

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
Park and Recreation Commission**

REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 16, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Samuel Tucker Elementary School
435 Ferdinand Day Drive, Alexandria, VA 22304

SUMMARY MINUTES

Commission Members: Chairperson, Judy Guse-Noritake, Gina Baum, Richard Brune, William Cromley, Ripley Forbes, Bob Moir, Jeffrey Murphy. **Absent:** Clark Mercer, John Sullivan, Anthony Zamora and Mollie Timmons.

RPCA Staff: Director James Spengler, Deputy Director William Chesley, Jack Browand, Laura Durham, Aquatics Director Ralph Baird, Robin DeShields. **Absent:** Roger Blakeley, Alisa Carrel.

Guests: Kevin Post, Councilman-Hunsaker, Mark Hatchel, Kimley Horn and Associates, Chyrell Bucksell, resident James Bland housing.

I. Call to Order by Chair: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. In response to a question from Mr. Forbes, the Chair noted that RPCA maintains a separate attendance report for Committee members that distinguish between excused and non-excused absences. The report is available for review, and is submitted annually to the Secretary for Boards and Commissions.

II. Aquatics Master Plan Update - Consultant Presentation - Kevin Post, Councilman/Hunsaker (CH), and Mark Hatchel, Kimley Horn and Associates, (KHA). See Staff Report and comprehensive Aquatics Facilities Master Plan 2011- Phase I Summary. **For more information or to view presentation goes to www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation/Commissions.**

- **Kevin Post of Councilman/Hunsaker (CH)** – gave the introduction and presentation, agenda included a review of Alexandria’s current and projected demographics, existing City pools, aquatic users and trends, common vocabulary, examples of facilities in other communities (regional and national). Following the presentation, the consultants will seek input from the Parks and Recreation Commission on what they believe is needed in Alexandria, what to include, and what not to include in the plan for aquatic facilities for the City. **See Copy of Presentation on RPCA website.**
- Phase 1 has been completed-see summary report - included a Preliminary Needs Analysis, and a Preliminary Financial Impact Analysis (for Phase I these were for overview only, more specifics will follow in final report).
- **Phase II-kicks off tonight** - with Task 3 – which is a more complete in-depth Needs Analysis (defining goals/objectives/public meetings to obtain inputs.) Over the last few days, they have met with various stakeholders to get their perspective. After tonight’s meeting, input will be used to develop a Conceptual Plan, and an in-depth Financial Impact Analysis. An implementation plan will be incorporated into the final report.
- See slide of Aquatic Master Planning Process.

