

## **Park and Recreation Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Ellen M. Bozman Government Center, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

Azalea Conference Room on the Lobby Level

### **AGENDA**

#### **Chairman's Introduction and Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes (7:00-7:05)**

- Commission consideration of October 22, 2019 minutes

#### **Public Comment (7:05-7:15)**

*\* Park and Recreation Commission public comment is open to all with a 3-minute limit per person.*

#### **Destination 2027 Discussion [Abby Raphael, Co-Chair of Destination 2027 and Patricia Rodgers, Northern Virginia Health Foundation] (7:15-8:05)**

#### **Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Budget Update [Rebecca Schmitt, DPR] (8:05-8:30)**

#### **Met Park 6, 7/8 Development Discussion [Brian Earle, ZGF Architects] (8:30-8:55)**

#### **Staff Report (8:55-9:00)**

#### **Commission Member Reports (9:00-9:15)**

- 26<sup>th</sup> Street North and Old Dominion Drive Site Master Planning Task Force (David Howell)
  - *No new updates.*
- 55+ (Dean Foster)
  - *Participating membership in the 55+ program has reached over 6900 persons. Interest in Adventure Travel continues to grow. At the end of October, adventurers had a three-mile hike at Sky Meadow State Park in Delaplane, VA. and learned about monitoring blue birds from a Naturalist. They also refreshed the nest boxes along the trail by removing old nesting material and replacing it with fresh straw for the winter months. Usually the number of fledglings after the*

*season is over can be in the 400s. This was an important mission and learning experience for nature conservation.*

- *All are looking forward to the next Adventure Travel which will be snow tubing at Whitetail Resort in Mercersburg, Pa. on January 25th.*
- *Registration for our 55+ fitness, exercise, wellness and sports classes was on November 4<sup>th</sup> and the process and participation went well. In September sixty 55+ members attended the first Crafting Your Next Chapter workshop led by a nationally recognized pioneer in retirement life-crafting. The three-hour session focused on discussion of personal values and engaging in exercises centered around planning their lives to include what is most important and enjoyable to each. Participants left the class energized with new ideas and plans. Another life planning workshop will be held in the spring.*
  
- Alcova Heights (Colt Gregory)
  - *No Issues in this reporting period. Phase 1 of 3 is funded and Phase 1 construction on will begin 2nd quarter of 2020.*
  
- APS (Jim Meikle)
- Civic Federation (Duke Banks)
  - *The Civic Federation will be considering the following Resolution on Flooding at its meeting on Tuesday (same time as PRC meeting). Parts of the Resolution concerns flooding damage to parks. Resolution can be viewed here:*  
[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001s24W-V6nF\\_l41arStCeeKa8rcXxzQWfWctR5r1vpcN1OLudzefq8Q0vpBKJwMikraH7-5eL-N7\\_hFJrbW7xnO5rnV-AOHMP6Ta0caqsJ2VudRj8QONyBEjZfiB\\_UResnaV8h3yMjdQcClvqYd293Fb-xcxe7zXFENkznYp9Kt1OK-3H3Gdpi4N82qk5G0nveq\\_d7WN1sK1K9gMvcZyhUOV-vU8\\_ldbnNS-4aQlsrz4=&c=kNRqVNHUUmwIDyNYP-ds4IMY5SvysTTxJ9\\_rOE-LxTatvjoAnnsYw==&ch=86FcLxKMCqw\\_aeQGxGPibXB5nNxPutuAORFLh1Xer5yAccEFJGjxq==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001s24W-V6nF_l41arStCeeKa8rcXxzQWfWctR5r1vpcN1OLudzefq8Q0vpBKJwMikraH7-5eL-N7_hFJrbW7xnO5rnV-AOHMP6Ta0caqsJ2VudRj8QONyBEjZfiB_UResnaV8h3yMjdQcClvqYd293Fb-xcxe7zXFENkznYp9Kt1OK-3H3Gdpi4N82qk5G0nveq_d7WN1sK1K9gMvcZyhUOV-vU8_ldbnNS-4aQlsrz4=&c=kNRqVNHUUmwIDyNYP-ds4IMY5SvysTTxJ9_rOE-LxTatvjoAnnsYw==&ch=86FcLxKMCqw_aeQGxGPibXB5nNxPutuAORFLh1Xer5yAccEFJGjxq==)
  
- Crystal City Citizen Review Council (Shruti Kuppa)
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force (David Howell)
- Gulf Branch Stream Restoration (Colt Gregory/Duke Banks)
  - *Public Meeting held at Gulf Branch Nature Center on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Arlington County staff and Wetlands Studies and Solutions (Ctr) presented the Draft Concept. Issues discussed included remediation cost, loss of mature trees, potential use of smaller equipment to reduce disturbance, child safety in equipment/materials staging area on Utah street, trail loss, and construction disturbance as vector for invasive plants.*
  - *Future Schedule: Concept Design meeting proposed for Spring 2020, Final Design 2021, followed by procurement and construction 2022-2024.*

