

City of Alexandria, Virginia
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Mount Vernon Recreation Center
2701 Commonwealth Avenue

Summary Minutes

Members Present: Jennifer Atkins, Chair, Judith Coleman, Vice Chair, Gina Baum, Stephen Beggs, Rich Brune, Secretary, Ripley Forbes.

Members Absent: William Cromley, Brian McPherson, Catherine Poulin.

RPCA Staff Present: James Spengler, Director; Dinesh Tiwari, Deputy Director, Park Operations; William Chesley, Deputy Director, Recreation Services; Jack Browand, Division Chief, Public Information, Special Events, Waterfront Operations; Margaret Orlando, Division Chief, Recreation Services; Ron Kagawa, Division Chief, Park Planning, Design+Capital Projects; Laura Durham, Open Space Coordinator, Bethany Znidersic, Landscape Architect/Park Planner, Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing Manager; Robin DeShields, Executive Assistant, Iris Portny, Assisting Recording Secretary.

Other City Staff: Jeffrey Farner, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning.

Guests: Cathleen Curtin, Cyndi Flores, David Fromm, Jeanne Gardner, Christine Garner, Caroline Griglione (AAA), Melany Hansen, Marilyn Howe, Marguerite Lang, Barbara Lynch, Bruno Mahlmoun, Teresa Miller, Dan and Karen Sehnal, Bill Rivers (AAA), Maryann Walker.

I. Call to Order: by Jennifer Atkins, Chair. Atkins called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She noted the absence of a quorum and reported that Vice Chair Coleman had been delayed in traffic. When Coleman arrived at 7:10 p.m. a quorum was then present.

II. Public Hearing: Proposal to De-designate Three Unfenced Dog Exercise Areas.

Chair Atkins reviewed what had prompted the Park and Recreation Commission (P&RC) to develop its proposal for the City to de-designate three unfenced dog exercise areas - those at the southeast corner of Braddock Road/Commonwealth Avenue (Braddock/Commonwealth), at Fort Williams Parkway/Dearborn Road (Fort Williams Parkway/Dearborn), and at Timberbranch Parkway/ParkwayTerrace (Timberbranch/Parkway Terrace).

A Commission-generated proposal - Atkins said Commissioners, not City staff, developed the proposal after hearing resident concerns that were presented as either comments to individual Commissioners, or as public comments during the City's public hearings that were held as part of the RPCA's ongoing park planning process. The P&RC created ***a Dog Park Subcommittee***, to identify issues needing to be addressed that relate to either specific unfenced off-leash dog exercise areas, or to the Dog Park Master Plan (DPMP). Commissioners Coleman, Forbes and Brune serve on the subcommittee. Some criteria used to identify unfenced dog exercise areas for potential de-designation

were lack of use and potential safety concerns raised either by park users or related to the exercise area being located on a busy street.

Atkins said public comments submitted by email will be included in the hearing's public record.

Public Comments

1. Cathleen Curtin, 501 Princess Street

Curtin, a dog owner and president of "foundersdogpark.com", a non-profit (501c3) organization of dog owners who use the off-leash unfenced dog exercise area in Founders Park, said they organized about five years ago to deal with complaints about the unfenced dog exercise area. She said foundersdogpark.com conducted a small survey covering dog parks throughout the City when the organization was established, and it showed that most dog owners prefer using the unfenced dog parks because dogs are better socialized/trained, and the grounds are better kept. They found that in seven fenced dog parks, that they sometimes become dirt pits, are not well maintained, and dogs there are not well monitored by owners. She said she supports keeping the three designated unfenced dog exercise areas as is, and urged the City to conduct a more systematic outreach in the neighborhoods near the Timberbranch/Parkway Terrace and Fort Williams Parkway/Dearborn dog areas to determine the actual usage.

2. Christine Garner, 25 W. Glendale Avenue

Garner, a dog owner who lives next to the Braddock/Commonwealth dog exercise area and regularly uses it, said she had gathered about 100 neighbors who signed her petition asking for the dog exercise area to stay as is. She said about 90 percent of the petitions signers oppose fencing this exercise area, in part because they fear it would generate more users and traffic. She said that unfenced dog exercise areas tend to be better for older dogs than fenced areas where the dogs may be less supervised.

3. David Fromm, 2307 E. Randolph Avenue

Fromm said he does not currently own a dog. He does not want this proposal to be used as an excuse to close unfenced dog exercise areas in the City. He said some dogs do not handle fenced-in dog areas well, and recommended that plantings be used as an alternative to fencing.

4. Maryann Walker, 206 S. Pitt Street

Walker, a dog owner, said she uses the dog exercise area next to Ford's Landing, supports off-leash dog parks in general, and wants to make sure the Ford's Landing unfenced dog exercise area is kept as is. She said the only safety problems she has experienced in Ford's Landing Park are created by bicyclists who ignore posted signage advising them to dismount.

5. Cyndi Flores, 3 Groves Avenue

Flores, a dog owner who uses the Timberbranch/Parkway Terrace dog exercise area, said she supports unfenced dog parks because fenced dog parks tend to be more chaotic, with more poorly trained dogs. She said unfenced exercise areas are also good for to train dogs, especially for higher end uses such as therapy dogs.

6. Marguerite Lang, 14 W. Rosemont Avenue

Lang, a dog owner, said the Braddock/Commonwealth dog exercise area should not be de-designated. She said this park is adequate and safe for older and less active dogs and most owners of more active dogs tend not to use this park. Lang said as a taxpayer she doesn't want to lose the benefit of having this dog exercise area.

7. Melany Hansen, 610 S. Washington Street

Hansen, a dog owner and new resident, said she uses the Windmill Hill Park and Monroe dog parks and notices that dog owners are more attentive to their dogs at an unfenced dog exercise area. She said it would make it easier for users of a dog exercise area to respond to any safety concerns raised if they can communicate with each other directly as the Founder Park Dog Park users do.

8. Bruno Mahlmoun, 501 Princess Street

Mahlmoun, a dog owner who uses the Founders Park and Windmill Hill Park dog exercise areas, said it is important to preserve open spaces where possible, and to mitigate any safety issues without fences where possible. He noted that founderdogpark.com had raised \$35,000 to install trees and benches at the City's dog exercise area to help alleviate park users' concerns. He said if safety-related incidents occur at a dog exercise area, City Council should have metrics to reference when deciding how to respond.

Public comments submitted by email:

Note: The following residents submitted comments on the proposal by email. Their unabridged comments are included as an appendix at the end of the meeting minutes: Susie Acheson, Ali Ahmad-President, Wakefield -Tarleton Civic Association, Daniel Gustav Anderson, Margaret M. Ballard, Barbara P. Beach, CaddingtonII (Tweet), Cathleen Curtin-FoundersDogPark.com, Yvonne Callahan, Ruben ("Bill") Duran, Kirk S. Fedder, Christine Garner, Carrie Keene, Tricia Levy and Robert Ritsch, Melissa McMahan, John Merten, Heather Fox, Mary Hobbie, Linda Holland, Amy Slack, Michael Rose, Timothy Sullivan.

