



**ARLINGTON COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201**



Approved Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2016

Commission Members Present:

Caroline Haynes, Chair	Katie Elmore
Bill Ross	Jim Feaster
Renee Mayo	Rick Epstein
Conor Marshall	Steve Finn
Michael Grace	

Guests:

Steven Bernheisel, APS
Jane Siegel, Planning Commission
John Bacon
Patti Hurst
Nereide Ellis
Nathan Gould
Kedrick Whitmore, Vornado/Charles E Smith
Toby Millman, Vornado/Charles E Smith

County Staff:

Scott McPartlin, Comprehensive Projects Team Supervisor, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
Jennifer Collins, DPR Program Manager, DPR
Diane Probus, Staff Liaison, DPR

Arlington County’s 2015 Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award

Caroline Haynes and County Board Chair, Libby Garvey, awarded the 2015 Bill Thomas Award to Judy Funderburk at the Recessed County Board meeting to honor her extraordinary volunteer work as a Master Gardener of Northern Virginia and Virginia Cooperative Extension. A reception for Judy Funderburk followed the ceremony.

Meeting started at 7:30 PM

Chairman’s Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

- March Minutes will be considered at May 24 meeting

Public Comment: None

Fifty-Five+ Program [Jennifer Collins]

Jennifer Collins gave an overview of the DPR 55+ Program offerings to the Commission.

- The [Office of Senior Adult Programs \(OSAP\)](#) is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The program was started in 1954
- OSAP coordinates activities at six 55+ Centers (Arlington Mill, Aurora Hills, Culpepper Garden, Langston Brown, Lee, Walter Reed) providing programs in fitness, sports, education, mental workouts, arts, recreation, social, wellness, volunteerism, civic engagement and county services.
- Additional 55+ Program sites are Barcroft, Madison, Thomas Jefferson and Fairlington.

- Since FY12, 55+ class enrollment has increased over 65%, which tracks with the increase in this age demographic.
- OSAP includes a Congregate Meal Program which is offered at three Senior Centers that offer lunches Monday through Friday. These services are federally subsidized, and have voluntary contributions by participants. Participation is limited to individuals age 60 and over.
- Success of the programs is indicated by the increase in new participants; full capacity for 48% of trips, customer satisfaction continues to be high, and overall attendance for FY15 was 141,271.
- Participants and programs span a wide-range of ages and levels of activity, reflective of the diverse senior population in Arlington. DPR anticipates continuing to provide new types of programs and to continue to provide core services for the frail individuals in the County.

Commission Questions and Comments:

- How many people who are eligible to participate in the programs have participated?
Response (Jennifer Collins): Demographics show about 10% of the eligible residents participate in the program.
- What about residents from different economic demographics?
Response (Jennifer Collins): The County offers low fees, fee reductions and some free classes so lower income residents can participate.
- How do the program fees fit into DPR's fee pyramid tier?
Response (Jennifer Collins): Senior Centers fall in Level 1, Senior Day trips and Senior classes with fees fall in Level 3

Metropolitan Park 6 Proposed Open Space [Diane Probus]

Diane Probus presented information on the Metropolitan Park 6 Site Plan which includes a public open space planning process to be conducted concurrently with the site plan review process.

- The public open space planning activities have included two walking tours of the development site, a community open house, and an online interest survey.
- Metropolitan Park is a residential development and located within the Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan. The first phase of Metropolitan Park was approved by the County Board in 2004.
- A two-acre Central Park was planned and its design is shown in the Metropolitan Park Design Guidelines. The "Central Park" concept has large and small open space components in it.
- Two thirds of Central Park was built by the developer, KETTLER, when they built the first three out of eight planned buildings on the block.
- The remaining portion of Central Park will be built as part of Metropolitan Park 6 site plan project.
- The new open space will be linear and framed by existing park and interior streets within the development. It will be approximately 13,460 square feet total in size but segmented into three spaces.
- A site plan condition included in the approved Metropolitan Park 3 requires the developer and the County coordinate a public planning process for the open space associated with Metropolitan Park 6 site plan, *"to assess the community's recreational needs and interests at that time and make revisions to the park's design or reaffirm the existing park's design from the data and feedback from the above interested parties. The process shall allow for changes to be made to the original design and uses for the park space."*
- To assess the interests of the community for uses and amenities in the new open space, the Developer and the County presented three different concepts and a variety of precedent photos for people to either prioritize or to select to show their preferences. Through the public open house and the two week online interest survey close to two-hundred responses have been received.
- The County and the Developer will work closely to assess the responses and will draft a single open space concept to present at the May 12 Site Plan Review Committee meeting. Input received on the concept will be collected and considered to refine the open space concept before it goes to the Planning Commission and the County Board as part of the site plan application.

- Diane requested the commissioners take the online survey before it closed on April 22. The next steps include SPRC open space discussion on May 12 and presentation of the concept to the Park and Recreation Commission on May 24th.