- Jennie Dean Park, Phase 1 Update (Colt Gregory)
  - *Attended Final Design presentation Nov 18th. Will provide update.*
  - *Schedule: Construction proposed to begin 1st Qtr. 2020*
  
- Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC) (Bill Ross)
  - *The Scoping and Vision Subcommittees continue to meet in planning for a Joint Facilities Plan study. We will want to weigh in on how such a plan will interact with the guidance of the PSMP, which deals with open space "facilities". Among the issues are how the county (and schools) think about land acquisition in general along with park/open space land acquisition. Also, any recent processes that JFAC was involved in (Buck property, Carlin Springs, 26th and Old Dominion) have dealt with possible tradeoffs between open space/recreation and other County uses. Finally, any discussions about facilities will need to deal with the design aspects of those facilities, including the biophilic components of those designs.*
  
- Long Bridge Fees Working Group (Bill Ross)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) (Gregory/Howell/Mullen)
  - *Discussed Watershed/stormwater issues and approaches with Vincent Verweij - Urban Forester and Jason Papacosma, DES Watershed Program Mgr. Noted that impervious services are increasing and generating more run off. New builds and retrofits typically discard existing top soil that is replaced with hard clay subsoil that is much less pervious. This practice increases impervious surface and runoff. Tree planting and green streets alone cannot offset these losses. Improving site soil and changing landscape practices can help reduce runoff. Creative ways of encouraging businesses, new home construction and existing homeowners to retain, improve existing or increase pervious surfaces would be helpful. For example, Alexandria has a stormwater fee credit program.*
  - *The project to combine the Natural Resources Management Plan and Urban Forest Master Plan is proceeding with the interview of potential contractors.*
  
- Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission (NCSC) (Leo Sarli)
  - *(Meeting of November 18<sup>th</sup>) Meeting began with a lighting Update from Hui Wang, Bureau Chief, DES - explaining the different players in the street light of Arlington. A total of 18,000 lights 7,000 are owned and maintained by Arlington County. The rest belong to VA Dominion. The other party that participates in the street light discussion is Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).*
  - *Following we got updates regarding ongoing Neighborhood Conservation updates.*
  - *Vision Zero meeting had the first meeting.*
  - *Finally, we reviewed the pilot projects, how best to proceed regarding County Board and funding for future street improvements such as North Stafford chicane*

*project. Staff and Commission welcome any feedback, particularly positive comments.*

- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) (Angelo Collins)
- Other Items (Michael Grace)
  - *Upper Bluemont Park Conceptual Design (Capital Maintenance Project): Initial community meeting held October 29, 2019. Staff from DPR reviewed the Project's scope of work and schedule, presented an analysis of existing site conditions, and conducted breakout sessions addressing various aspects of the Project. Presentation from the meeting and DPR's summary of community comments made at the meeting have been posted on the Project Webpage. Citizens may continue to comment online on the Project Webpage. A second community meeting to present draft design concepts is anticipated for Winter 2020.*
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) (Neal Hunter)
- Plan Lee Highway (Cindy Krech/Julie Mullen)
  - *Julie attended the Plan Lee Highway Community Forum Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Staff went over the Existing Conditions Analysis Presentation for each of the 9 elements: Land Use, Transportation and Connectivity, Urban Design and Building Form, Public School, Facilities and Spaces, Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources, Economic Vitality, Housing and Sustainability and Resiliency. In each of the areas the County presented Key Messages, Next Steps and engaged the group in discussion and questions. Five-minute videos were taken of each element presentation and should be available on the Plan Lee Highway website at some point for the public. In addition, there will be an existing conditions report presentation on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, open to the public.*
  - *The next step will be a characters area development where they will engage the public in discussion about how people see the change happening.*
- Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) (Bill Ross/Sergio Enriquez)
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) (Sergio Enriquez)
- Site Plan Review Committee (Bill Ross)
  - 600 N. Glebe Rd. – Harris Teeter Site (Bill Ross)
    - *The project was approved at the Nov. 16 County Board meeting. Bill made some comments reflecting the commission's August letter and on more recent commission discussions of the planned park design and the loss of trees along the periphery of the site.*
  - 1900 S. Eads St. – Crystal Houses (Bill Ross)
    - *A final, fourth SPRC meeting was held on Nov. 18, with discussions concerning some parking issues and community benefits. We will produce a*

*final letter to the Board based on that and previous discussions concerning the planned parks and other open space aspects of the project.*