Commissioners' Responses to Public Comments:

- Atkins said the unfenced dog exercise area in Mount Jefferson Park will be kept unfenced, and the exercise area's current drainage problems will be fixed and some plantings may be added. She said natural barriers at this location effectively discourage dogs from running into nearby streets.
- Atkins said the P&RC has no plans at this time to propose de-designating other unfenced dog areas beyond the three proposed. She said the Commission is concerned about unfenced dog exercise areas on a relatively busy street without separation barriers, such as the Braddock/Commonwealth one. She said the Dog Park Sub-committee's goal is to proactively identify potential safety risks for dogs, pedestrians, bicyclists and other users rather than waiting for an incident to happen.
- In response to suggestions that the P&RC increase its outreach to neighbors when a dog exercise area is being considered for de-designation, Atkins said the effectiveness of the public outreach was shown by the many residents who emailed comments and attended that evening's meeting. She said the Braddock/Commonwealth area is clearly "well-used and well loved" but few comments were received regarding Fort Williams Parkway/Dearborn and Timberbranch/Parkway Terrace.
- Atkins said the P&RC wants to continue to hear from neighbors and users of dog exercise areas about whether an exercise area's apparent safety risks are actual problems.
- Coleman said the Sub-committee had worked hard to word the Commission's announcement for the public hearing in a way that made it clear the focus of the de-designation proposal was limited to the three unfenced dog areas mentioned. She regretted that some people were nonetheless worried that broader actions were being planned. She said it's time to revisit the DPMP because the City has changed a lot since the DPMP was approved.
- Coleman said that resident inputs help the P&RC consider what types of changes are needed for these exercise areas, the P&RC is not an administrative agency that regularly gathers information so it relies on outreach. She emphasized the City is and will remain dog-friendly.
- Forbes said he had raised the initial safety concerns about the Braddock/Commonwealth dog

exercise area. He said designation of a site as a dog exercise area should not depend upon whether most dogs using it appear well-behaved, because others dogs may not be.

- Forbes said the P&RC initiated its review because the DPMP was approved in 2002 and the Braddock/Commonwealth exercise area was designated 30 years ago, well before the Braddock Metro station and the increased traffic it generates.
- Forbes said other communities' best practices for dog exercise areas generally require smaller dog exercise areas to be fenced, especially when located at a place or intersection where an accident risk is foreseeable, e.g. Braddock/Commonwealth. He noted Denver's best practices require unfenced off-leash dog parks to be 200 feet from a road.
- Forbes said he would like to see Hooff's Run developed into a significant dog park.
- Brune said additional details about specific complaints received during the past five years regarding dog exercise area safety issues would be useful.
- Brune agreed with Forbes that the Braddock/Commonwealth site is a potentially dangerous location for an unfenced dog exercise area.
- Beggs said locating a dog exercise area at the intersection of two busy streets (e.g., Braddock/Commonwealth) is "not the best idea". He likes the suggestion of adding plantings and other barriers to unfenced dog areas.
- Atkins agreed with Forbes that the P&RC should be proactive in looking at places where potential safety problems exist, even with few or no reported incidents, or conflicting opinions.
- Atkins said the City's Office of Animal Control considers Braddock/Commonwealth to be a high risk area for having a dog-related accident.

Commission recommendation to Council

Action: Baum moved, and Brune seconded, that the P&RC recommend to City Council that (1) the unfenced dog exercise areas at Timberbranch/Parkway Terrace and Fort Williams Parkway/Dearborn be de-designated now, with the understanding that staff should consider more suitable locations for off-leash dog exercise areas within these parks when they are reviewed during the City's natural area park planning process; and (2) that planning for the Braddock/Commonwealth dog exercise area should be considered later as part of the pocket park planning process. Coleman and Beggs opposed solely on the limited ground that the de-designations of Fort Williams Parkway and Timber Branch Parkway could wait to be addressed in a future planning process. They agreed with the proposal regarding the Braddock/Commonwealth area. The motion passed 4-2.

III. Presentation: Oakville Triangle/Route 1 Corridor Vision Plan - Jeffrey Farner, Deputy Director, Planning and Zoning.

Note: Corridor Vision Plan and Design Guidelines are posted at:

http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/planning/info/Oakville_Triangle/OakvilleDesignGuidelines09232015LoRes.pdf

Farner reviewed the Oakville Triangle/Route 1 Corridor Vision Plan. He said the final recommendations will be submitted to the Planning Commission and City Council in October 2015. He noted this area is adjacent to Mount Jefferson Park and a Mount Jefferson Park update will be presented to the P&RC at a future meeting.

Highlights of the plan's open space elements include:

- Parcel on Bellefonte Avenue adjacent to Route 1 to be used as open space.
- 25-foot wide Route 1 sidewalks and undergrounding of utilities.
- Ground level, roof top and public access easement open spaces.

- Possible higher and lower paths in Mount Jefferson Park.
- Swann Street probably to be closed to cars on weekends.
- Including building scale transitions and open space in the area near Mount Jefferson Park.
- Ruby Tucker Park to expand by about one-third by adding the existing Lynhaven Drive right-of-way. Staff will recommend the City be responsible for maintaining the added-on space, and that Preston Condominium Association continue to maintain the existing Ruby Tucker Park area.
- Privately owned parks next to Mount Jefferson Park to be made accessible via public access easements.

Items still to be determined include:

- Whether and how to make roof-top open space open to the public.
- Developing options for creating interim open spaces that can be actively used by the public during construction period as elements of the plan are phased in.

Next steps:

- Oakville Triangle/Route 1 Advisory Group to prepare letters submitting its recommendations and endorsement of the plan to the Planning Commission and City Council.
- December 1 Planning Commission public hearing for proposed Mount Jefferson Park redesign. December consideration by Planning Commission and City Council of Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) for rezoning that permits plan's office building and two residential buildings.

Commission comments:

- ***Park phasing*** - In response to Atkins 's question, Farner said the developer has agreed to include Mount Jefferson Park from Raymond Street to Route 1 in Phase 1 of the redevelopment and design, and that development will be entirely funded by the developer.
- ***Building heights*** - In response to Atkins' question about increasing building heights, Farner said the plan currently shows the property at Fannon Street and Route 1 as a 55-foot height, but in recent months multiple property owners asked the Advisory Group to support higher building heights to make the redevelopment more economically viable. He said the proposals for increased heights include 45 feet next to Mount Jefferson Park, and either 65 or 85 feet further away from the park. Farner said the Advisory Group could not agree on the proposed height increases and decided instead to recommend principles that the Planning Commission and City Council should consider when considering these height requests. He said the Advisory Group wants to avoid uniform building heights along Route 1.
- ***Roof-top open space*** - Farner said that for roof top open space to meet DSUP requirements, it must meet the DSUP's dimensional requirements and be usable for programming.

IV. Items for Information:

A. Public Comments (Non-agenda items).

David Fromm asked if there will be a trash can at the attractive new Stewart Avenue entrance into Mount Jefferson Park. Tiwari said there will be.

V. Items for Action:

A. Approval of Minutes: May 21, 2015, June 18, 2015, July 16, 2015.

- **Brune** moved and **Beggs** seconded that the May 21, 2015 minutes be approved. The motion was approved by voice vote with Baum abstaining due to absence.
- **Brune** moved and **Beggs** seconded that the June 18, 2015 minutes be approved. The motion was approved by voice vote with Baum abstaining due to absence.
- **Brune** moved and **Atkins** seconded that the July 16, 2015 minutes be approved. The motion was approved by voice vote with Coleman abstaining due to absence.