Commission Questions and Comments:

- Is the sun/shade study based on the proposed Metropolitan Park 6 building design and height?
Response (Toby Millman): Yes, the study is using the proposed building form.
- How many total residents will the development house?
Response (Toby Millman): There will be a total of 3,212 units in the development and if you multiply that by 1.3 people per unit the total projected residents who could live in the development equals 3,800.
- For the online survey, how will you know if nearby residents responded?
Response (Diane Probus): The survey captures the zip code of each participant. The survey shows the majority of the responses came from the 22202 zip code. There have also been some comments where people have identified themselves as residents of the buildings in Metropolitan Park.
- What do the blue lines going across the open space represent?
Response (Diane Probus): The lines represent the walkways through the open space. The walkways connect with the existing walkways through the larger Central Park and were established in the initial Design Guidelines for Metropolitan Park.
- Will the courtyard in front of the building have a public access easement on it so public can use it also?
Response (Toby Millman): Yes, a portion of the courtyard will have a public access easement on it and some of the space will be for residential use only. The public access easement in front of the building will be more limited on what activities the public can do in that space compared to what they can do in the open space in Central Park.
Response (Diane): The public access easement for the existing Central Park allows public events to be hosted by either the County, the property owner or other groups. The space was designed to set up the County mobile stage on the street for performances. I am not aware that Central Park has been used for events yet.
- *The existing park has ornamental trees planted in it which do not provide shade or significant tree canopy.*
- PenPlace is close to this development.
Response (Jane Siegel): Yes, PenPlace is adjacent to this development.
- What is the demographic age range for residents in the buildings?
Response (Diane): I called the property manager and they did not want to disclose details on the residents living there. Looking at the County demographic report, the predominant age of residents in the Pentagon City and Crystal City areas are from ages 25 – 45.
Response (Toby Millman): There are very few kids living in the buildings in Metropolitan Park.
- What are the results of the online survey so far?
Response (Diane): So far it is very close between people who want passive, semi-active and active features.
- The 22202 zip code needs a dog park.
- The existing park has signs up saying, “Dog Free Zone” but people do not pay attention to them and walk their dogs in the area.
- About 1/3 of apartment residents will have a dog.
- Pentagon City does not have a sector plan. The Phased Development Site Plan was developed in 1976 and has been modified over the years.

Brief on County Board Work Session for Long Bridge Park and Lubber Run Community Center

Long Bridge Park Brief [Bill Ross]

Bill gave a quick background of the history of the previous aquatic center design process and what led the County to rethink the design and amenities in the center.

- Key findings from the Long Bridge Aquatic Center public outreach include:
 - The statistically valid community survey issued as part of “POPS: A Plan for Our Places and Spaces,” indicated that swimming pools were the most important indoor facility to Arlington residents and exercise and fitness facilities ranked the second highest;
 - The new facility will meet the core recreational needs of the community and the new design will fit within the funds designated for it;
 - The number of pools will be reduced from three to two. One of the pools will be a 50-meter pool and the other a family pool that can be used for a range of programming;
 - The building architecture will be modified to fit into the existing budget;
 - The County will use a new bid process which has been successful in other jurisdictions; and
 - There is support for the connection of esplanade to regional trail system.

- The Commission requested staff to give a detailed presentation next month about the project.

Lubber Run Community Center [Scott McPartlin]

Scott shared the results of the County Board work session discussion on the County Manager’s recommendation to move ahead on the design of Lubber Run Community Center. The County Board supports the recommendation for staff to begin the design process for the new center which is proposed to include a new three to four story building, program space for multi-generational activities, the existing pre-school, a gymnasium, underground parking and space to accommodate park staff.

Commission Questions and Comments:

- Will there be a Lubber Run presentation next month?
Response (Scott): No, next month there will not be additional information to share. Staff will start the Request for Proposal process to hire an Architectural and Engineering firm to do the project.
- The neighborhood is angered that their community did not have any chance to give input on the proposal. Is there any flexibility on the County recommended design?
Response (Caroline): Yes, there is opportunity for public discussion on the County recommendations.

CIP letter to Board – Caroline will draft a letter regarding the Commission’s position on the proposed CIP recommendations and circulate it to the Commissioners for review.

Central Place Site Plan Amendment Update [Caroline Haynes]

- At the County Board meeting on Saturday April 16, the County Board voted 5 - 0 for the Central Place site plan amendment submitted by JBG. PRC had opposed granting the additional café space from the plaza.
- Pleased there was a unified staff position on the Central Place against the amendment, despite the Board action.

Commission Member Reports

- **APS (Jim Meikle/Pam Silberstein)**
- **APS Whole Child Working Group (Steve Finn)**
 - *There were two meetings of the APS Whole Child Working Group in the last month. For the march 31, 2016, meeting the working group rotate through five topic areas to refine the WG’s definitions of: learning knowledge and skills, physical health and activity, family and community engagement, social and emotional well-being, and culture, climate, and physical space. For the April 14, 2016, meeting the WG focused on refining the physical health and activity topic area to include drafting of common terms. A revised draft is posted to the WG web site.*
- **Budget/CIP (Haynes/Epstein/Scott)**
- **Crystal City Review Commission (Alonzie Scott/Andrea Walker)**

