



**ARLINGTON COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201**

January 21, 2021

Matt de Ferranti, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission Annual Report for CY 2020

Dear Chair Garvey,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) is pleased to submit this calendar year 2020 annual report to the County Board. In our letter of January 2020, we outlined several priority areas and ongoing objectives and report the following progress on each of these:

Implementation of Public Spaces Master Plan Priorities: PRC members co-chaired and served on the PSMP Implementation Committee working group meetings, assisting in analysis and discussions on evaluation of Casual Use spaces, Field Utilization, and updates of the Integrated Forestry and Natural Resources Master Plan,

Integrated Forestry and Natural Resource Management Plan: PRC members participated in discussions of preliminary planning for the plan updates and provided input on the plan through the county's public engagement vehicle.

DPR Planning, Resources, and Budget: In 2020 the commission provided input and advice on the county's Park and Recreation budget—through discussions with DPR staff and letters to the County Board. On the budget, our emphasis focused on the need to preserve natural resources, including the county's trees. On the capital improvement process, we focused on the need for additional land acquisition, coordinated storm water/open space planning, and scrutiny of the county's spending on NOVA parks.

Field Fees: PRC members participated in the DPR/Sports Commission working group to evaluate the source and disposition of fees collected from field-using sports participants.

Land Acquisition: The commission continued to pursue its ongoing interest in promoting additional land acquisition for recreation and public spaces through support of the

principles and land target listings provided by the new PSMP. We produced correspondence in support of possible park land acquisition at the Rouse property on Wilson Boulevard.

Site Plan and other Planning Processes: Several PRC members participated in planning commission-sponsored meetings to offer input on the open space aspects of private and public building projects. These included SPRCs, PFRCs, Special GLUP, and PDSP processes. Our approach has been to 1) engage in early discussions with staff, planning and other commissioners, and affected neighbors 2) provide oral comments at public meetings, 3) provide written comments, including letters to the County Board, and 4) testify at Planning Commission and County Board meetings. Attached are a list of involved projects.

Biophilic Arlington: PRC members continued support and advice for the county's efforts to join the network of biophilic cities. The county officially joined the network in April 2020. We worked with other commissions and staff to begin formulating guidelines and policies that direct planning and design in both publicly and privately-owned properties. A major approach has been to engage with county staff and other SPRC and PFRC participants as a project is being formulated.

Apply Design Guidelines, Standards, and Needs Assessment Process for Privately Owned Public Spaces: As advocated by the commission, a distinct section (appendix) of the PSMP discusses the importance of a specific set of guidelines and objective standards for determining and designing public space needs at privately-owned sites. These guidelines, including references to biophilic principles are already being applied by the commission and staff during SPRC and other planning discussions.

Privately Owned Public Spaces: The commission has continued to support the continuation of past efforts of the Department of Community Planning, Housing (CPHD) to develop an inventory of privately-owned public spaces. In our November budget guidance letter, we supported the Manager's initial plan to include such an effort in its 2021 work plan. We believe it is important to understand what we already have in order to make better decisions about additional public spaces we need during the development process.

The following are additional areas of accomplishment:

Participate in area and sector planning processes: PRC members participated in area and sector plan groups such as the Career Center Working Group, the Plan Lee Highway initiative, the Pentagon City Special GLUP study, and the Crystal City Citizen Review Council.

Enhance coordination with other commissions and committees on areas of overlapping interest: PRC members served as liaisons to ensure close working relationships on issues of mutual interest with other commissions such as Sports, Planning (SPRC and LRPC), Forestry and Natural Resources, Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, the Senior Adult Advisory Committee, the Crystal City Citizens Review Council, and the Pedestrian Advisory

Committee. Members regularly attended other commission's meetings and provided reports that were used in PRC discussions.

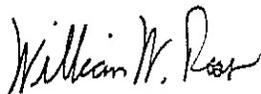
We also worked with the Forestry and Natural Resources and the Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission to support their charter modifications.

The Bill Thomas Award: At its October 2020 meeting the commission honored Elaine Mills as the 2019 winner of the Bill Thomas Award in honor of residents supporting Arlington parks.

Park Naming/Renaming Review: The commission worked with DPR staff as to lead community discussions in the naming of three parks in Arlington. In all cases, the new names involved persons of color who had distinguished themselves as county residents.

Attached is a summary of accomplishments in 2020 where the commission participated with the community, deliberated, produced letters, or provided testimony. PRC members have continued to contribute enormous time, talent and expertise over the past year, and it is a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of citizens. Likewise, we are grateful for the many talented and dedicated staff with whom we work, both within the Department of Parks and Recreation and in the other county departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Arlington County.
Sincerely,



William Ross, Chair
Park and Recreation Commission

cc: Members, Arlington County Board
Members, Planning Commission
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Claude Williamson, Director, Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

PARK AND RECREATION PLANNING PROCESSES

- Metropolitan Park – Park Planning
- 3901 Fairfax Drive
- S. Eads St./Army-Navy Drive Park – Park Planning
- Gateway Park – Temporary Dog Park
- Virginia Highlands Park -- Temporary Dog Park and Urban Agriculture Project
- Long Bridge Park

PARTICIPATION IN WORK GROUPS, TASK FORCES AND OTHER COMMISSIONS

- Sports Commission
- Forestry & Natural Resources Commission
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG)
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council
- Plan Lee Highway Working Group
- PSMP Implementation Advisory Committee
- Neighborhood Conservation Program Review Working Group
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Senior Adult Advisory Committee

SITE PLAN/LRPC REVIEW PROCESSES

- Ames Center
- 12th St. South
- 1900 Crystal Drive
- WETA/Village at Shirlington
- Park Arlington at Courthouse
- Landmark Block – Courthouse
- Pentagon City - PDSP
- Pershing Drive Special GLUP Study
- Verizon/11th St.
- Key Bridge Marriott
- Artis Senior Living
- Clarendon Sector Plan
- 2001 Clark St. South
- Ft. Henry Gardens
- Crystal City Heights Study

PUBLIC FACILITIES REVIEW PROCESSES

- Fire Station #8
- Career Center

PARK NAMING REVIEW

- Trove Park (Selina Gray)
- John Robinson, Jr. Town Square
- Zitkala-Sa Park

BILL THOMAS SERVICE AWARDS

- Elaine Mills

ADDITIONAL PRC MEETING PRESENTATIONS

- DPR Recreation Programs
- DPR Budget Plans
- Green Building Update
- Deer Impacts
- Park Steward Program
- Lubber Run/Long Bridge Park Tours