VI. **RPCA Staff Updates:**

A. **Director's Report:**

1. **FY17 CIP Update:** James Spengler, Director, RPCA. See Staff Report. Spengler reviewed the FY17 CIP Short Title Project List (FY17 to FY26), in total \$76 million is being requested over ten years.
 2. **Patrick Henry Project Update: See Attachments. Background:** On June, 18, 2015, the P&RC held a public hearing to receive input on the RPCA staff recommended, Neighborhood Recreation Center (NRC) programming model for the new Patrick Henry Recreation Center. On June, 23, 2015 City Council approved the NRC programming concept. The Alexandria City Council and Alexandria City School Board have recommended the formation of a new Patrick Henry School and Recreation Center Stakeholder Advisory Group to oversee the planning and design for the new recreation center. Letters to various groups requesting appointment of representatives will be mailed next week. The monthly City Council/School Board Sub-Committee Meetings will be used to provide regular project updates. Atkins said Brian McPherson (absent) will continue to serve as the P&RC representative on the Patrick Henry Board.
- B. **Division Updates:** To view full staff reports please go to <http://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCSEPTEMBER172015CO MBINEDREPORTSRevised2.pdf>
1. **Recreation Services:** William Chesley, Deputy Director, See Staff Report. Atkins thanked Chesley and staff for including data about summer camps, and Out of School Time Program (OSTP) participation in the report. She said that RPCA did well in this area. Chesley introduced long-time staff member Margaret Orlando, who was recently promoted to Division Chief.
 2. **Park Operations:** Dinesh Tiwari, Deputy Director - See Staff Report.
 3. **Public Information, Special Events, Waterfront Operations:** Jack Browand, Division Chief, See Staff Report.
 4. **Park Planning, Design + Capital Projects:** Ron Kagawa, Division Chief and staff - See Staff Reports.

VII. Commission Business and Reports from Commissioners by District (verbal updates):

A. Sub-Committees on Public/Private Partnerships and Open Space:

Durham said staff will provide an update to City Council on the Open Space Plan in January or February 2016.

B. Memorandum to City Council regarding NOVA Parks Proposal to Acquire

517 Prince Street: See Attachment Memorandum at:

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/PRCSEPTEMBER172015COMBINEDREPORTSRevised2.pdf>

In August, 2015, NOVA Parks submitted a proposal to acquire 517 Princess St., an 18th century historic property, contingent on the City renewing NOVA Parks' lease on the Cameron Run Regional Park property for an additional 30 year lease term. Coleman asked Director Spengler to keep the P&RC informed of further developments and if a public hearing is needed.

Action: Atkins requested the NOVA Park's item be added to the October agenda (non-public hearing) for discussion. Additional agenda items are: the proposed 50 meter pool at Chinquapin Center, and the Cameron Run Regional Park lease.

C. Civic Awards Update: Browand said the P&RC Civic Awards Sub-committee, Brune, Forbes, are working on updating nomination criteria. Atkins asked the Sub-Committee to provide an update at the October meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting: October 16, 2015, Charles Houston Community Center. Agenda items will include an update on the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan. The P&RC wants to hold its November meeting in the City's West End.

IX. Adjourned 9:23 p.m.

1/7/16

Attachments: Public Comments



Park and Recreation Commission to Hold Public Hearing to Consider Non-Designating Three Unfenced Dog Exercise Areas

For Immediate Release: August 18, 2015

The Park and Recreation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 17, 7 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. to receive public comment on a proposal to remove the designation of three unfenced dog exercise areas because they present potential safety issues for dogs, as well as pedestrians, bicyclists, and others using adjacent streets. The unfenced dog exercise areas under consideration are 1.) [Ft. Williams Parkway at Dearborn Rd](#); 2.) [Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth Ave.](#); and 3.) [W. Timberbranch Parkway and Parkway Terrace](#). The Commission also welcomes comments regarding the status of other designated unfenced dog exercise areas.

Individuals unable to attend the Public Hearing are encouraged to send written comments by Tuesday, September 15 to Jack Browand, Division Chief, by email at jack.browand@alexandriava.gov or standard mail to RPCA, Attn: Jack Browand, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria VA 22314. All comments received before Thursday, September 17 will be forwarded to the Park & Recreation Commission for consideration. After discussion, the Commission will hear comments from the public.

The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities manages 5 fenced Dog Parks and 12 unfenced Dog Exercise Areas, which are marked by bollards. Dogs are welcome in public parks outside of dog exercise areas but are to be kept secured by a leash consistent with City Code Section 5-7-35. For additional information on dog exercise areas and dog parks, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Dogs.

Commission-recommended changes to the September 25, 2000 City Council approved Dog Master Plan will be forwarded to City Council for consideration. For additional information, contact Jack Browand, Division Chief, at 703.746.5504 or jack.browand@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the American with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, please call Jack Browand at 703.746.5504 (VA Relay 711) or e-mail jack.browand@alexandriava.gov.

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=86584>

**Public Comments- Consideration of Non-designation of 3 Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas
P&RC Public Hearing September 17, 2015**

Date	Name	Comment
9/17/15	Chief Brian Rees, City Animal Control [mailto:brees@alexandrianimal.org]	<p>Subject: Re: Data for Three Dog Exercise Areas</p> <p>Thank you for asking what issues Animal Services have had with three dog parks that are under review for removal of the three unfenced dog parks. I have reviewed our reporting system and we have no reports that we have documented for any issues of concern. Also I have had the APD run a 6 month review of the three dog parks for calls. They also have had no reported issues at any the the listed parks.</p> <p>Animal Services has had many conversations among ourselves about Braddock and Commonwealth dog park. This is a very busy intersection and not safe to have dogs off leash playing catch with their owners or at play. A few blocks away there is another unfenced dog park that is much safer location to take your dog to at Hooff's Run. Fort Williams and Timberbranch are small locations but offer less traffic concern. Animal Services in our routine patrols also don't see many dogs or owners at these two locations for play and recreation.</p> <p>After review of the parks that would possibly be removed as off leash would there be any discussion to create other off leash parks within the city? If so we would like to offer some other safe locations that may work. Our Favorite location to add a fenced dog park would be at Jones Point. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Chief Rees.</p>
9/16/15	Susie Acheson <suse.acheson@comcast.net> Design, Branding and Art Direction 571-242-9669	<p>I am not able to attend the meeting tonight, but did write the dog park group I belong to with the below comments, and was told to forward to you. Please take them into consideration. I live on Adams Avenue. I have two large German shepherds who are very well trained and I depend on those two parks to let them run and get the exercise they need so badly. I have never had one complaint about them, nor have they ever run in the street. As a hefty tax payer, I do expect some services - and a couple of patches of grass is not, I think, a big thing to ask.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration. Best Susie</p> <p>P.S. I feel so strongly about dogs being better behaved and better citizens if they get the exercise that need that I would risk any number of tickets to get that. I would like to know if there have been specific complaints about dogs in these areas. As I said, I am there many times a week and rarely see another dog at all, let alone one misbehaving. I'm curious as to what the issue is and who and what is the source?</p> <p>Thanks, Susie</p> <p>In a message dated 9/16/2015 3:19:41 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, suse.acheson@comcast.net writes:</p> <p>I can't attend either, which upsets me, because I walk my dogs off leash to both these two parks several times a week. Not many people do, because of the traffic, but I do. I would love it if someone would make the point that my dogs are my responsibility, and if I choose to let them go off leash in unfenced areas it's because I have worked hard to train them and know they'll be ok. Are we going to ban all children from parks without fencing because they might run in the street? The premise is ridiculous, and obviously a red herring.</p> <p>My two cents. Without those two parks, I only have east Monroe in my entire (dog-filled) area.</p> <p>Susie Acheson Design, Branding and Art Direction 571-242-9669 www.susieacheson.com Sent from my iPad so sorry for typos...</p>

