

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Public Hearing & Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, May 18, 2023**  
**7p.m.**

**Virtual – Zoom Meeting**

**P&RC Members**

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

**Absent:** Katy Matthews, Secretary (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; Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Planning; Tonja Walls, Division Chief, Park Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Commission Chair, Steve Beggs, called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

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

No public comments.

**III. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISTRICT I:** **Stuart Fox** stated that the Waterfront Flood Implementation Plan will have a public hearing with City Council on May 23. This step is to select the design build partner. **Barbara Marvin** stated that the Open Space Steering Committee met on May 1, possibly for the last time. They discussed draft tasks and design plan. The zone text amendment will be presented to City Council on June 17. **Jeffrey Miller** reported baby beavers in Potomac Green Park.

**DISTRICT II:** **Dana Colarulli** stated that construction at Douglas MacArthur is on schedule. There were a few complaints about noise and parking. **Stephen Beggs** stated that the Potomac Yard Metro Opening Ceremony is scheduled for tomorrow. There is a slight delay in returning park areas to their original condition. **Geoffrey Goode** gave a note of thanks to the Office of the Arts. The Mobile Art Lab visited a recent carnival at George Mason Elementary School.

**DISTRICT III:** **Katy Matthews** was not in attendance. **David Brennan** reported that Minnie Howard is on-time and on-plan currently. The school is still working on

programming. Youth sports did not meet in May, but should have a meeting in June. **Phillip Voorhees** did not have an update.

**STUDENT MEMBERS:** **Tookie Organek** reported that the school year is wrapping up, including Spring sports. **Rania Shuster** was not in attendance.

#### **IV. PUBLIC HEARING**

##### **a. Motion to Open the Public Hearing**

**ACTION:** FY23.5.18.23A

**Motion:** Jeffery Miller moved, and Dana Colarulli seconded the motion to open the public hearing. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

##### **b. Staff Presentation - Simpson Park Renovation**

Beth Znidersic introduced Mitch Dillon (DPI) and Brian Cipriano (lead project manager on the design team). Mitch Dillon gave a presentation on the Simpson Park Renovations.

The presentation can be found here: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/SimpsonPRC23MAY\\_0.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/SimpsonPRC23MAY_0.pdf)

##### **c. Public Comments**

Public comments can be found here: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/Eugene%20Simpson%20Stadium%20Park%20Renovation%20Plan%20Written%20Comments\\_0.pdf](https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/Eugene%20Simpson%20Stadium%20Park%20Renovation%20Plan%20Written%20Comments_0.pdf)

##### **d. Chair – Motion to Close Public Hearing**

**ACTION:** FY23.5.18.23B

**Motion:** Dana Colarulli moved, and Barbara Marvin seconded the motion to close the public hearing. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

##### **e. Commission Action**

**ACTION:** FY23.5.18.23C

**Motion:** Dana Colarulli moved, and Geoffrey Goode seconded the motion to endorse the Simpson Park Renovation Plan as modified and as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **V. ACTION ITEMS**

##### **a. Approval of April 20, Meeting Minutes**

**ACTION:** FY23.5.18.23D

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

#### **VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

##### **a. Jack Browand introduced Tonja Walls, the new Division Chief in Park Services.**

**b. Staff Reports – Commissioner Questions**

Division updates (staff reports) posted at:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/PRCCCombinedStaffReportsMay23.pdf>

**c. Approved Operating Budget – OSTP Update**

James Spengler, Director of RPCA, gave an update on the FY24 budget. The RPCA Department budget passed the \$30 million mark this year. City Council decided to raise half of the money needed for additional staffing by increasing OSTP registration fees. The general fund would cover the other half. The OSTP registration fee for the school year will increase to \$792 effective June 1.

**VII. NEXT MEETING**

June 15, 2023 – Patrick Henry Recreation Center

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**ACTION:** FY23.5.18.23E

**Motion:** Barbara Marvin moved, and Jeffrey Miller seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:23p.m. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

\*Please note that meeting minutes are a summary of topics discussed during each Commission meeting. Full video recording available here:

[https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=29&coa\\_view\\_id=29&coa\\_clip\\_id=5878](https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=29&coa_view_id=29&coa_clip_id=5878)