- Preliminary information reviewed demographics; based on 2000 Census Alexandria's population is 128,300. The 2010 Census projects Alexandria's population at approximately 150,000. Final 2010 Census information will be incorporated into final report. A 23% increase is projected for public schools over the next five years. Alexandria is becoming a younger population. Median age is 39.1, highest age groups is 0-5 yrs., and 34-44. There are also more children and young families. Per capita income is \$50,606; median household income is \$79,874. Alexandria as a whole income is above the national average. Conversely, one-third of the City's population makes less than \$50,000.
- Weather is a factor on facilities and the need for outdoor vs. indoor facilities, which provide year-round use.
- Existing Facilities (see slide) - Alexandria has seven pools; only five are currently operational- there is one small pool on the West End (Ewald). Chinquapin was built in 1985 is the only indoor facility. Most facilities are aging, Charles Houston is the newest, built in 2009. Alexandria has a number of private pools in the West End; however, use is limited to residents who live in those apartments or condominiums. These pools do not serve the nearby community. There is one waterpark in the community at Cameron Run - presentation documents other pools in the area within a 10-mile radius (see presentation). Alexandria does not currently have a competitive size pool in the immediate area.
- Benchmarking-what is the right number of pools - Alexandria is bracketed for populations with 100,000 to 200,000. Cities with this population- average is 5 pools. Alexandria's current five pool system is in line with this.
- Definition of aquatics today is changing; there are many new trends from private sector and innovations. Study looked at the university market- these are our future residents-most universities have good aquatic systems. Each year there are more than 360 million visits to recreation water venues. Swimming is the second most popular venue in North America and ranks as the most popular for children. Identifying Key Users - usage of pools revolves around water depth and water temperature. Different age groups have different needs - including competition, recreation, instructional and wellness and therapy.
- Mr. Post reviewed the different types of pools including competitive pools. Mr. Post said only 10% of the population consider themselves competitive swimmers, however many recreation swimmers like to swim laps. Challenge at the City's Chinquapin indoor pool is that when the swim team is there-there is not enough space for others swimmers.
- Expectation of Recreation Users has changed since the 1960 - see slide.
- Youth have different needs, such as the need to be excited to use pools-pools are starting to be designed for different user groups, i.e. water slides, tot slides, thrill amenities, zero-depth entry, and other types of water structures and participatory play features- moving away from square box pools into other water structures (see slides).
- Instruction and Lesson Programs- Learn to swim programs is a number one aquatics program- the Consultants have spoken with the school about adding swimming as part of P.E. to ensure every child knows how to swim for safety (see slide)
- Therapy and Wellness - is the fastest growing user group in aquatics. Aquatics exercise has increased from 5.8 million in 2004 to 7.2 million in 2007. Chinquapin has many lap swimmers and also offers a water aerobics program.
- Review of other examples of facilities, small, medium to large, including both indoor and outdoor pools (see slides).

Next Steps:

- Wrap up Task 3 Items by collecting information and input (see Scope of Work-Next Steps). Begin Task 4- development of a Conceptual Plan, followed by Task 5- complete Financial

Impact Analysis. In order to complete Task 4, consultants will need input on what types of facilities should be located in Alexandria, including desired amenities, and suggested locations for possible future facilities, etc. Task 6- will be Final Report and Presentations.

Questions/Comments from Commissioners:

- **Moir** - Are there funds in the budget for a new aquatic facility?
- **Chair**- the challenge is not just funding, but finding available land in Alexandria large enough for an aquatics facility. Landmark Mall in the West End, is being redeveloped, this may offer a possible site. Another possible site is next to the existing Chinquapin Recreation Center, on King St. - in the center of the City. There has been an expectation that a second and/or larger pool should be added here for some time (a warm water/cold water/competitive pool). Other than these possible locations, we would be taking parkland, however land is scarce.
- **Cromley**- he does not favor aquatics theme parks, Alexandria already has a water park on Eisenhower Ave. at Cameron Run Regional Park. With the limited land available, the City should invest in its core mission of promoting health, safety, and teaching swimming to children, and therapeutics.
- **Chair**- spray parks address the needs of tweens, take up a small footprint, cost less, and can be used during the summer months. She's not certain if a large vision with a resort or university feel, may cause some push back from the community.
- **Moir** - pointed out that Chinquapin pool is over 25 years old, and needs to be rehabilitated. There is some discussion about moving Chinquapin's tennis courts to Minnie Howard School. If this occurs, the current site could be used to build a second pool without decreasing the amount of active recreation space. While water parks are great, he doesn't believe the City can afford a second water park given the current economy.
- **Kevin Post** – he understands concerns about land, however, during the preliminary investigation they tested the size of certain pools in Alexandria. The Old Town Pool site would accommodate a medium-size aquatics facility – that would fit inside its existing footprint. Regarding parking, as ACPS looks at redeveloping the Jefferson Houston site, they will consider shared parking between the new school and the pool site. The consultants are not recommending a second water park; the City has one at Cameron Run. However, in order to encourage children to use pools and get fit, it helps to give them incentives (e.g., some play structures, etc.), this helps get them excited and interested in swimming. If square pools are rebuilt - usage may not change. Consultant said two small or small to medium facilities would meet the need of the whole family and also reduce operating costs-and be more sustainable.
- **The Chair**- said she could see doing a water therapy pool at some of the older facilities such as Nannie J. Lee. Looking at the Capital Improvement Budget, we must consider pool replacements vs. doing a new 25-meter pool at Chinquapin. A new 25-meter pool and some spray parks would likely be in 2020 the earliest- this is a long-range vision. Small pools will need to be replaced soon. What would be the trade-off between; doing two small summer facilities vs. an indoor facility that could be used year-round.
- **Kevin Post** –They will bring information back, including costs and financial analysis. The City actually needs more outdoor pools to handle the summer capacity. Indoor pools cost three times more than outdoor pools. Outdoor pools make the most sense, in terms of being more efficient and financially sound. The problem is that this would limit indoor competitive pools and pools for