9/16/15	Barbara P. Beach, Esq., 614 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, 703.683.3434 BPBEACH@aol.com	Cath - I have a DC client event I am attending that means I cannot attend. I had written to both Jack Browand and Megan Webb to request any statistics on dogs being harmed based on the lack of fencing. I have received none. It seems to me that the option is to put a fence around these parks (the black chain link around the N Fairfax St. dog park is an example that does not impede vision) or to relocate them but not to abolish dogs from 3 parks. N.B. I always defer to the citizens closest to the property for their thoughts. I have not written any comments to submit because I do not know the facts that are prompting this issue. I do not have confidence that the facts exist.
9/15/15	Robert Ritsch <rwritsch@msn.com>	Our family has used Windmill Hill Dog Park daily for more than 15 years. Its natural boundaries make it a good location for a dog park - it is well used every day without significant incident. Although the City discussed a decorative fence along the one street, which no one opposed, that never came to fruition. Nonetheless, the berm between the park and sidewalk/street, acts as a natural border. Another proposal raised was to move the walking path to run parallel to Ford's landing so that biker's and walkers would not cross the path of dogs running in and out of the water. This also had no opposition among regular users of the park. Tricia Levy and Bob Ritsch
9/15/15	Ali Ahmad, Wakefield-Tarleton Civic Association <ali.ahmad@gmail.com>	(See Attached Letter) Ms. Jennifer Atkins Chair of the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission Dear Ms. Atkins: I am writing today on behalf of the residents of the Wakefield Tarleton Civic Association to express support for dog exercise areas throughout the City of Alexandria, to include our neighborhood's Highly valued off-leash area in Tarleton Park. As you consider a recommendation to Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (and ultimately the city council) regarding the de-designation of three off leash areas in our city, we want to thank you for conducting a broad public discussion and working with the affected neighborhoods to ensure the best possible outcome. While we understand the specific safety concerns may affect specific situations differently, we urge the RPCA and the city can adopt a "zero loss" policy with regards to dog exercise areas, i.e. that any removal or de-designation of a fenced or off-leash dog area be accompanied by the designation of a substitute area within that neighborhood's boundaries as a replacement, and that the current ratio of residents to dog park area be maintained. As tough measures are considered in a time of constrained budgets, these dog exercise areas serve as some of the lower cost amenities available to residents. In addition to the value provided to the dogs themselves and their owners, these dog areas encourage increased foot traffic in public spaces that serves as a deterrent to crime and encourages citizens to serve as a helpful set of eyes in quickly identifying signs of suspicious behavior and infrastructure breakdown/problems. Considering the additional development planned within our growing city over the next two decades, additional dog exercise areas will be needed to meet the growing demand. Thank you for contributing your time and talents to serve on the Park and Recreation Commission, and for always making yourselves available to hear your fellow citizens' concerns! Sincerely, Ali Ahmad WTCA President

<p>9/15/15</p>	<p>John Merten <mertu2@me.com></p>	<p>Dear Mr. Browand,</p> <p>I am providing written comment for the 17 Sep Public Hearing to Consider Non-Designating Three Unfenced Dog Exercise Areas. Please do not Non-Designate these unfenced dog exercise areas, they are an important part of our community which contribute to public safety.</p> <p>1. Non-Designation of these areas will severely reduce exercise areas for dogs, resulting in more dogs off-leash in inappropriate areas. The city can post signs and issue tickets, however, there is no doubt that human nature and remaining off-leash options requiring a car for most will only INCREASE off-leash dogs in inappropriate areas. Taking away these parks will INCREASE safety hazards, which is recognized by the National Parks & Recreation Service:</p> <p><u>From The National Parks & Recreation Service booklet, Planning Parks for Pets -</u> <i>"Designating an area where dog guardians can allow their animals to run off leash successfully remedies this problem in parks where the concept has been introduced. Violations of the leash law and subsequent public complaints have decreased; and dog guardians have a place to legally exercise their pets. Off leash areas allow dog guardians to be law-abiding, easing the burden of enforcement on animal control officers and freeing them to do more important work, such as animal rescue and control of dangerous animals."</i></p> <p>2. These three off-leash parks are an important community gathering spot bringing together neighbors who would not otherwise have met. The continuous presence of dogs and owners who routinely use a park also deter crime, create safer spaces and adds to the attractiveness of Alexandria. We specifically chose to live in the Old Town area despite its higher expense as a result of the dog friendly community and wonderful public areas. If these wonderful public areas are reduced, Old Town Alexandria will lose its distinctive charm and slowly become just another place to live.</p> <p>The former Mayor of Seattle has recognized this dynamic: From former Seattle Mayor, Greg Nickels — <i>"Parks have a real role in the socialization of a city. Off-leash areas really expand upon that. We also recognize that dog guardians and their pets create an atmosphere of safety in our public parks."</i></p> <p>I do not know what may be planned for these areas should they become Non-Designated dog exercise areas, but the argument that Non-Designation will increase safety makes absolutely zero sense. Our National Parks & Recreation Service demonstrates the creation of off-leash dog parks has DECREASED dog problems in parks for goodness sakes! As a result, I cannot help but believe there is an ulterior motive for considering Non-Designation. Please help restore faith in our civic leaders and make a decision based on what is best for the community versus what is best for wallets.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>John Merten Resident of Alexandria</p>
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<p>9/14/15</p>	<p>Heather Fox <hfoxu2@me.com></p>	<p>Dear Mr. Browand,</p> <p>I am providing written comment for the 17 Sep Public Hearing to Consider Non-Designating Three Unfenced Dog Exercise Areas. PLEASE do not Non-Designate these unfenced dog exercise areas, they are an important part of our community which CONTRIBUTE to public safety.</p> <p>1. Non-Designation of these areas will severely reduce exercise areas for dogs, resulting in more dogs off-leash in inappropriate areas. The city can post signs and issue tickets, however, there is no doubt that human nature and remaining off-leash options requiring a car for most will only INCREASE off-leash dogs in inappropriate areas. Taking away these parks will INCREASE safety hazards, which is recognized by the National Parks & Recreation Service:</p> <p>From The National Parks & Recreation Service booklet, Planning Parks for Pets — <i>"Designating an area where dog guardians can allow their animals to run off-leash successfully remedies this problem in parks where the concept has been introduced. Violations of the leash law and subsequent public complaints have decreased; and dog guardians have a place to legally exercise their pets. Off-leash areas allow dog guardians to be law-abiding, easing the burden of enforcement on animal control officers and freeing them to do more important work, such as animal rescue and control of dangerous animals."</i></p> <p>2. These three off-leash parks are an important community gathering spot bringing together neighbors who would not otherwise have met. The continuous presence of dogs and owners who routinely use a park also deter crime, create safer spaces and adds to the attractiveness of Alexandria. We specifically chose to live in the Old Town area despite its higher expense as a result of the dog friendly community and wonderful public areas. If these wonderful public areas are reduced, Old Town Alexandria will lose its distinctive charm and slowly become just another place to live. The former Mayor of Seattle has recognized this dynamic:</p> <p>From former Seattle Mayor, Greg Nickels — <i>"Parks have a real role in the socialization of a city. Off-leash areas really expand upon that. We also recognize that dog guardians and their pets create an atmosphere of safety in our public parks."</i></p> <p>I do not know what may be planned for these areas should they become Non-Designated dog exercise areas, but the argument that Non-Designation will increase safety makes absolutely zero sense. Our National Parks & Recreation Service demonstrates the creation of off-leash dog parks has DECREASED dog problems in parks for goodness sakes! As a result, I cannot help but believe there is an ulterior motive for considering Non-Designation. Please help restore faith in our civic leaders and make a decision based on what is best for the community versus what is best for WALLETS.</p> <p>Sincerely, Heather Fox</p>
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9/13/15	<p>Linda Holland <lholland33@comcast.net> 206 Commonwealth Avenue Alexandria, VA 22301 703-836-3974</p>	<p>Subject: Southeast Corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth Avenue unfenced dog exercise area</p> <p>Dear Mr. Browand,</p> <p>I am unable to attend the public meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17 regarding the above subject. However, I would like to say that I support continuing the use of the currently designated space as an unfenced dog exercise area.</p> <p>I have lived in Rosemont, on Commonwealth area, for 35 years. I walk every day along Commonwealth Avenue to and from the direction of this site and I have never seen or experienced any problems with dogs being exercised at this site.</p> <p>We have many dogs here in our neighborhood that require exercise and this site is a perfect location especially for 'older' dogs who just need to walk around and smell the grass, or even lay in it . This is not an area usually used by dog owners with puppies or more energetic dogs. They will go to the area near Oak Street. I don't believe the City has experienced any problems of any substance from this use of this area in all the years it has been designated a dog exercise area. Please continue to designate this dog exercise area as such.</p> <p>Thank you, Linda Holland</p>
9/12/15	<p>Bill Duran/RubenDuran <rmdduran1@aol.com> 703/254-3770</p>	<p>Subject: my email letter cleaned up</p> <p>As you may or may not be aware, back in 1999/2000 when the city approved the dog park\exercise areas rules and regulations dog licensing went up from \$2 for a neutered dog to \$10 per year. Part of the city's argument for doing so was to pay for dog park improvements. Fencing went up at Beatley library, sprinklers were eventually added to Windmill Hill Dog Park (though I don't recall seeing them on at all this summer), and of course the reseeding/partial closures at Founders and Windmill Hill Parks when this is done. Of course there was also the blotched bag attempt in the beginning.</p> <p>Every year or two there seems to be a new Parks and Rec Director, using the position as a stepping stone to a similar position in a more glamorous position in a different jurisdiction, I suppose. It was nice to see the department reaching out to the citizenry for public for thoughts and recommendations to parks as a whole. If that was you than good, hopefully you will stick with the city for a while.</p> <p>As for the other dog exercise areas, why were the tree huggers allowed to plant some 12-24 trees/saplings at the Tarelton Dog Exercise Area? They are supposed to be relatively open areas so a dog can freely run around and or retrieve. On the same note, why were they also allowed to plant all those trees/saplings around the playground. The playground was moved from it's former location to the current site for safety reasons placing it in a more open, visible area. Tree planting, at least in the manner which has occurred was never supposed to take place.</p> <p>Last good luck with the daily barrage of trash left by the hispanics at Four Mile Run Park, it has been horrendous the last few weeks.</p> <p>Sincerely, Ruben "Bill" Duran</p> <p>p.s. Also it was nice to the the Commonwealth Greengbelt named after Nancy Dunning even if the left lane at Mt. Vernon Ave at Commonwealth, the first spot behind the limit line is where the DC gangbangers's girlfriend was shot back in 1997/1998, but then that is an issue between me and our idiotic police detective corps. Did not realize my new droid phone created all those typos and changes. Google is becoming very irritating, hence the retype.</p>

