



**PARK AND RECREATION
COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201**

Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021

****Due to the Countywide precautions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting was held virtually on Microsoft Teams.***

Commission Members Present:

Bill Ross, Chair
Nia Bagley (Ex Officio, Planning Commission Liaison)
Gerald Brandt (APS Staff Liaison)
Jill Barker
Sarah Baryluk
Sergio Enriquez
Steve Finn
Dean Foster
Colt Gregory
David Howell
Neal Hunter
Cindy Krech
Shruti Kuppa, Vice Chair
Mark Lincoln
Julie Mullen
Drew Murray (Ex Officio, Sports Commission Liaison)

Guests:

Bill Anhut
Seema Bali
Caroline Herre
Wendi Hoover
Theresa Hyslop
Joseph Plumpe
John Reeder
Larry Wiseman
Jason Yannshonis

County Staff:

Marco Rivero, Principal Planner, PRC Staff Liaison
David Farner, Assistant Parks and Natural Resources Division Chief, DPR
Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Historic Preservation Section Supervisor, CPHD
Diane Probus, Associate Planner, DPR

PRC members not in attendance:

Michael Grace

Chairman's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

PRC Chair, Bill Ross provided a brief introduction and PRC Staff Liaison, Marco Rivero reviewed details associated with Microsoft Teams. This also included specifying that this would be the first recorded meeting of the PRC.

The Commission also recognized PRC Commissioner and Former Commissioner, Michael Grace and Duke Banks for their service on the commission (Commissioner Grace's term on the PRC ends at the end of March; Mr. Banks' term on the PRC ended in January). Mr. Banks provided a few final thoughts and observations related to the PRC.

The Commission considered its February 16, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting minutes. With no objections, the Commission approved the minutes as presented.

Public Comment

- **Mr. John Reeder** discussed the proposed request for historic designation of the Febrey House and his request that the PRC support acquiring the property for future park/public space purposes. Mr. Reeder stated that the property is of historic value as a civil war site and can provide additional public space for the County. Mr. Reeder commented that the developer has not been as cooperative in this process with the County and interested community members.

Agenda Items

Update and Discussion on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP)

David Farner, DPR and Larry Wiseman, American Forests provided a presentation on the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) update. Also attending the meeting as presenters were Wendi Hoover, American Forests and Theresa Hyslop, ETM Associates. The stage of this process now is from information gathering to information sharing to various stakeholder groups (including the PRC). Presenters asked targeted questions to the PRC for its feedback.

Commissioner comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Interest in the benchmarking studies. One thing that the County faces is the lack of space available. There is very little open land to do things, especially as density increases throughout the County and additional public space is needed. It is very difficult to balance and enhance.
- Much time needs to be invested to develop good relationships with land developers, and it is difficult for the County to do. This needs to be less reactive and more proactive.
- The projects within the County need to find synergies (can an APS project work with a public sewer development project that may benefit the public spaces). These projects are difficult to recognize when there are separate paths to achieve various goals. These projects do not necessarily work together today.
- Environmental conservation and advancing the housing stock in Arlington may be at odds with one another (or at least that may be the perception). These priorities should work together and provide for equitable solutions.
- Issue of deer management cannot be addressed by itself and there needs to be County oversight/cooperation. With the citizenry in Arlington, there is a great opportunity to do

this. However, there may not be robust public/private partnership opportunities that may help accelerate the climate opportunities that are needed for the County.

- Start to discuss implementation of the PSMP.
- Manage the needs of different kinds of recreation in parks, encourage those to think that not all needs are the same. Compatibility and threats between various uses can be difficult to manage (i.e. bike trails implemented in sensitive natural resource areas). Mr. Wiseman stated that it is difficult to balance the various needs, but it is important for the County to make the commitment to have a framework for that dialogue for the various park plans that move forward.
- Regarding the County's parks, could goals be set for no active recreational opportunities in naturally sensitive areas? Mr. Wiseman detailed that this may be a possibility. Ms. Hyslop explained that there may be opportunities for allowing minimal uses and casual use recreation depending on the situation. This does present a challenge within Arlington, where public space availability is limited.
- Between DPR, Sports Commission and community, there is not a current framework for settling several of these inconsistencies and disputes on public space development when they do come up. Defining a framework is important, but it is not clear how this is presented. Mr. Wiseman stated that this has been done in other communities and will require commitment by the County to do so.
- The idea of having public space targets for sector plan areas seem to be an opportunity to review further. Mr. Wiseman expressed that the County should seriously consider how it looks at preservation of tree canopy within private properties, including further flexibility with the Dillon Rule in VA.
- Educational and environmental considerations with school projects should be reviewed further. This includes equity issues with respect to school green spaces.
- Next Steps: Possibly come back to the PRC with a more detailed discussion in fall 2021.

