

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, January 19, 2023**  
**7p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Patrick Henry Recreation Center**  
**4653 Taney Avenue**

**P&RC Members**

**Present:** Steve Beggs, Chair (District II); Dana Colarulli, Vice Chair (District II); Katy Matthews, Secretary (District III); Stuart Fox (District I); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Stephen; David Brennan (District III); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Barbara Marvin (District I); Tookie Organek (student member)

**Absent:** Phillip Voorhees (District III); Rania Shuster (student member)

**RPCA Staff:** James Spengler, RPCA Director, Tiffany Marbury, Executive Assistant; Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Planning; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Commission Chair, Stephen Beggs called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comments

**III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISTRICT I:** **Stuart Fox** reported that the Waterfront Commission reviewed a summary of the Small Area Plan. They also reviewed the new portion of the African American Heritage Trail. They have narrowed down a series of bidders for the Waterfront Implementation Plan. A contractor should be selected in the next 3-6 months. The Torpedo Factory Art Center stake holder meeting took place recently. They reviewed other successful art centers to see what seems to work in other jurisdictions. There seems to be strong support for a “City supported but not City run” management structure. **Barbara Marvin** discussed the last open space meeting and stated that there were discussions with agenda Alexandria group. The meeting generally consisted of development updates and a recap of progress over the past year. The next meeting is January 31. **Jeffrey Miller** gave an update on the park area that neighbors the construction site at Potomac Yard Metro Center. He stated that there are 3 new beaver dams and noticeably more wildlife in that area.

**DISTRICT II:** **Dana Colarulli** gave an update on the status of Douglas MacArthur. The project seems to be on track with substantial completion by July 30, 2023. **Stephen Beggs** and **Geoffrey Goode** did not have an update to share.

**DISTRICT III: Katy Matthews** gave an update on Minnie Howard. Utility work will continue through the end of the year. There are cranes onsite, and concrete slabs are being poured. **David Brennan** gave an update on Youth Sports. The group did not meet in January but will discuss PARKnerships during the February meeting. **Phillip Voorhees** was not in attendance.

**STUDENT MEMBERS: Tookie Organek** stated that there is a lot of progress with the Minnie Howard project. **Rania Shuster** was not in attendance.

#### IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS & ACTIONS

##### a. Approval of November 17 Meeting Minutes

**ACTION:** FY23.1.19.23A

**Motion:** Katy Matthews moved, and Barbara Marvin seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

##### b. Electronic Meeting Policy Update

Jack Browand discussed the updated Electronic Meeting Policy. The policy now offers up to 3 virtual meetings per year. Virtual meetings are to be used at the discretion of the Commission Chair and require a 3-day notice. Virtual meetings cannot be held concurrent months. A copy of the Electronic Meeting Policy can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/ElectronicParticipationPolicyPRCJanuary2023.pdf>

**ACTION:** FY23.1.19.23B

**Motion:** Katy Matthews moved, and Dana Colarulli seconded the motion to adopt the updated Electronic Meeting Policy. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### V. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

##### a. Staff Reports – *Commissioner Questions*

Division updates (staff reports) posted at:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/PRCCCombinedReportJan2023.pdf>

- **Jack Browand updated the Commission on the following projects:**

**Cameron Run Sport Court** – Recently completed. It's located in the parking lot at Cameron Run, and the project turned out well.

**Armistead Booth** – The project has reached 100% design. Procurement should begin in late Spring. It will be offline for 9 months to 1-year.

**Ben Brenman Field** – The Alexandria Soccer Association entered into an agreement with RPCA to purchase 4 futsal courts and installed them on the field. This will be a test to see if play will damage the turf. If this agreement becomes permanent, it will allow futsal play on a lit field during the winter months. The courts will be removed in late February.

**Mount Jefferson Park** – Currently working on the storm water feature of the project. We may be able to have a partial release to gain access to the trail.

**Colasanto Spray Park** – Final plans were approved. The project is anticipated to go under construction in late Spring.

**Hensley Park** – Still in planning phase.

- **Introduction of Katie Bishop**

Jim Spengler, Director of RPCA, introduced new Marketing Manager, Katie Bishop. Katie comes to us from Largo, Florida, where she gained extensive experience working in their Recreation Department. She is also a graduate of the University of South Florida.

**b. African American Heritage Trail Signage Update**

Eleanor Breen gave a presentation on the African American Heritage Trail. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/2023OHAHeritageTrailJanPRC.pdf>

**c. Recreation Services Program Update**

Laura Durham gave an update on current programming offered by Recreation Services. The presentation can be found here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/PRCRecSvcJan2023Update.pdf>

**a. NEXT MEETING**

February 16, 2023 – Charles Houston Recreation Center – 901 Wythe St.

**b. ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** FY23.1.19.23.C

**Motion:** Dana Colarulli moved, and Katy Matthews seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:08p.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.