9/11/15	<p>Mary Hobbie <mhobbiesmoot@gmail.com> 30 E Walnut Street Alexandria, VA 22301</p>	<p>Subject: Comment re unfenced dog park at Commonwealth and Cameron and one at Commonwealth and Oak St We live in the Rosemont section of Alexandria. There are very few (or no) fenced areas for the exercise of dogs near our home, and this presents a difficulty since there are a large number of dogs of greater than medium size and strength that need exercise. Our own dog is an 85 pound, two year old Labrador Retriever, who needs a great deal of exercise, every day. Rather than eliminate the dog areas we have, I recommend that the city fence in the dog areas by using strong hedges or closely planted evergreen or boxwood type shrubs to surround the areas. These natural "fences" will then discourage animals from going beyond the area of the dog exercise area without depriving them of the opportunity to run a little each day. If a living "fence" is not an option at some of the locations, I strongly support the use of a natural hedge or planting of shrubs to border the dog exercise area at Commonwealth and Oak which is already fenced on one side. Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion on this subject. Mary Hobbie</p>
9/11/15	<p>Margaret M. Ballard, AICP <zorroballard@yahoo.com> 5300 Holmes Run Pkwy Alexandria, VA 22304</p>	<p>Subject: Tarleton dog park: I am a regular/frequent walker/jogger (average 3-4 times per week, both directions, various times of day) along the Holmes Run Trail, including passing Tarleton park. I often see dogs, mostly on leashes, with a few off their leash. Those few who are lucky enough to be off-leash are --in 99% of the cases-- extremely well controlled; the other 1% still have minds of their own, but are very friendly to other dogs and people. I have always found the dog owners aware & respectful of possible "people issues" (e.g. babies in strollers). Given that I frequently am surprised and passed by adult bicyclists who have given no audible warning, I would suggest that bicyclists are more of a menace to pedestrians than are dogs who are temporarily off their leash. Frankly, it is easier to train dogs than it is humans!! I for one applaud the City for allowing a small handful of unleashed dog park locations. At least I consider myself quite familiar w the comings and goings along Tarleton park; I know the other "free- dog" locations but cannot speak with any on-site firsthand neighborhood experience as to either people or dog behavior at those. Thank you for your consideration of my support for the pooches. Regards, Margaret M. Ballard, AICP</p>
9/8/15	<p>Barbara P. Beach, Esq 703-683-3434 614 South Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314 BPBEACH@AOL.COM</p>	<p>Subject: Park Comm meeting - dog park item Hi Jack - I understand the Rec & Parks Commission will be looking at a docket item concerning unfenced dog parks in two city locations. Have there been incidents of dogs being hit by cars in these areas? Thank you.</p>