Overview of Market Common Public Space Site Plan Amendment

Regency Centers representative Jason Yanushonis and Caroline Herre, with Walsh & Colucci introduced the Market Common public space site plan amendment and public engagement process currently underway. There is an online engagement opportunity in place for the design of this space that is active and will conclude on March 17.

Commissioner comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Excited for the redesign of the space. Regarding the bump out space in front of the Pottery Barn, will it be for a new private restaurant space or be part of the park? Ms. Herre stated that a new restaurant is something that may be planned for in the future.
- A play area is still being maintained in the future. It is closer to the central green area from where it is located today near the Barnes and Noble.
- Provide greater tree canopy on the south side of the site. Ms. Herre expressed that there needs to be a balance of providing tree canopy but also maintaining the fire lane requirement in this area. If there are ways of adding trees, that may be studied further.

Lyon Park Citizens' Association Memorial Plaque Request for County Board Member, Erik Gutshall (at Zitkála-Šá Park)

Diane Probus, DPR, provided a presentation on the Lyon Park Citizens' Association Memorial Plaque Request for County Board Member, Erik Gutshall (at Zitkála-Šá Park). Bill Anhut from the Lyon Park Citizens' Association provided a statement on this item.

Commissioner comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Vice Chair Kuppa is excited to consider this request as it moves forward for review.
- This item will be considered by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) and the Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB) before it comes back to the PRC in April or May.
- Due to technical difficulties during the March 16, 2021 PRC meeting, the following was provided after the meeting. Statement by Mr. Bill Anhut:
 - *Good evening. I am Bill Anhut. My wife, Dale, and I have lived I Lyon Park 37 years. For nearly 20 years, I have been the treasurer of both the Lyon Park Citizens Association and Lyon Park Community Center. I am also an Arlington Tree Steward.*
 - *I have known and been Erik Gutshall's friend for over 20 years. As you know, Erik was taken from us at the age of 50, while in the prime of his energies for Arlington County, the Lyon Park Community, his family and friends. I am confident other county-wide recognition will be forthcoming soon, but his beloved community of Lyon Park believes the dedication of a space in memory of Erik, in Zitkala Sa Park, beneath a row of lovely red maples, 800 feet from his home, is appropriate at this time. Erik was instrumental in moving the renovation process of Zitkala Sa Park through its many stages of study, approval and funding.*
 - *Erik was a multi-term President of Lyon Park Citizens Association and Board Member of Lyon Park Community Center, during the years Clarendon experienced explosive growth and development. Erik was our leader in guiding our community's review and approval of nearly every development during that time. Erik was also instrumental in the planning and private fundraising for the renovation of the historic Lyon Park Community House. Erik served on numerous commissions and charitable boards, especially Doorways for Women, which has a facility located near the park. Erik was respected and loved by his neighbors. His wife Renee and three daughters live nearby on Highland St, and from there, operate Erik's business, Clarendon Home Services. Given Erik's many contributions to our community, we ask your approval for a portion of Zitkala Sa Park be reserved to honor our friend, Erik Gutshall.*

2020 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award

- PRC Vote on Nominees

Commissioners Hunter and Foster facilitated a discussion on the 2020 Bill Thomas Volunteer Award (BTA).

Commissioner comments included but were not limited to the following:

- Commissioner Hunter described the process for review of the three nominees that were considered for the 2020 BTA. There were two individuals and one group considered.
 - **Glen Tobin** committed a lot of effort on different parks in the area, and Theodore Roosevelt Island with the National Park Service (NPS). Developing a GIS map to

catalog the various trees and green space for the various parks within the area. Led various volunteers to continue the various projects he started.

- **Ann Marie Douglass**, she led Kenmore Middle School area development for green projects in association with the school and the youth population. The student base within this area are majority minority groups and a great opportunity was provided through her efforts.
 - **Master Gardener Group** composed of six individuals. Mainly related to the work of Bon Air Gardens, part of a long-standing projects (40 years+), training various volunteers and providing greater opportunities for this space.
- Through the committee, Glen Tobin was identified as the best nominee and winner for this year. Based on the scoring rubric, Mr. Tobin had the highest score. The nominating materials and contributions set him apart from the other nominees.
 - Commissioner Barker is appreciative of this effort and fully endorses the proposed recommendation for this award. This was also reiterated by Commissioner Gregory.
 - A motion was made to accept the recommendation of the nominating committee for Mr. Glen Tobin, seconded by Commissioner Barker.
 - The PRC voted **13-0** to approve the nomination (of the voting members that were present at the meeting).

