

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

**Thursday, February 16, 2023**  
**7p.m.**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Charles Houston Recreation Center**  
**901 Wythe St**

**P&RC Members**

**Present:** Steve Beggs, Chair (District II); Katy Matthews, Secretary (District III); Jeffrey Miller (District I); Stephen;); Geoffrey Goode (District II); Barbara Marvin (District I); Phillip Voorhees (District III); Rania Shuster (student member) Tookie Organek (student member)

**Absent:** Dana Colarulli, Vice Chair (District II), David Brennan (District III); Stuart Fox (District I)

**RPCA Staff:** James Spengler, RPCA Director, Tiffany Marbury, Executive Assistant; Jack Browand, Deputy Director, Park Planning; Laura Durham, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Office on the Arts; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Planning; Judy Lo, Principal Planner.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Commission Chair, Stephen Beggs called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

No public comments

**III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISTRICT I:** **Stuart Fox** was not in attendance. **Barbara Marvin** discussed the last open space meeting held on January 31. The group worked on zone amendments for task 2 & 3. Task 2 – Evaluating and recommending methods of pursuing public open space. Task 3 – Providing guidance for contributors of new developments with publicly accessible open space (especially where developers are unable to meet requirements and need alternatives). There has been ongoing public engagement during the month of February. During the meeting on February 28, the group plans to adopt the amendments of task 3. The Park and Recreation Commission should receive a presentation of the amendments in March, before going to the Planning Commission and City Council in May and June. **Jeffrey Miller** stated that he attended the African American Trail kickoff meeting and there was a great turnout.

**DISTRICT II:** **Dana Colarulli** was not in attendance. **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 take place on Braddock Road and there will be traffic disruptions. **David Brennan** was not in attendance. **Phillip Voorhees** did not have an update to share.

**STUDENT MEMBERS: Tookie Organek** stated that tryouts for Spring sports began last week. **Rania Shuster** did not have an update to share.

#### IV. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

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

Division updates (staff reports) posted at:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/PRCCombinedReportJan2023.pdf>

- Judy Lo provided additional information on the Fort Ward project. The project will create more accessibility by moving the playground, adding additional parking, and creating an ADA accessible pathway. There is a community meeting to discuss two proposed playground sites.

##### b. New/Promotional Staff Introductions

Jack Browand announced the promotion of Beth Znidersic as the new Division Chief of Park Planning/Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). Beth Znidersic announced the promotion of Judy Lo as the new Principal Planner of Park Planning/Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).

#### V. DISCUSSION ITEMS & ACTIONS

##### a. Approval of January 19 Meeting Minutes

**ACTION:** FY23.2.16.23A

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

##### b. Capital Project & Program Implementation Updates

Jack Browand (Park Services), Laura Durham (Recreation Services), Diane Ruggiero (Office of the Arts), and Beth Znidersic (Park Planning & CIP) gave an update on department-wide programming and projects. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/ProjectsProgramsUpdatePRC16Feb2023.pdf>

#### VI. NEXT MEETING

March 16, 2023 – Patrick Henry Recreation Center – 4653 Taney Ave

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION:** FY23.2.16.23B

**Motion:** Katy Matthews moved, and Geoffrey Goode seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:40p.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.