9/5/15	Yvonne Callahan <yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com>	<p>Jack, I wanted to send you some of my thoughts on the proposed dog park closures, and ask that you include this email in the record.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In general, I strongly support dog parks and in fact would urge the city to expand them, rather than eliminate them. 2. Having said that, I also would add that the 3 parks in question--based on what other citizens have told me--are quite small and unfenced. To me, the issue then is: can such parks be made more safe just by fencing and/or the use of foliage to keep dogs in the park? That would seem to me to be the better policy. If the parks are unused now, perhaps some temporary fencing could be installed to see if it is the lack of fencing, rather than the size of the park itself, that is making the park unattractive to potential users. 3. Another idea I would like to share with you is to give consideration to a "share" program; that is, allow some parks to be used for off leash dogs for certain days and/or certain hours of the days. Chinquapin Park is an obvious possibility. Some, if not all, of the trails could simply have a sign that states unleashed dogs are permitted, or not permitted, on the stated days and hours. Then, if someone were afraid of unleashed dogs, he or she could plan accordingly, and dog owners would know when such a trail legally permitted off leash dogs. 4. Finally, I certainly hope that these plans by your department to possibly close some dog parks do NOT portend any closure or minimizing the size of the dog park at Windmill Hill park. In fact, I think it would be a very good idea to allow dogs off leash in the park area just to the north of the present park. There remains a lot of concern about the future of this park and dogs off leash with the beginning of the park renovation there. <p>Thank you for letting me weigh in on this topic. Regards Yvonne</p>
9/1/15	Daniel Gustav Anderson <danielgustavanderson@yahoo.com>	<p>Subject: Re: Off-leash area in Holmes Run Park</p> <p>Hi Jack, I realized this morning that I misspoke; I'm in the habit of referring to our local park, Tarleton Park, as Holmes Run Park. Mea culpa! I was referring to the off-leash area in Tarleton Park, not Holmes Run. Sorry for the confusion. Daniel</p>
9/1/15	Daniel Gustav Anderson <danielgustavanderson@yahoo.com>	<p>Hi Jack, Thanks for the kind response. Here are my remarks for the public record. I object to the removal of the off-leash dog area in Holmes Run park on the grounds that it is used often and safely by many of us in this neighborhood. Because many of us are dog owners and this is a dense neighborhood, an accessible off-leash area is an important resource; the dog parks in Brenman Park, including the one north of Duke St, are useful, but often too far for persons with limited mobility. Off-leash areas are important because they give dogs an opportunity to burn away energy that, if built up, could lead them to run away, jump fences, and cause other kinds of havoc in the neighborhood. So we need off-leash areas. The one in Holmes Run park is well situated for this purpose, even though it is bisected by a popular trail and not well marked (I advocate for better signage for this off-leash area). I also use that very trail for running and walking on a daily basis, and in the last two years have had only one problem with a dog owner (the dog was fine).</p> <p>If the off-leash areas must be removed, then I argue they must be replaced with comparable areas in close proximity to the ones removed to serve the same purpose.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. Daniel Anderson 41 S Hudson St</p>

8/31/15	<p>Timothy Sullivan <tsullivan@thompsoncoburn.com 106 Adams Avenue Alexandria, VA 22301 (703) 508-7163 (cell)</p>	<p>Dear Mr. Browand, My wife and I have lived near Braddock and Commonwealth since April 1975, and we have been dog owners, and dog walkers, all 40 years since. We routinely walk by or through the unfenced dog exercise areas in our neighborhood, one on Commonwealth Avenue and the other at the southeast corner of Braddock and Commonwealth. As I will explain below, we strongly oppose banning dogs from those areas or converting either or both to a fenced dog park. We stopped using the dog park on Monroe Avenue several years ago for two reasons: First, we noticed that our dog got sick on a number of occasions after visiting the park, and we concluded that he was contracting illnesses from other dogs at the park. Second, while the fenced park seems like a great idea on paper, in fact it is too small, preventing a dog from being able to escape an aggressor. As a result, we witnessed several dog fights and our own dog was injured a couple of times. In contrast, the unfenced areas in our neighborhood are maintained scrupulously by the dog owners, and the dogs are on leash. I will admit that I have seen people on occasion exercising their dogs off-leash, and I simply walk my dog across the street to avoid them. But those people are the exception. I think it is terrific that we have the option of fenced and unfenced areas, and we would oppose eliminating that option. We do not view the unfenced areas as either a health hazard or as a danger. The great majority of people who use the areas follow the rules. It would be unfair to punish all of them because of the few who ignore the rules. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Timothy Sullivan</p>
8/22/15	<p>Christine Garner <cghomes@hotmail.com></p>	<p>Subject: UNDESIGNATING ROSEMONT DOG PARK The City just posted a sign at Braddock and Commonwealth Ave dog park. It is currently a DESIGNATED. Unfenced dog park. They have posted a NOTICE for a hearing to UNDESIGNATED the dog park. I called yesterday to ask why...did a dog get hit, someone get bitten, neighbor complain?? The man I spoke with said that the Parks and recreation were proposing closing 3 such parks and were going to designate AND BUDGET to create/renovate a dog park in DEL RAY on Raymond Avenue... Of course!! Why does Rosemont need a dog park?? Not like we have a need for an area to run our dogs or just let older more mature dogs meander and play. Instead of walking to a "neighborhood" park the proposed change would make us have to drive our dogs? Most people here don't even like the fenced parks...dogs with poor behavior run amuck, owners pay no attention, nor do they discipline their pets! The City will still have to mow it...I just don't understand WHY?? How does our dog park effect Raymond Avenue? Doesn't the City boast being green, and walkability... I just don't get it. So, now if my dog, Molly, who is a cattle dog and LOVES to run, is off leash I am at risk of \$100.00 ticket! There is a hearing September 17th. I am asking you, for your thoughts as well as assistance. Can the RCA look into it and maybe post an article on the RCA website? Rosemont needs to protect what few parks we have. Encourage feedback as well as have a presence at the September 17th meeting. Maybe Facebook. Thank you for your consideration and feedback! Christine Garner 703 587-4866</p>

8/21/15	Christine Garner <cghomes@hotmail.com>	<p>Mr. Browand, Thank you so much for taking my call earlier today. I would appreciate if you could respond to similar questions I had in writing as a follow up. I just want to make sure I understand the premise of what they are proposing. They want to eliminate the unfenced dog parks (3) but how is this related to what they want to do at the Raymond Ave Park. Why does something in Del Ray impact Rosemont. So that park would be improved and fenced? What is the proposed budget and plan....just an idea?? I don't understand why improving one park means we have to lose 3. Have there been pedestrian related incidents, bicyclists injured, car accidents etc. I read and hear more about negative dog related incidents at fenced dog parks, and would never take my dog to one. I am so appreciative of your time and any information you can send would be appreciated. Especially about the RAYMOND AVENUE IMPROVEMENT. Many thanks, Christine, Molly(cattl rom: alsdmf@earthlink.net</p>
8/19/15	Amy Slack	<p>Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 79505. Request Details: <input type="checkbox"/> Name: Amy Slack <input type="checkbox"/> Approximate Address: No Address Specified <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Number: 7035493412 <input type="checkbox"/> Email: alsdmf@earthlink.net <input type="checkbox"/> Service Type: Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Request Description: Please post to RP&CA webpage, a summary of Parks Commission discussion that has lead to call for a public meeting re: proposal to remove the designation of three unfenced dog exercise areas because they “present potential safety issues for dogs, as well as pedestrians, bicyclists, and others using adjacent streets.” As is too often the case, the public is not allowed access to supporting information prior to Parks Commission agenda items. This practice contrasts sharply with routine practices of other, prominent advisory bodies and generates general distrust of the Parks Commission/staff. thank you</p>
8/18/15	Carrie Keene <ckeene96@gmail.com>	<p>Mr. Browand- Forgive me if this information is published and I've missed it, but I don't understand why the majority of dog exercise areas in Alexandria are unfenced? The safety issues and concerns that have been presented could easily be fixed by fencing the areas. I love Alexandria and living here, but Arlington has far superior parks for dogs! i would like to see my city become as dog friendly as Arlington! Sincerely, Carrie Keene</p>