Staff Report

No additional updates were provided.

15th Street Park

- Staff has begun early internal discussions regarding easements for future parks, both temporary and permanent, related to a future site plan and street redesign.
- Staff is developing an engagement schedule that is targeted to be launched in the second half of 2021.

2020 Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award

- Review and vote on 2020 Bill Thomas Award winner(s)
- 2019 and 2020 award winners will be recognized as part of the April recessed County Board meeting on April 20

4MRV – Jennie Dean Park

Construction has started on the park and will continue through the year. Construction is anticipated to last 9-10 months and the park should re-open 3rd Quarter of 2021. This month will see the installation of tree protection and sediment and erosion control measures and site and building demolition.

705 31st Street South (adjacent to Fort Scott Park) – No Updates

House is boarded up and rodent controls are in place. The house will be placed on the regular site mowing schedule.

APS Projects

- **Dorothy Hamm Middle School (formerly H-B Woodlawn Secondary School and location of the former Stratford Program, now Eunice Shriver Program) - No Updates**
 - APS is finishing the three-story addition and the renovations to the existing school.

- The athletic field used by both the school and organized sports teams has some work remaining on it before it will be accepted by the County.
 - The interpretive panels along the history trail will be installed in April.
 - For additional details on the status of the project see [Dorothy Hamm MS](#) where APS posts construction updates.
- **Education Center Reuse – No Updates**
 - The contractor has been working on demolition throughout the building.
 - In the coming month, the project team will be occupying the entire project site which will impact the sidewalks along General’s Way and parking spots in the VDOT parking garage.
 - Completion of the [building renovations](#) are anticipated in early December 2021.
- **Elementary School at Reed Building**
 - See detailed APS progress reports on their [webpage](#).
 - The school will be completed for the 2021 – 2022 school year.
 - The County is collaborating with APS to install a stormwater management facility under the athletic fields adjacent to the school. These fields will remain closed due to the construction of the SWM facility when APS opens the school next year.
 - Work has begun on installing the inlet and outlet structures for the underground stormwater detention system.

Ballston Pond Retrofit/Beaver Pond Park Improvements – No Updates

- Next steps are to complete purchasing process and to obtain construction bids.
 - Early 2021 – Preparation of bid documents.
 - May – Anticipate County Board consideration of a construction contract.
 - July - Estimated start of construction

Benjamin Banneker Park Improvements – No Updates

- Parking lot and playground pathway asphalt to be redone during spring.

Bluemont Park (Neighborhood Conservation Project)

Invasive plant management treatments will continue into Spring 2021. The entrance to Bluemont Park at the 1st Street North entrance was planted late November. Park signage, trash cans and benches have been installed by PNR staff. Deer cages for the new trees will be installed in the coming months to prevent deer browse. Re-naturalization signage has been received and will be placed on the edges of areas where invasive plant removal has occurred. Locations are being determined in March.

Crystal City Water Park

JBG Smith has applied for a minor site plan amendment to add retail area and redesign the existing Crystal City Water Park. The applicant hosted their own community outreach process and amended their proposal based on those comments, as well as staff comments. As part of the agreement, the applicant is granting a public access easement for portions of the Crystal City Water Park that are not occupied by proposed retail and other privately-owned structures. The County Board originally considered this item at its January 2021 meeting, but voted to defer this item until March 2021, so the applicant could address and clarify various plan discrepancies and proposed changes (including but not limited to: proposed VRE connection(s), tree canopy/landscaping considerations, sidewalk widths, retail viability, etc.). The applicant presented this item to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee on February 10 and the PRC on February 16. The County Board will be reconsidering this item at its regular agenda meeting on

Saturday, March 20.

Forestry and Natural Resources Plan

The Forestry and Natural Resources Plan online engagement closed on Dec. 23. The three categories: Nature in Arlington, Natural Areas and Tree Canopy resulted in 1,081 total responses from 576 individuals. Stakeholder engagement concluded in early March and included County Board interviews. This Spring the vendor will begin creating a draft outline of the plan, engagement will resume in the late-summer, early-fall for the draft plan outline. The development of this plan is an 18-month long process with the goal of going before the County Board by May 2022.

Notable Tree Awards NEW

- The 2020 [Notable Tree Award](#) recipients will be recognized at the April recessed County Board meeting on April 20.

