



**ARLINGTON COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

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



January 25, 2019

The Honorable Christian Dorsey, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Park and Recreation Commission Work Plan for 2019

Dear Chairman Dorsey:

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) appreciates the opportunity to update members of the County Board on the work plan for 2019, including priority areas and ongoing objectives:

Completion of the Plan for Our Places and Spaces (POPS): We look forward to completion of the update of the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP). The commission has met with the POPS advisory group and staff, reviewed the most recent draft and anticipates providing a letter of comment to the County Board before it takes up the Request to Advertise and subsequent deliberations. We also are prepared to participate in county efforts to follow up on commitments that will be made in the PSMP document.

Updates of the Natural Resource Management/Urban Forest Master Plan(s): The PRC will provide dedicated participation during the updates of these plans, focusing on integrating the focus and language of these plans with the PSMP.

DPR Planning, Resources, and Budget: The commission notes that one of its primary responsibilities is to offer the board advice on planning and budgeting of DPR programs. We will continue to review and provide suggestions on the department's proposed budget for FY 2020 with a focus on areas of particular priority, given the county's current budgetary environment.

Land Acquisition: The commission will pursue its ongoing interest in promoting additional land acquisition for parks, recreation and open, public space. We look forward to the county's application of more specific land acquisition guidelines, ideas and strategies

that are incorporated in the draft PSMP document. The commission recognizes that adequate CIP funding will be required for any strategy to be successful.

Apply Biophilic Principles to Urban Design: The commission will continue to seek appropriate opportunities to educate the residents and businesses on the integral role that parks, recreation, and natural features and spaces have on the quality of life and economic vitality of our community. We will work with other commissions to promote the benefits of Arlington as a “Biophilic” community. We will encourage biophilic principles to be applied in public and private planning and development processes.

Apply Design Guidelines, Standards, and Needs Assessment Process for Privately Owned Public Spaces: The commission’s ongoing participation in the Site Plan Review and other county planning processes convinces us that it is important for the county to apply design guidelines and objective standards for determining public space needs. The objective is to ensure that each new development is part of a collective whole to address area parks, public space and recreation needs. The urban design guidelines included in the proposed PSMP document should assist in short term development and long term planning as we consider anticipated population increases and demographic changes in our community.

Privately Owned Public Open Spaces. We will work to support a resumption of the Community Planning (CPHD) Department’s efforts to create an inventory and analysis of privately owned public spaces. The PSMP draft includes a cursory list of such spaces. 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.

Additional ongoing objectives include:

The Bill Thomas Award: Following up on the commission’s modification of the nominating criteria for the award, we look to seek out and honor citizen volunteers who meaningfully contribute to our parks and public spaces.

Community Involvement and Engagement: The commission will take an active role in responding to community concerns involving park and recreation center planning, usage, maintenance, and recreation opportunities. We will assist residents in conferring with DPR staff to get issues resolved. The commission looks forward to participation in community planning processes operating under the Community Engagement Plan. We will work to advise staff on the best ways to take into account community concerns. We also look forward to enhanced discussions with civic groups, sports organizations and other community groups on issues of mutual interest.

Participate in park, public space and recreation facilities planning processes: PRC members will continue to participate in design and park renovation processes such as for Jennie Dean and Alcova Heights Parks. We will also entertain and discuss proposals for park name changes and memorial benches and plaques, as necessary.

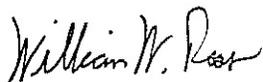
Actively engage in planning processes with the county and with Arlington Public Schools: PRC members will continue active representation on the Public Facilities Review (Education Center, Career Center) and Site Plan Review Committees. For the Site Plan process, we anticipate that particular focus will involve private development projects in the Crystal/Pentagon City and Rosslyn areas.

Participate in area and sector planning processes: PRC members will continue participation in area and sector plans such as Lee Highway, 26th St./Old Dominion and Crystal City Citizen Review Council.

Enhance coordination with other commissions and committees on areas of overlapping interest: PRC will continue to seek opportunities to work on issues of mutual interest with other commissions such as Sports, Urban Forestry, Planning, Environment and Energy Conservation, Arts, Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group, Joint Facilities, the Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee.

We appreciate having this opportunity to share our 2019 work plan with you.

Sincerely,



William Ross, Chair
Park and Recreation Commission

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