therapeutic users. Therefore, both outdoor and indoor pools are needed throughout the whole system.

- **Chair** – said the presentation is based on the population getting younger. While there may be more young people, year-round pool use by adults for fitness and therapy will also increase.
- **Cromley** – We could consider doing both, there is a need for passive vs. active uses, and also look at expanding the useable area around the pools.
- **Baum**- who lives in Old Town, said she took her young children to a splash facility in the area, and they really enjoyed it. Commissioner Baum and the Chair suggested adding a splash facility in Alexandria as a start. Baum- said regarding Old Town pool site, she believes space may be available to have an additional indoor facility-amenities are already there. Additionally, Nannie J. Lee may be a good place for an indoor facility.
- **Kevin Post**- with the potential of a Miracle Field being built at Nannie J. Lee Center, this would be a good location for an indoor therapy pool that could be used year-round.
- **Forbes**- As part of assessing the City’s needs, did the aquatics study look at NVRPA Water Park in Eisenhower Valley, or consider expanding Cameron Run pool?
- **Kevin Post**- yes-they met with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), Blythe Russian, to discuss plans; they support more community pools- that don’t directly compete with them, information from meeting will be incorporated.
- **Chair** - while there are a number of pools in the Alexandria community, the City falls short on aquatics and health and safety.
- **Forbes** - looking at the chart, # of pools - Alexandria appears to be on par. What is the public health metric that we should look at for comparison? The City has no standards to use as to if children should be taught swimming, what is the outcome? *The Chair pointed out that most pools in Alexandria are small and non-competitive size.*
- **Kevin Post**- there is no standard – the National Recreation Park Association (NRPA) tried to establish a standard for the number of pools for a community, i.e. one for every 20,000. The Aquatic Master Plan tried to balance the needs out, based on the functional use and meeting aquatic needs of community; making sure all needs are met, i.e., competitive, recreational, instructional, therapeutic, and both summer and year-round use.
- The metrics are based not only on the number of pools, but also on how pools are used. Communities that are meeting the needs of their aquatics users have a one-to-one ratio of population-to-number of visits each year. The City of Alexandria is about 1/3 of that. (i.e., Alexandria aquatics have 50,000 visits per pool per year, but should be at 150,000 visits. The City is not meeting the needs and expectations of residents and community. *Chair commented that Chinquapin pool might not have the capacity to meet this need. It is at capacity most of the time.*
- **Chair**- she has spoken with the Mayor and Council members about providing swim lessons to low-income children who don’t know how to swim. There are many pools in the West End of the City, but no programs exist to teach children swimming there. Part of the solution may be to hire instructors (or traveling swim coaches) to teach swimming to children in the summer at pools, including privately owned pools (condo/apartment/home owners associations, etc.)