Fort Scott Park Restroom and Parking Lot Renovation – No Updates

- Renovation to include interior and exterior improvements to the restroom, repaving of the parking lot, and ADA access.
- Planning to start construction 2nd Quarter 2021

Glencarlyn Park Bridge Replacement

- Kickoff meeting held on 4/4/21. Starting work on construction drawings.

Gunston Park Enclosed Athletic Facility

- Consultant architects (MTFA) are working on construction documents for a replacement structure for the Bubble, which is expected to have a metal frame with canvas cover.
- Restrooms are included and will be renovated to meet permitting requirements
- Currently updating plans to include restrooms for resubmittal to permitting.
- Project construction anticipated to start 3rd Quarter 2021.

Highlands Urban Garden – No Updates

- The temporary demonstration garden in Virginia Highlands Park, next to the tennis practice court, is being managed and maintained by the [Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture](#) in partnership with Livability 22202 and Arlington County. It showcases modular, low-impact design principles, sustainable water management practices, and incorporates smart technology to collect agriculture metrics (daily solar exposure, temperature, moisture and soil health).
- For more information [Highlands Urban Garden](#).

John Robinson Jr. Town Square

Installation of the site irrigation in progress. Sidewalk concrete ongoing. Grading site in preparation for plaza concrete. Colored concrete is complete. Boulder placement ongoing. Installation of additional light pole bases and steppingstones complete. Deck mock-up is complete and approved by the County. Installation of weir wall in progress. Soil preparation for planting in progress.

Long Bridge Park Aquatic Center

- Permanent Power was established on March 5, 2021.
- Factory startup of pool equipment is scheduled to start this month.
- Finishes inside the building continue with millwork and cabinet installation.
- Toilet/shower accessories are being installed about 95% completed.

- Coordination and installation of technology equipment ongoing.
- Fire Alarm testing and programming ongoing.
- Exterior plantings and final grading continue (about 90% complete on all shrubs and trees). Grasses and plugs remain to be installed. Esplanade handrails, pavers and crushed stone pathways on the esplanade are being completed. Main entrance sign and blue stone veneer completed.
- Benches and recycle/trash cans are being installed.
- Interior building wayfinding and room signage installation is roughly 85% completed.

Market Common Clarendon Public Space

- On March 4, staff launched the first public engagement for the redesign of the public space at Market Common Clarendon
- The engagement will last from March 4 to the 18th.
- The applicant will update their proposal and provide an update to the PRC at the April meeting.

Mosaic Park – No Updates

Dominion, Verizon and Comcast started their utility work inside the park. Dominion rerouted a new power line, and the existing power line has been de-energized. Contractor to install the final section of stormwater pipe next week. Park-goers must adhere to the appropriate CDC and County guidelines on use during the COVID pandemic. Certain parts of the park may remain closed, pending on that guidance at the time of completion of the park. As the construction comes to an end, the remaining park features will become available. These include an interactive water feature, two circular play elements, two dynamic urban plazas and additional site lighting. Learn more about what to expect by visiting the Mosaic Park project [webpage](#).

New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive (former “Teardrop Parcels”)

A public engagement process has kicked off for the 0.9-acre public space known as the New Park at South Eads Street and Army Navy Drive (formerly known as the “Teardrop Parcels”). This project is adjacent to the existing Altaire residential building and planned 400 11th Street South, LCOR residential building in Crystal City. The kickoff, virtual engagement opportunity focused on visioning was launched on September 30 and continued until October 14. The second virtual engagement opportunity presented three (3) proposed, park design options to the community (The Meander, The Canal Walk, and The Central Hub). This engagement opportunity was launched on December 28 and continued through January 15. A third engagement opportunity to comment on the refined, draft concept design and design guidelines elements is scheduled to launch by early-mid March.

Oakland Park – No Updates

Contractor tested the manual operation of the irrigation system with PNR and PNR staff will operate manually until the electrical is connected. Currently working with the electrician and Dominion Energy to get pricing for the electrical service. Winterization to take place by the County’s PNR Staff.

Programs in the Park Adds Dozens of Programs this Spring **NEW**

With the Virginia Governor’s Orders increasing in-person outdoor gatherings to 25 people starting in March, Programs in the Park has added programming for all ages to keep our residents happy and active. View the [Programs in the Park online calendar](#).

Rosslyn Highlands Park – No Updates

Penzance continues construction of the Rosslyn Highlands Park, Fire Station #10 and 1555

Wilson Blvd site. The Fire Station is anticipated to be completed summer 2021. The park is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2021.

Rosslyn Highlands Park Playground

- Construction is underway on the playground.
- Concrete footers and walls will be installed this month.
- Anticipate completion by the end of 2021.