8/18/15	Melissa McMahon <m.e.b.mcmahon@gmail.com>	<p>Hi Mr. Browand,</p> <p>I won't be able to make the hearing on this, but I wanted to share my experience with Alexandria's dog facilities.</p> <p>Generally speaking, there are lots of spaces in Alexandria that are good for dogs to run around on, whether or not they are designated exercise areas. This is a problem of course because the rule is to keep the dogs on leash unless in one of the special "designated" places. Some designated areas, such as the one on the north side of Founder's Park, are great locations because they are well integrated with other park and social activities. They are also good for dogs because the surface is grass, and they are big enough that they don't deteriorate with regular use.</p> <p>My experience with most if not all the actual dog parks in Alexandria that I've used is that they are too small, too heavily used, and the ground material is sand/gravel, which is unpleasant for both the dog and the owner.</p> <p>That said, many dogs do need a fenced area to play.</p> <p>Please consider opportunities to designate more grassy open spaces as dog exercise areas where they are already a portion of existing parks, and when you plan for fenced dog parks, make them as big and grassy as possible. I left a similar comment during the parks planning process a while back - these facilities do not have to be so discrete; a dog play area can be a pleasant place to hang out with friends, sit at a picnic table, it can have other activities and shade, and shouldn't be relegated to some distant location that only dog owners go.</p> <p>Thanks for listening!</p> <p>Melissa McMahan 1237 Madison Street</p>
8/18/15	Kirk S. Fedder 113 West Maple Street Alexandria, Va. 22301 <i>kfedder1@juno.</i>	<p>Dear Jack,</p> <p>How have you been? I haven't been involved in Park and Rec. issues since I left the Commission, but since I helped draft the original "Dog Master Plan", I thought I would weigh in. Where can I get the background information about each of the areas and why specifically each is being considered for non-designation. For Braddock and Commonwealth, I totally get it, and originally questioned the feasibility of that location, but I would like more background on the other two locations. Thank you, Jack, and have a nice afternoon.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kirk</p>

8/18/15	<p>Michael Rose <michael.uhlhorn.rose@gmail.com></p>	<p>Dear Mr. Browand,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Alexandria's Master Dog Plan. I have lived in Alexandria for nearly 6 years and have been both impressed by the city's ingenuity in creating dog parks (for example the dog park on Duke Street by the Library, which makes use of space near an on ramp for cars) and deeply disappointed in the city's commitment to unfenced dog areas. I am not sure I can fully understand the usefulness of unfenced dog areas near high trafficked streets. While the middle of a large park (i e Ben Brenman) might make sense, having a dog run on Commonwealth Avenue makes little sense.</p> <p>My proposal would be that rather than eliminating these unfenced dog parks, the city make better use of the space by fencing them, which would protect pedestrians, cars, cyclists, and importantly, the dogs the parks are created for. A city that is so large and has many dog friendly businesses should simply not have only 5 fenced dog parks spread far and wide when so much viable and otherwise unused space could be easily fenced and used for safe dog exercise.</p> <p>I hope that you and the Commission will consider that such a dog friendly city could be improved and made safer for dogs and humans if the parks were fenced instead of either removed or kept the same.</p> <p>Thank you again for your consideration of my view.</p> <p>Best regards, Michael Rose</p>
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ATTACHMENTS:

P&RC Minutes September 17, 2015

1. Letter from Ali Ahmad, Wakefield-Tarleton Civic Association
2. Petition dated 9/17/15



Wakefield-Tarleton Civic Association

September 15, 2015

Ms. Jennifer Atkins
Chair of the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission
1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. Atkins:

I am writing today on behalf of the residents of the Wakefield Tarleton Civic Association to express support for dog exercise areas throughout the City of Alexandria, to include our neighborhood's highly valued off-leash area in Tarleton Park.

As you consider a recommendation to Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (and ultimately the city council) regarding the de-designation of three off leash areas in our city, we want to thank you for conducting a broad public discussion and working with the affected neighborhoods to ensure the best possible outcome. While we understand the specific safety concerns may affect specific situations differently, we urge the RPCA and the city can adopt a "zero loss" policy with regards to dog exercise areas, i.e. that any removal or de-designation of a fenced or off-leash dog area be accompanied by the designation of a substitute area within that neighborhood's boundaries as a replacement, and that the current ration of residents to dog park area be maintained.

As tough measures are considered in a time of constrained budgets, these dog exercise areas serve as some of the lower cost amenities available to residents. In addition to the value provided to the dogs themselves and their owners, these dog areas encourage increased foot traffic in public spaces that serves as a deterrent to crime and encourages citizens to serve as a helpful set of eyes in quickly identifying signs of suspicious behavior and infrastructure breakdown/problems. Considering the additional development planned within our growing city over the next two decades, additional dog exercise areas will be needed to meet the growing demand.

Thank you for contributing your time and talents to serve on the Park and Recreation Commission, and for always making yourselves available to hear your fellow citizens' concerns!

Sincerely,

/s/
Ali Ahmad
WTCA President

Jack Browand, Director, Marketing, Public. Relations, and Special Events, RPCA
Ron Kagawa, Division Chief, Park Planning, Design, and Capital Projects, RPCA



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

For Immediate Release: August 18, 2015

The Park and Recreation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, September 17, 7 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. to receive public comment on a proposal to remove the designation of three unfenced dog exercise areas because they present potential safety issues for dogs, as well as pedestrians, bicyclists, and others using adjacent streets. The unfenced dog exercise areas under consideration are 1.) Ft. Williams Parkway at Dearborn Rd.; 2.) Southeast corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth Ave.; and 3.) W. Timberbranch Parkway and Parkway Terrace. The Commission also welcomes comments regarding the status of other designated unfenced dog exercise areas.

Individuals unable to attend the Public Hearing are encouraged to send written comments by Tuesday, September 15 to Jack Broward, Division Chief, by email at jack.broward@alexandriava.gov or standard mail to RPCA, Attn: Jack Broward, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria VA 22314. All comments received before Thursday, September 17 will be forwarded to the Park & Recreation Commission for consideration. After discussion, the Commission will hear comments from the public.

The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities manages 5 fenced Dog Parks and 12 unfenced Dog Exercise Areas, which are marked by bollards. Dogs are welcome in public parks outside of dog exercise areas but are to be kept secured by a leash consistent with City Code Section 5-7-35. For additional information on dog exercise areas and dog parks, visit www.alexandriava.gov/Dogs.

Commission recommended changes to the September 25, 2000 City Council approved Dog Master Plan will be forwarded to City Council for consideration. For additional information, contact Jack Broward, Division Chief, at 703.746.4343 or jack.broward@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria is committed to compliance with the City's Human Rights Code and the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation or to request materials in an alternative format, please call Jack Broward at 703.746.4343 (VA Relay 711) or e-mail jack.broward@alexandriava.gov.

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

DATE: 9/17/15 TIME: 7pm
LOCATION: Mt. Vernon Rec Center
ADDRESS: 2701 Commonwealth Ave

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
AT 703.746.4343 OR VISIT ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/RECREATION

THIS NOTICE SHALL NOT BE REMOVED
OR DEFACED UNDER PENALTY OF LAW

Mr. Browand
Division Chief

Reference:

Proposal to remove the designation of "unfenced dog exercise area" because it presents potential safety issues for dogs, pedestrians, bicyclists and others using adjacent streets.

I am unable to attend the public meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2015 regarding the above subject. However, I would like to say that I support continuing the use of the currently designated space as an unfenced dog exercise area.