- **Forbes**- said these statistics may be misleading (use may be higher). Many people in the Alexandria community swim, but don't use the public pools.
- **Kevin Post** - said all communities where this metric has been used also have other (non-public) facilities, such as HOA pools and YMCA, private fitness clubs, etc., therefore this factor is accounted for in the 1:1 standard. This is a benchmark of City Aquatics: its small children, the low income, non-private users.
- **Laura Durham, Open Space Planner** - reminded the commission that Alexandria has several aging facilities in place. What is the next step to meet these needs? It is critical that this be addressed. We need to make a decision for the future on how and where to spend money.
- **Action:** The Chair and Commission members will review results and make a decision before the fall budget cycle.
- Director Spengler said that a work session on the Aquatics Master Plan is being planned with City Council. The Chair suggested including a discussion on the Needs Assessment, at the same time.

III. **Approval of Summary Minutes from April 21, 2011 and May 19, 2011:**

April 21, 2011: Bob Moir noted a correction to top of page 4. Delete text, ~~and is part of the Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA)~~. Mr. Cromley motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Forbes seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

May 19, 2011: Mr. Forbes commented (Re: Item VII-E, Alexandria Aces - proposal to sell alcohol at games), said that the minutes/discussion should better distinguish between alcohol consumption vs. alcohol sales. The Director said he would address this and clarify RPCA's policy under his report. Mr. Forbes motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brune. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

IV. **Next-Steps on Creation of an Adult Sports Advisory Group** – See Copy of revised FY2012 Adult Sports Programming Report, dated May 19, 2011 submitted by RPCA Sports Section. Mr. Chesley, Deputy Director, Recreation Services, said there are no new updates at this time. Staff is seeking direction from the Commission.

- The P&RC discussed clarifying what the next steps should be for the creation of the group. The Chair said she would like to see the momentum started by Mac Slover, Director of Sports, and his staff continues. There should also be a broader discussion with other adult stakeholders and groups. She recommended developing an outline of the proposed composition of the group, the goals and tasks to be completed.
- **Director Spengler** said the need for the group would be similar to the Youth Sports Advisory group, to look at programming and scheduling of outdoor space that is at a premium. Staff should operate on the assumption that the adult sport demand has been artificially depressed due to a lack of field space, and because adult sports are currently not organized. Mr. Spengler said by next meeting, if desired, he could present for discussion a draft Charge of Work, and a list of suggested appointees. The adult sports group, once established, could serve in an advisory capacity and help establish on-going dialog with the P&RC.
- **Commissioner Forbes**- recommended waiting for the results of the Needs Assessment survey, which will be out soon, to see what the priorities are. He said this will help determine a plan of action and what goals to focus on. Additionally, Mr. Forbes asked if there is a standard that tells us how the City is doing in the area of adult sports. **Mr. Spengler** said he is not aware of any

standard, other than national averages for participation. It's really being pro-active in terms of quality of life. Sometime ago it was decided that the RPCA organization would be primarily youth serving. Focus at that time, was not on serving adults - infrastructure is currently lacking to meet this need. Further information will come out of the Needs Assessments.

- The Chair suggested that possibly RPCA staff can do a two-page white paper on the process and what the goals would be to get adults more active in the community; across the spectrum of age and physical capability.
- Mr. Forbes- said regarding white paper, that typically in area of adult's sports, success of programs is usually not due to staff, but to involvement and support from community groups. The path to success will have to be a public/private partnership. Masters soccer is successful because it is run by the community.
- The Chair suggested staff do a quick search of NPRA for articles on how they conduct outreach for adult programs and provide copies to P&RC. There was no further discussion.

V. 2011 CIVIC Award Nominations - Jack Browand:

- Commissioner Brune reported that he and Commissioner Forbes, who served on the CIVIC Awards subcommittee, had met and reviewed the nominations.
- **Award Recipients are as listed:**
 - A. **Individual Awards (3)** - Jim Clark - for his volunteer cleanup activities in Monticello, and Chinquapin Parks; Bill Rivers - for establishing the Miracle Baseball League; and David Dexter - for his work at with the "Friends of Dora Kelly Park", and for his advocacy for increasing open space in the City's West End.
 - B. **Group Award (1)**: Kevin Beekman, Melissa Russell, and Nick Paartee; for their overall vision for the improvement of the Arlandria/Lenox Place community through the beautification of park properties, and creation of the Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisans Market. Each individual will receive a plaque.
 - C. **Corporate Award**: for Whiting Turner and Century Contracting Corp.