Site Plan Review

- **2050 Wilson Blvd. (Courthouse Landmark Block)**
 - SPRC review of the plan was completed on December 7, 2020. The site is within the Courthouse Square Sector Plan Addendum plan. Proposed is a mixed-use development with 418 residential units in a 20-story building consisting of:
 - o 17,000 sf of retail space on the ground floor.
 - o 221 parking spaces located in a below-grade parking garage.
 - o A public pedestrian promenade along N. Uhle Street.
 - The plan will be considered by the Planning Commission on March 10 and the County Board on March 20.
- **Crystal Plaza Block M – 2000/2001 S. Bell St. (Crystal Plaza 1)**
 - The first LRPC meeting occurred on September 10 via Microsoft Teams.
 - Three Major (Block Plan) issues consistently highlighted by the community included: (1) Street Network/Circulation; (2) Open Space; and (3) Underground Connection
 - Other Issues (which are site specific) may be more appropriate for SPRC discussion:
 - o Architectural Features
 - o Retail Frontages
 - o Built-to-Lines
 - o Loading and Vehicular Access
 - Second LRPC meeting occurred on October 19, where the topics above were discussed in greater detail. Public space discussion concentrated mainly on the delivery of public spaces (interim and permanent), the amount of public space proposed, characterization of “open spaces” and “passageway” on Open Space #8 (not double-counting sq. ft. for these features), among other points.
 - Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) review (first online engagement) for Crystal Plaza 1 site plan launched in late December and continued through January 11. The second SPRC meeting occurred on Thursday, February 18 and discussed building architecture and public space development. The third SPRC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18 where there will be follow-up from the second SPRC meeting and new topics pertaining to transportation.
- **PenPlace (block bound by Army Navy Drive, 12th Street South, South Fern Street, and South Eads Street; formerly 550 Army Navy Drive)**
 - The next phase of Amazon’s HQ2 is a proposed redevelopment of the PenPlace block in Pentagon City. The applicants, Acorn LLC and JBG Smith, acting as Amazon’s development consultant, submitted a proposed site plan application on February 2, 2021.
 - The proposal includes approximately 3.3 million square feet divided across four buildings.
 - o Three 22-story office buildings with ground floor retail
 - o One destination- and amenity-focused building called “The Helix,” a unique biophilic double helix structure with plantings native to the Mid-Atlantic region.

- In addition, the proposal includes a 2.5-acre public space, detached retail pavilions, and underground vehicular access. Specific details of the public space will be evaluated through a Park Master Plan (PMP) process occurring concurrently with the site plan review.
 - The proposed development would supersede the approved plan for Pen Place adopted by the County Board in 2013.
 - The application will require:
 - Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP) Amendment
 - Revised PenPlace Design Guidelines
 - Site Plan Amendment to incorporate the Residence Inn by Marriott property
 - New Site Plan for proposed development of Pen Place (capturing all phases)
 - Amended PenPlace Open Space Design Guidelines Addendum (originally approved July 2014) with a park master planning process for the updated public space design.
 - Formal acceptance of this site plan has not yet occurred, more information to follow once accepted.
- **Potomac Yard Land Bay C – East**
 - Two residential towers, with ground-level retail
 - Building heights range from 11 to 14 stories proposed
 - 488 Total Residential units
 - Allow for conversion of previously approved office GFA to residential GFA
 - Separate Land Bay C into “East” and “West” final site plans.
 - Modifications requested for reduced residential and hotel parking ratio and other modifications as needed.
 - Anticipated to go before the County Board and Planning Commission Spring of 2021
 - **RCA Site (1901 N. Moore St.)**
 - Rezone from C-O and S-3A to C-O Rosslyn w/ 10.0 FAR
 - Construct 26 story mixed use building with 423 residential units and ground floor retail.
 - Site Plan infrastructure and improvements include:
 - Removal of the existing skywalk and loop roads surrounding the site
 - Community benefits package for additional density
 - Utility fund contribution
 - Streetscape improvements
 - Public art contribution
 - Affordable housing contribution
 - LEED certification
 - Second Virtual SPRC is planned for March 15th, 2021

South Glebe Dominion Energy Substation

- Dominion is working on plans for the [Glebe Rebuild | Dominion Energy](#) project. The project includes rebuilding the existing Glebe Substation and undergrounding the North Potomac Yards Terminal Station.
- The substation is adjacent to the Four Mile Run Trail and the site is within the 2006 [Four Mile Run Master Plan](#) study area.
- A few of the anticipated changes include replacement of the existing chain link fence with a 15-foot-high security fence with bollards placed outside the fence, the undergrounding of some of the overhead power lines and removal of their poles. The trail will remain in its current location.