- Key Bridge Marriott (Leo Sarli)
  - *Discussion regarding open spaces on-site continues to feature a "crescent" public access trail connecting the Key Bridge trail to the Lee Hwy/Custis trail along the north edge of the site. There was a passing mention of creating an overhanging bit of structure that could carry the trail along the rear of the existing garage all the way to the intersection of N. Oak Street and Lee. The applicant is planning to do a tree survey, along with an analysis of sights to and from the property. The group discussed issues such as signage, multi-modal transportation use, leisure space, and the notion of a buffer between the built and natural environments, which will be further developed in the SPRC process that follows. The trails carry a large volume of bicycle & pedestrian traffic intersecting at various points with roads and streets that also carry heavy traffic loads. The removal of the entrance to the property from Fort Myer Drive is causing some concern w/ neighbors regarding vehicular traffic on N. Nash Street. NPS owns that sliver of land (pie-shaped piece) and has requested that the curb cut be removed. The site sits directly opposite Gateway Park. Currently, there are no plans/drawings for the park, but some high-level discussions have begun, and PRC is suggesting the community benefit be directed towards the park in the form of funds. The pedestrian/bike ramp running along Lee Hwy is slated to be torn down, but I personally recommend a pause to the removal until after we've had a chance to (master) plan the park. Unlikely, but there is a chance that we could regret removing such a well-built piece of infrastructure. Finally, the landscape architects are well aware of the impact on nature the shadows of the new structures will have and seem to be planning accordingly. The first SPRC meeting is tentatively scheduled for late November.*
- PenPlace Phase I (Shruti Kuppa)
- Metropolitan Park 6, 7, 8 – National Landing (Shruti Kuppa/Bill Ross)
  - *A presentation on the open spaces aspect of the project will be provided at the November PRC meeting. A fairly large open space will supplement the current "Met Park". After this and some discussion, the Commission can produce a letter to the Board.*
- Block J/K Crystal City (Colt Gregory/Bill Ross)
  - *SPRC meeting reviewed the transportation component of the 2 Towers project. PRC related interests were space and design of Center Park, suggested removal of street trees to accommodate dedicated bicycle lane on Crystal Drive and continued discussion of a shared street (Woonerf) to be used as the lobby entrance for the two new 26-27 story buildings. Staff did*

*not recommend the shared street approach and preferred the Pedestrian Plaza renderings. The Pedestrian Plaza would be the main entry way to Center Park (approximately 74,000 sq. ft.). Center Park will be discussed next meeting.*

- Sparrow Pond Restoration Project (David Howell)
  - *No new updates.*
  
- Sports Commission (Steve Finn/Mark Lincoln)
  - *The Sports Commission met October 24, 2019. Most of the meeting was taken up with a discussion of amendments to the commission's charter. The charter had not been updated since 2014 and the ASC wants it to be more compatible with other commission charters that have been more recently updated. Consistent with that effort, the ASC discussed updates to its allocation for representation of constituent groups and sports. As I've noted in past PRC meetings, the ASC is different from us in that most commissions represent specific leagues or programs. However, there are an inadequate number of commissioner positions to cover all constituent groups. As a result, the ASC assigns additional groups to each commissioner. The ASC also heard reports on the new commission orientation and the recent commission workshop. The November meeting for the ASC will be held Monday November 25 at the Aurora Hills Community Center Main Room.*
  
- Urban Forestry Commission (David Howell)
  - *The Urban Forestry Commission's October meeting included the same DES presentation on stream restoration projects as PRC received in September. The other primary agenda item was consideration of a number of modifications to the eligibility and selection criteria for the Notable Tree Recognition Program. The program guidelines were modified and made explicit avoid eligibility for invasive species; eliminate the special neighborhood significance option as a type of qualification; eliminate the provision of certificates and instead recognize on the county webpage and map; restrict nominations to those within 5% of the largest current notable tree of each species, or if not yet on the list, require a 30" diameter at breast height (dbh) for large canopy species and 10" dbh for small canopy species; require unanimous consent for approval by UFC as part of its annual approval of recommendations. These changes were voted on and approved by the commission.*
  - *The commission voted to support changes to the notable tree guidelines to:*
    1. *Avoid invasive species*
    2. *Remove special significance (Neighborhood) option*
    3. *Remove certificate option, but recognize on website and map*

4. *Restrict nominations by size, within 5% of largest current notable tree, or, if the species is not on the list, greater than 30 inches for large canopy trees, and greater than 10 inches for small canopy trees*
  5. *Require unanimous consent by the UFC.*
- *The changes were approved by the commission.*
  - Village at Shirlington Special Land Use Study (Dean Foster)
    - *The LRPC studying the Shirlington Village Special GLUP application will host a community forum on November 20<sup>th</sup> at the WETA building to present the committee's progress thus far and describe the potential for changes to the density and height of buildings in the study area. Modeling alternatives for the project site and history of the area as discussed at the previous meeting of the LRPC on September 25<sup>th</sup> will also be shared for comment and discussion.*
  - Vision Zero External Stakeholder Group (Angelo Collins)

**Other Business (9:15-9:20)**

- Letters to the County Board

**Next Meeting: December 17, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

**(Meeting will be held in the Azalea Room of the Ellen M. Bozman Government Center).**