1. Wndy Wyszong, 23 W. Glendale Ave.
2. Pat Love 19 W. Glendale Ave.
3. Jim Love 19 W. Glendale Ave.
4. Sal Vetrini 17 W. Glendale Ave.
5. Lief Noreus 14 W Glendale Ave. ~~PA~~
6.  12 W. Glendale Ave 22301
7. TN Bush 10 W. Glendale Ave 22301
8. Natalie Bush 10 W Glendale Ave 22301
9. Joanne Littlefair 8 W. Glendale Ave 22301
10. Carol Higgins 8 W. Glendale Ave 22301
11. JUAN REYES 12 W Glendale Ave 22301
12. M. H. W. Cassidy 18 W. Glendale Ave 22301 

- 13 Christine Garner 25 W Glendale Ave
23 W. Glendale Ave.
- 14 [Signature]
- 15 Ah Calapanto 21 W Glendale Ave
- 16 Diann Hicks Carlson 721 S. Union St.
13 W. Oak St.
- 17 Capt EFW
- 18 Scott [Signature] 2351 Eisenhower #1713
- 19 Linda Michal 1511 Russell Rd
- 20 Sandra Woods 123 W. Monroe Ave
- 21 Jol Silversmith 323 E. Oak St
- 22 Elizabeth Kimmons 323 E. Oak St
- 23 MARGUERITE Lang 14 W. Rosemont Ave.
- 24 Marilyn Howe 1 W. Spring St
- 25 William [Signature] 3 W. Spring St
- 26 [Signature] 7 W. BRADDOCK RD
- 27 [Signature] 7 W. BRADDOCK RD
- 28 [Signature] 22 W. Glendale Ave
- 29 [Signature] 2 W Glendale Ave
- 30 [Signature] 33 W Glendale Ave

- 31 Mary Q. Lutz, 2E Spring Street, Alex, VA 22301
- 32 Robert Blumel 108 W Monroe Alexandria
- 33 Jayne Blumel 108 W Monroe Alex 22301
- 34 Abby Snyder 103 W Monroe Alexandria, VA 22301
- 35 Mark ~~Snyder~~ 10 W BRADDOCK RD 22301
- 36 Sharen Winters 107 W L Way 22301
- 37 SAURIE KAHN 213 E OAK ST. 22301
- 38 Ruth Reeder 2 W. Glendale Ave 22301
- 39 Peter Walkers 604 Little St 22301
- 40 William Kanne 703 Russell Rd 22301
- 41 Dawn Elconin 703-618-8911 22301 24 W. Glendale
- 42 Taylor Garner 703.593.5102 22301 - 25 W. Glendale
- 43 Rob Snyder 404 Second St 22314
- 44 ~~John~~ 1008 Wythe St 22314 908 868 6281
- 45 John Laten 401 N. ROYAL ST 22314
- 46 Marcie Williams 121 N. Pitt St. 22314
- 47 Mary Catlin 6 Walnut St 22301
- 48 Jill DiPasquale 319 Wolfe 22314
- 49 BEITT CATON 6 WALNUT ST 22301
- 50 ~~John~~ 1706 Russell Rd 22301
51. Jay Sutherland 2928 Bryan St. 22302
52. Casey Sutherland 906 Commonwealth Ave 22301

Dear Mr. Browand,

**REFERENCE: UNDESIGNATING the
Official Designated Dog Exercise Area at Southeast corner of Braddock
Road and Commonwealth Avenue:**

I am unable to attend the public meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17 regarding the above subject. However, **I would like to say that "I support continuing the use of the currently designated space as an unfenced dog exercise area."**

53. *Joan L. Altman* 5331 Fillmore Ave Alexandria VA 22311
54. *Don R. Hall* 428 John Carlyle St Alex 22314
55. *Janet Hammond* 6 W. Glendale Ave, Alex 22301
56. *Jan J. Jovin* 6 W. Glendale Ave, Alexandria VA 22301
57. *Carter McDowell* 4 W. Glendale Ave, Alexandria, VA 22301
58. *Messy Estrovar* W W. Braddock Rd Alexandria VA
59. *Danlene Vanderbon* 26 W. Glendale Ave 22301
60. *Beth* 3 W Glendale Ave
61. *J.M.* 507 Summers Ct. Alexandria VA 22301
62. *C.H.* 10 W Spring St., Alexandria, VA 22301 | 22314
63. *Angel Mummer* 667 S. Columbus St. Alexandria
64. *Cynthia Skinner* 28 E. Chapman St. 22314
65. *Jeanie Stoughessy (Hodges)* 1 W. Glendale Ave Alex 22301
66. *Mary D. D.* 11 W. Glendale Ave
67. *L.R. Doyle* 28 W. Glendale Ave. 22301
67. *J.R. Doyle* 28 W. Glendale Ave 22301
68. *Tony M. M.* 30 W SPRING ST 22301

- 69. *May Lee* → 33 W Glendale Ave Alexandria VA 22304
- 70. *Jerry Madson* 29 W Glendale Ave Alex 22301
- 71. *[Signature]* 29 W Glendale Ave. Alexandria, VA 22301
- 72. *[Signature]* 25 W Glendale Ave Alex VA 22301
- 73. *[Signature]* 20 W Braddock Rd Alex VA 22301
- 74. *Jane Mays* 27 W GLENDALE AVE. ALEX VA 22301
- 75. *Dan Hyl* 27 W GLENDALE AVE. ALEX VA 22301
- 76. *Liz Bostick* 15 West Glendale Ave, Alexandria VA 22301
- 77. *[Signature]* 1000 Russell Rd Alex VA 22314
- 78. *Kari De Alton* 1124 Portner Rd, Alexandria
- 79. *Mrs. & Mrs. Bernard Kuyser* 36 W. Spring St. VA 22314
Alexandria VA 22301
- 80. *Ang Hamf* 200 Rucker Pl 22301
- 81. *Peter Pappas* 19 West Spring
- 82. *Karon Blackstone* 15 1/2 W Spring St. 22301
- 83. *STEVE BANASHEK* 16 W. Spring St 22301
- 84. *Tracey Banashek* 16 W Spring St ALEX VA 22301
- 85. *Sandra Jorgenson* 14 W. Spring St 22301
- 86. *Carol Nachvojny* 9 W Spring St 22301
- 87. *[Signature]* 7 West Glendale Ave
- 88. *Nora Johnston*
- 89. *Pamela Vetrini* 11 West Glendale Avenue
Alexandria, VA, 22301
- 90. *Aimee Desrosiers* 17 W Glendale Ave
Alexandria VA 22301
- 91. *[Signature]* 16 W. Glendale Ave.
Alexandria VA 22301
400 Madison St #1802
Alexandria, VA 22314
- 92. *letter attached.*

Southeast Corner of Braddock Road and Commonwealth Avenue unfenced dog exercise area

From: **Linda Holland** (lholland33@comcast.net)

Sent: Sun 9/13/15 8:41 AM

To: jack.browand@alexandriava.gov

Dear Mr. Browand,

I am unable to attend the public meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17 regarding the above subject. However, I would like to say that I support continuing the use of the currently designated space as an unfenced dog exercise area.

I have lived in Rosemont, on Commonwealth area, for 35 years. I walk every day along Commonwealth Avenue to and from the direction of this site and I have never seen or experienced any problems with dogs being exercised at this site.

We have many dogs here in our neighborhood that require exercise and this site is a perfect location especially for 'older' dogs who just need to walk around and smell the grass, or even lay in it . This is not an area usually used by dog owners with puppies or more energetic dogs. They will go to the area near Oak Street. I don't believe the City has experienced any problems of any substance from this use of this area in all the years it has been designated a dog exercise area. Please continue to designate this dog exercise area as such.

Thank you,

Linda Holland
206 Commonwealth Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22301
703-836-3974