- Dominion applied to Arlington County requesting an encroachment under County-owned property. The requested 659 square foot encroachment area is below grade except for the bollards which will be placed outside the fence.
- Concurrently, the County will request a license agreement in perpetuity from Dominion to allow Four Mile Run Trail to remain within a 581 square foot area of Dominion's property.
- These requests will be considered by the Board in April on their consent agenda.

Summer Camps Return! NEW

DPR is thrilled to welcome campers back to our summer camps in 2021 after canceling the 2020 summer camp season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration begins March 24.

<https://parks.arlingtonva.us/programs/summer-camps/>

Temporary Uses – No Updates

In collaboration with 2 community groups in the Aurora Highlands and Rosslyn neighborhoods, DPR will be working on developing 2 temporary spaces: a temporary dog park in Gateway Park and a temporary dog run in Virginia Highlands Park. As these improvements were not planned for in the County's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) or the Operating Budget, this partnership will provide private funding of these temporary amenities.

- The interim dog park at Gateway Park is built and open to visitors.
- The public engagement for the interim dog run in Virginia Highlands Park is complete and the feedback is posted on the project page. The project was approved by the Director of DPR and an email notification was sent to people who signed up for project updates. Construction will begin once the Donation and Collaboration Agreement is finalized and the funds are transferred to the County. Lighting the interim dog run will be evaluated after it has been operational for at least 1-year, further site evaluations will be performed, and additional public input has been gathered.
- The recently adopted, scaled-down one-year CIP, identifies \$500,000 to upgrade a portion of the right-of-way at S. Clark and Bell Street in Crystal City for temporary use as a public space. Staff will be developing a public engagement approach when the funding becomes available. The PSMP (Action 1.10) calls for enhancing public spaces with temporary uses and 'pop-up' programming, and these projects are in line with that recommendation.

Towers Park Playground Renovations – No Updates

- Out to Bid till March 19, 2021
- Anticipated summer 2021 construction start.

Urban Forestry Office Updates:

- The Forestry and Natural Resources Plan has completed its first public engagement. Focus group interviews are being performed now. Find out more at <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/fnrp/>
- Tree maintenance staff are continuing to work on incoming tree maintenance requests. Staff is continuing to reduce total open requests and are approaching 100 remaining requests.
- Staff provided recommendations for tree canopy targets for the Lee Highway planning study.
- The Pen Place/Amazon site is being reviewed for opportunities to provide tree canopy on the site.
- The 31st St parking lot, behind the water pollution control plan, is moving forward with a design, which will replace primarily non-native invasive trees with native trees, as part of their revised parking lot plan

- Staff are attending ISA accreditation classes, to expand their knowledge, and to increase the total amount of certified arborists on staff.
- The Champion Specimen Southern Red Oak died and was removed.

Zitkala- Ša Park

- Grading around the site confirmed between the basketball court and the 2-5-year-old play area.
- Concrete sidewalk removed in between basketball court and the 2-5-year-old play area and contractor to regrade this area per the revised changes.
- Grading around the site taking place. Irrigation work in progress.

Commission Member Reports

- 55+ (Dean Foster)
 - *The Spring, 2021, edition of the 55+ Guide is the first quarterly issue of the digital Guide. Going to quarterly classes and registrations in place of bi-monthly allows for longer term planning for staff and registrants. The 55+ YouTube channel is proving quite a success with over 500 subscriptions to date. Registrations under the new quarterly program began on February 24th.*
- Alcova Heights (Colt Gregory)
 - *No updates.*
- Arlington Public Schools (APS) (Gerald Brandt)
 - *Reed School Project:*
 - *Phase 1 work is in progress*
 - *Phase 2 design work is proceeding forward*
 - *Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with County & use permits will go to both the County and School Boards this month.*
 - *Career Center Project:*
 - *No updates provided.*
 - *The Heights School:*
 - *No updates provided.*
- Bill Thomas Park Volunteer Award (Neal Hunter/Dean Foster)
 - *The Bill Thomas Selection Committee met virtually this past Wednesday to discuss scores and thoughts on the three award nominees. After discussion and consideration, the committee has agreed to present the award to Glenn Tobin for his various efforts and projects in and among the parks in Arlington County. His commitment of time and efforts have clearly shown a vested interest in sustainability of the projects for the futures as well as a significant, measurable positive impact for Arlington green spaces. Acknowledgment of effort and commitment will be given to the other two nominees with some language of encouragement for their nomination next year.*
- Clarendon Sector Plan Update (Steve Finn)
 - *The Clarendon Sector Plan Update LRPC met March 3. Presentations from Joyce Motors, Bingham Center, Wells Fargo, and St. Charles Church were made available*

