staff and applicant online presentations, the county provided on January 7-13, an online engagement opportunity to comment on the land use and GLUP designation, planning guidance and summary of the site layout, building form and architecture, open space transportation, community benefits and sustainability. Comments particularly addressed possible contribution by the developer to the Gateway Park which is in close proximity to the development, biophilia aspects of the development and potential avian impact.*
    - *The first review (virtual) by the SPRC committee will be on February 4.*
  
  - 2001 S. Clark St. – Crystal Plaza 1 (Colt Gregory)
    - *JBG Smith Project - Proposed re-development of an existing office building into 2 residential towers with ground-floor retail. In the Sector plan this area was to include Park Space #8 of 9,700 square feet. Moving forward into the Site Planning Process the JBG redesign removes 9,700 square feet of open green space and substitutes 5,200 SF. of privately-owned public space for a pedestrian passageway. PRC concerns center on the*



*been focused on that objective. This has causes repeated friction with the sports community and the Arlington County Board.*

- *Field Fund Working Group Report:*
  - *What should the fee amounts be? Who should pay the field fund? Should the fee be raised? Should travel players pay more than recreational players? Should non-residents of Arlington pay more than residents? These are all open questions that the group hopes to answer during their next meeting.*
- *Civic Federation White Paper:*
  - *Discussion of the Civic Federation white paper on square footage of park space per census block and how segments of our residency are being excluded from county park space by way of age, income, and skill level criteria. There appear to be questions on the method and metrics used in the white paper to reach their conclusions, but few have had a chance to read the actual white paper at the moment. John Mingus provided some comment as he has had a chance to review parts of it.*

**Other Business (8:50-8:55)**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams)**

## Park and Recreation Commission 2021 Meeting Schedule

The Park and Recreation Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. typically on the **third or fourth Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise specified)**. Meetings are generally held in a Conference Room (see schedule below) on the lobby level at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard (above Courthouse Metro Station) or as noted below. Free parking is available in the garage after 5:00 p.m.

UPCOMING 2021 COMMISSION MEETING DATES	
Meeting Date	Meeting Room
Tuesday, January 19, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)*
Tuesday, February 16, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, March 16, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, April 27, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, May 25, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, June 22, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, July 27, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, August 17, 2021 or Tuesday, August 24, 2021	<i>To Be Determined (field trip)</i>
Tuesday, September 28, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, October 26, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, November 16, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday, December 14, 2021	Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

*\*Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all PRC meetings will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams for the time being. Any updates to this public notice with new meeting locations will be provided with proper notice and on the PRC's website.*