Action: Rich Brune motioned to accept the nominations. The motion was seconded by Chair Noritake and Mr. Forbes. All were in favor. Copies of nominations and letters are kept on file in the department of RPCA. The sub-committee returned one nomination because it was for a chairperson of an existing organization.

Bob Moir, Vice Chair will present the awards at the City's Birthday Celebration on July 9. The Chair encouraged members to attend, she and Mr. Brune, will be out of town.

VI. Draft Annual Report and Attendance Report- Jack Browand.

Mr. Browand presented the draft annual report to the Commission for their review. Mr. Browand requested that the Chair and Commissioners forward comments to him by July 8. The P&RC will vote on acceptance of the report, along with receipt of the annual attendance report at the next meeting July 21.

VII. DIVISION UPDATES: See Staff Reports: To View Full Staff Reports go to www.alexandria.gov/Recreation/Commission reports.

- A. **Recreation Programs and Service Update** - William Chesley – See Staff Report.
- B. **Operations and Park Planning Monthly Report** - Roger Blakeley (absent), See Staff Report. Commissioner Forbes asked what the maintenance schedule is for Ft. Ward Park; he mentioned that there is a tear in the carpet/turf near the Braddock Rd. side. Jack Browand, RPCA will follow-up with staff to inspect site, and repair as needed.
- C. **Office of the Arts Update** - Alisa Carrel (absent) - See Staff Report.

D. **Park Planning Updates** - Ron Kagawa, Laura Durham

- **Divisional Updates-See Staff Report**- no comments from Commission.
- **Alexandria Sanitation Authority-South Carlyle Planning District** - See Staff Report.
- The Chair commented on the report. The Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA), which is a non-City entity, will be building a single large wastewater treatment tank (30 ft. above & 30 ft. below ground). On top will be space to put a full-size synthetic athletic field with lights. The Chair said this is a brilliant plan to utilize space and a good addition for the City. Planning & Zoning will give a presentation to the P&RC in July. The plan will go before the Eisenhower East Review Board, June 30, and tentatively to Council in September.

- **Jefferson Houston School Replacement Update**: Ron Kagawa, Division Chief, Park Planning and Capital Projects reported that ACPS has formed an interdepartmental steering committee comprised of Planning & Zoning, T&ES, & Code Enforcement. An RFP was recently issued for project management. Chair Noritake said this is a positive step for ACPS to seek professional guidance. The P&RC will have input; Commissioner Cromley, who has a design background and lives in the community, may be appointed the liaison to work with the community group, once formed.

- **Windmill Hill Park Implementation Update:- See Staff Report**
Chair-There is some, but not enough, money available to start the bulkhead replacement. Community expressed concern that not enough improvements were since 2003. Pending receipt of funds to complete bulkhead, the goal is to see what can be done now, staff is seeking advice from the Commission. **Action**: The Chair and Commissioners Baum and Cromley, will meet and make a recommendation. The Chair will arrange a convenient date and time. Ron Kagawa from Dept. of RPCA will be involved.

- **Miracle Field at Lee Center- See Staff Report**.
Chair- a preliminary discussion was held with neighbors living near the field, regarding the lights (35 ft. tall), there is no opposition to date.
Bob Moir mentioned that Harmon Killebrew, baseball Hall of Famers (of the Minnesota Twins and Washington Senators) recently passed away; he was very supportive of the Miracle Field community. His foundation is looking to donate to various facilities. Bill Rivers, President, Youth Sports Advisory Group has put together a packet requesting \$150,000 in donations. One issue is they may request the field be named after Killebrew. Kelly Cares was originally to be afforded naming rights.