prior to the meeting and are on the website. The focus of the March 3 meeting was on building height and form. In that discussion, the primary issue from the PRC perspective is impact on the planned linear park on Fairfax Dr. The St. Charles Church concept includes, in part, a shopping building up to 110' with limited setback or taper and moving the church to the parking lot area of the present site. This is on the north side of the linear park, so it would not interfere with sunlight. The south side of the linear park presently has smaller buildings that do not impact sunlight, but the plan envisions redevelopment with taller buildings. Some members felt that was unlikely. Nonetheless, we expressed concern, with another commission member, about creating a canyon feel in the linear park under the plan. The next meeting is April 14 and the subject is open space.

- Community Energy Plan Implementation (Jill Barker)
- Courthouse West Special GLUP Study (Sarah Baryluk/David Howell)
- 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 did not meet this month. The draft of the recommendations is underway.*

- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (David Howell)
 - *The February meeting of the Forestry and Natural Resources Commission included three primary agenda items. The first was a presentation and discussion by county and contractor staff on the Forestry and Natural Resources Master Plan. This included an overview of the status and themes from engagement activity so far. PRC has a similar presentation slated for the March meeting. Second, FNRC commissioners reviewed the County Manager's budget proposal regarding DPR and discussed concerns about some impacts. It was agreed that an advisory letter should be prepared on this issue. Finally, commissioners reviewed and approved two advisory letters that had been prepared after earlier discussions. One pertains to the concerns that NOVAS Parks is under-resourcing maintenance and invasive plant removal in its Arlington properties. The other provides advisory comments on the CEP Implementation Plan draft, which had been the subject of a presentation previously.*

- Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update (Colt Gregory)
 - *Please see NRJAG summary.*

- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory)
 - *No updates.*

- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Update (Colt Gregory)
 - *No issues identified during this period; please see staff report.*

- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (Bill Ross)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Howell/Gregory/Barker)
 - *Forestry and Natural Resources Plan Update - The FNRP was provided by David Farner (DPR) with American Forests (consultants). [Any errors in this report are mine]. The process is proceeding on schedule with the near completion of the Community Engagement segment in month of May. Note that because this was a review of over 3500 individual comments, themes identified are generalizations of*

- comments received. Found six themes: Improve Planting Practices, Discourage or Limit Development, Strengthen Zoning Ordinances & Regulations, Improve Maintenance & Mgt Practices, Educate and Foster Stewardship. Focus group interviews identified request for benchmarking our Arlington natural resources (tree canopy & wildlife); work with APS to maximize green space; prioritize tree planting in South Arlington, and better manage what we have + promote biodiversity.*
- *NRJAG general sentiment was that the FNRP should be part of an overall comprehensive approach that works with DES and CPHD for overall plan alignment.*
 - *Next engagement steps are Interviews with County Board Members.*
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Vacant)
 - Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
 - *The PAC discussed changes in design to the Crystal City Water Park, discussion was given to adding into their letter to the county board of a general approval of the suggestions of the PRC regarding planting width and tree space in final designs. The PAC acknowledged the plans to meet jointly with PRC in April and plans to investigate areas of joint interest between the commissions to discuss.*
 - *The PAC discussed the VDOT Route 1 vision and different concept designs for changes. Changes include significant expansion of the width of the road, potentially impacting trees incorporated in median sections and along the shoulder of the route. Continuing to monitor any changes as time moves on.*
 - Plan Lee Highway (Cindy Krech/Julie Mullen)
 - Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
 - Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
 - *Elementary School at Reed Update (Colt Gregory): Meeting held to receive comments on the underground Storm water Management retention vaults on the site. One significant tree will be removed. No community objection was received. See also staff report.*
 - ART Bus Facility (Bill Ross)
 - Site Plan Review Committee (Bill Ross)
 - 1901 N. Moore St. – RCA Building (Dean Foster)
 - *The next meeting of the SPRC will be this Monday, March 15, at 7:30 pm. In addition to requests for enhancements to the adjacent Gateway Park and access thereto as part of the developer community benefits package, and bird friendly glass design and biophilic features, the committee will be considering the issues of unprotected bike lanes along 19th St., the parking ratio in the building parking garage and the projected pedestrian experience along the 400 feet length of the block.*
 - 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. Feb 18th SPRC was presented with the open space plan for a Pedestrian walkway. Concerns voiced about the proposed walkway were too much hardscape/impervious surface, need for green walls/sound reduction, potential lack of soil volume to support landscape trees, lack of adequate light in the high-walled corridor to support proposed plantings and lack of a design alternative to see the space as a linear park instead of pedestrian thoroughfare.*