- **Four Mile Run Valley and Shirlington [Edie Wilson]**

- *We expect that the County Board will issue the Charge to the Four Mile Run Valley Initiative on Tuesday night, with appointment of a Working Group in May. The Charge is much improved with reference to the park areas, and now mentions not just Jennie Dean but all the associated parks such as Shirlington Park and Shirlington Dog Park. Specifically of interest to the PRC is this draft language:*

“6) Define an open space network that improves environmental conditions, public access, access to the established parks and other transitions to Four Mile Run stream; and provides an expanded and enhanced network of park and recreational opportunities for a variety of users;

7) Incorporate existing uses and a variety of active and passive uses within Jennie Dean Parkland other associated park spaces that meet the needs of all age and/or user groups;

8) Incorporate opportunities for siting and reconfiguring needed County services/uses/facilities within the study area;

9) Incorporate energy efficiency and sustainability measures;

10) Identify opportunities and incorporate best practices for stream restoration and preservation within Jennie Dean Park and adjacent open spaces to re-naturalize and integrate the Four Mile Run stream through habitat and stream bank enhancements, stormwater and floodplain management improvements, lookouts and access, and adjacent active and passive recreation and community gathering spaces;”

- *Finally, the Shirlington Civic Association held a meeting last week about parking. The PRC will be amused to learn that residents told the County's parking manager that they were surprised to find new pay to park spaces allowed surrounding the white stone fountain in the middle of the Village at Shirlington - in the area opposite Guapo's restaurant. Later in the conversation, county staff mentioned that they sometimes work on "pop-up parks" in parking spaces. We immediately retorted that the Village foundation area WAS our pop-up park and cars did not belong in it. The parking spaces have already been removed.*
- *The new Shirlington Walkabout that was successfully launched yesterday encourages visitors to explore all of our park areas - Shirlington Park along Arlington Mill Drive, Barcroft Park with the magnolia bog and woodland, Jennie Dean and the Shirlington Dog Park. It was very well presented and we are thinking of creating a podcast for future use along the walkabout path.*

- **Grants/Awards Committee**

- Bill Thomas Award (Mayo/Marshall)
- Park Enhancement Grants (PEG)

- **Lee Highway President's Group (Cindy Krech)**

- **Long Bridge Park [Alonzie Scott/ Bill Ross]**

- *Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee -- The advisory group completed and sent to the County Board its recommendations on the aquatics facility. These recommendations were discussed with the Board at a working session on April 12. The proposal is for a smaller facility with fewer of the originally proposed features that can be built under the current budget. At this point the manager will work on a more specific proposal which will be evaluated by the Board and a decision will be made by early summer.*

- **Lubber Run Community Center (Rick Epstein)**

- **Natural Resources (NRJAG) [Haynes/ Crawley]**

- *Jason Papacosma provided an overview of the array of upcoming storm water management projects, including Lower Four Mile Run in-stream restoration, Ballston Pond and Sparrow pond. The county is working to meet the increasingly stringent MS4 requirements for Chesapeake Bay water quality.*

- **Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) [Jim Feaster]**

- **Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) [Katie Elmore/Elizabeth Gearin]**
- **Plan for Our Places and Spaces (Haynes)**
- **Site Plan Review:**
 - **1201 S. Rhodes ST [Ross]** – *Will attend a meeting to review proposed development which includes a mini-park.*
 - **Metropolitan Park 6 [Haynes]**
 - **750 N Glebe (Mazda Site) (Haynes)** *There is essentially no open space associated with this project. Neighbors object to the proposed floor plate designed for a suburban style grocery store, which eliminates an alley and will increase truck and auto traffic on side streets and at the intersection of Glebe and Wilson Blvd.*
 - **The Berkley (Haynes)** – *This site plan is going to the County Board in June. The applicant made changes to the plan design but the fence still remains.*
- **Sports Commission [Steve Finn]**
- **Rosslyn Highlands Parks + [Elmore/Haynes]**
 - *In Rosslyn sector plan there are a number of major park elements planned. Current zoning ordinance requires 20% open space but that has resulted in a variety of disjointed open space which the developer designs to meet requirements. Staff is considering removing the open space requirement from the zoning ordinance and, instead, have developers contribute funds to major open spaces in the sector plan. The County still needs to develop a mechanism to require developers to make a contribution for these open spaces.*

Commission Questions/Comments:

 - PRC needs to consider this proposed change carefully.
 - Ask Elizabeth Weigle to come in May to explain the proposed change to zoning language.
 - Suggest looking at goals in the plan and pulling this language to put into the zoning. The zoning amendment action will not go to the County Board until the fall.
 - Suggest asking Brian Harner to come in to a meeting to explain the peaks and valleys idea for the building heights in Rosslyn.
 - Transformational elements idea would allow developers to increase their density if they offer a contribution to support the 18th street corridor elements.
- **Urban Agriculture [Renee Mayo]**
- **Urban Forestry Commission [Caroline Haynes]**
- **Williamsburg Field Lighting Working Group (Steve Finn)**
 - *The last work group meeting was canceled. The community sent a list of issues for the County to respond to which has not yet been completed. They hope to meet in May.*
Response (Caroline): I would like to know the major issues.
Response (Steve): Maybe in June he would know what they are.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40