- *In the upcoming Site Planning Review Commission meeting is on March 18th.*
 - 2050 Wilson Blvd – Courthouse Landmark Block (Bill Ross, Neal Hunter)
 - Clarendon Market Commons (David Howell)
 - Crystal City Water Park (Bill Ross)
 - *The County Board will take up a deferred proposal on the project at its 3/20 meeting. PRC will be sending in a letter and making comments.*
 - Fort Henry Gardens (David Howell)
 - Park Shirlington (Dean Foster)
 - *Following the withdrawal of the private developer, the County exercised its option to purchase the southern parcel of land containing 105 residential units to preserve the affordability of the units. The County will be exploring other options for preserving the affordability of the 189 units on the northern parcel.*
 - PenPlace Phase I (Shruti Kuppa)
 - Potomac Yard Land Bay East (David Howell/Sarah Baryluk)
- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
- Sports Commission (Mark Lincoln/Steve Finn)
 - *Presentation from DPR on FY 22 Budget*
 - *Planning for no COVID-19 pandemic lock downs going forward.*
 - *PSMP Post Implementation Update*
 - *Very few people provided responses to the community survey. Apparently, the tool used to collect the data from the community was found to be difficult to use which intimidated many users and reduced the number of responses collected.*
 - *Aquatics Committee Update*
 - *Pools have stayed open and have been used at a greater rate than might have been expected with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is discussion of having DPR run classes at the new Long Bridge pool while classes run at APS pools would be run by APS.*
 - *Parks and Recreation Commission Update*
 - *Summary of the Livability 22202 presentation we heard at our last meeting.*
 - *Field Fund Working Group*
 - *Work still progressing on the document with the recommendation for the management and use of the Field Fund going forward. Work has been slowed somewhat by the COVID-19 pandemic.*
 - *Jennie Dean Park Constriction Update*
 - *Construction anticipated to finish at the end of 2021. No net loss of parking when the project is complete.*
 - *Reed School Update*
 - *Stormwater control using pipes, vaults, etc. will be able to control flooding and will have a benefit to the Westover area to prevent future flooding events. Construction will delay access to the athletic field for another year. Project is already over budget. Funding coming from ongoing revenue from real estate taxes and the bond that passed in November 2020. There will be about two (2) feet of soil on top of the vaults so there is some concern about drainage of the athletic fields since the ground will not be as permeable as it was before with all the concrete for the vaults in the ground. There was also some concern voiced about the cleaning and removal of silt buildup in the*

vaults over time which will probably have to be done periodically to maintain proper function. The schedule and cost for this is not known currently.

- *Final Discussion*
 - *County Board Member, Christian Dorsey had a discussion with Sports Commission Chair, Shirley Brothwell about the role of the Sports Commission going forward and that they should consider trying to find alternatives to having to spend so much time defending the athletic fields from attack from parts of the community. This discussion then moved to discussing the issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and why Arlington appeared being far more cautious regarding sports and community activities. The topic of APS barring the track and field athletes who had qualified for the VHSL State Championships from competing since much of the rest of the state competes without masks while APS requires their athletes to wear masks.*

Other Business

- PRC Discussion on Febrey House Historic Designation Request
 - The PRC discussed the Febrey House Historic Designation Request.
 - Cynthia Liccese-Torres, CPHD, provided a brief summary of this request. The County received a request for historic designation on April 2020. The HALRB has acted on this request and held two hearings (November 2020 and January 2021 respectively). There were three distinct findings were made and sent to the County Board. The request met 8 of 11 zoning criteria prescribed within the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO). The four main parcels should be considered for this designation, not the entire nine acres of the property. The Request for Advertisement (RTA) for this request was in February 2021 and will be considered by the CB in April 2021. The landowners have filed for demolition permits and were granted such permits to demolish the house. The item will be heard by the Planning Commission as well. Staff will be working on gaining permission from the developer to document the site as needed.
 - Is the possibility of the designation hampered because of the possible demolition of the house? Ms. Liccese-Torres reiterated that this is the issue currently. A historic designation overlay may be put on the site, but buildings may still come down before the County Board acts on this property.
 - The acquisition of this property for park purposes, what would that entail? County Board members have expressed that this was a difficult venture to acquire the property (~\$30 million or so valued) at this time, given the various economic and budgetary priorities within the County.
 - Further consideration of potential language within the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) for historic buildings that have sites that have important at natural resources and elements (tree canopy, etc.).

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.