VIII. **Director's Report** - James Spengler

- A. **Jones Point Park Update** (See Staff Report for update). The next stakeholders meeting is September 13, 7:00 p.m., at Lee Center. The project is on schedule. Chair Judy Noritake, is liaison for the P&RC.
- B. **Francis Hammond Lights-Update** – Planning Commission approved the SUP application. A City Council public hearing is scheduled for Saturday June 25 to review request. However, as part of process, a letter of determination was requested by Nancy Jennings, President, Seminary Hills Association, to clarify if the Planning Commission has the authority to approve the SUP. Letter was to be issued today. Seminary Hills Civic Association would have 30 days from date of letter to file an appeal. Appeal would need to go through the Board of Zoning Appeals; earliest date for hearing would be September. Item will not go before City Council in June; this may cause a six-month delay on project. ACPS is debating whether to proceed with building the field this summer, or to wait for approval of the lights. Kagawa- Approved site plan does not include electricity. Electricity and lights were bid as an alternate, so turf could be

installed. Chair- current field at Hammond is not in good shape, if installation of artificial turf field were delayed, this would be problematic.

- C. **Follow-up on Alexandria Aces -alcohol sales request-** At the May meeting a presentation was held by the Aces' regarding their request for permission to sell alcohol at baseball games held at Four Mile Run Park. The P&RC recommended tabling this discussion until a later date.

Update - Director James Spengler: the MOU for the Alexandria Aces was processed without the provision for alcohol sales included, as this was not approved. It is against City ordinance to consume alcoholic beverages, or to sell alcoholic beverages in a park unless granted a permit. RPCA procedures –allow for the consumption of alcohol at picnics as a part of a permit process only, i.e. at Ft. Ward or Hensley Parks. Permit does not allow for the sale of alcohol. City and Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) regulations, both apply. RPCA and ABC would have to approve this. The Alexandria Aces' requested RPCA to allow both the sale and consumption of alcohol at baseball games. RPCA does not support the request to sell alcohol at games, issue/problem because alcohol sales would occur near schools where minors attend.

- D. **Follow-up on Council Request Regarding No-Smoking at City Birthday Party**
See Attached copy of COA Contact Us: City Birthday Party- “Can we designate a smoking area to protect kids”, dated 6/16/11 request from Commissioner Forbes. Director Spengler- said the request was assigned to RPCA and staff is preparing a response. The COA requests voluntary designation of a non-smoking area at the City's birthday celebration on July 9. Currently staff handles smoking by making verbal announcements each hr. requesting that smokers move toward the outside of the crowd, along with those who have pets. According to the City Attorney's Office, the City does not have the authority to ban smoking at this event, this is a State of Virginia responsibility. Main concern, is if a “smoking area” is designated, this creates a quasi-regulation, which may create more problems than it solves trying to enforce voluntary compliance. The City Attorney and City Manager left the decision at the discretion of the Director of RPCA. Mr. Spengler said he is not sure a designated area will be successful; he asked for input from the Commission before making a final decision. Commissioners held a brief discussion, there was some agreement that the signs may pose more problems than they solve. Mr. Forbes was still in favor of installing signage, particularly since signage for playgrounds and parks will be installed soon discouraging smoking there. Director- current direction is to post signs at playground areas only.

IX. Retreat Action Items: No Action was taken on this item.

- A. Next Steps on Draft Bylaws
- B. Other Items for Discussion

X. Report from Commissioners (verbal updates):

- A. **Waterfront Committee** - William Cromley reported that City Council action on the Waterfront SAP was deferred to the fall- he expressed disappointment with Council's decision to delay action on the Waterfront SAP, in light of the substantial amount of volunteer time that has gone into developing inputs into the Waterfront Plan. The Chair said the Waterfront Committee is taking the same position as P&RC recommending relocation of the ODBC parking lot, in order to create a continuous path along the waterfront.
- B. **Youth Sport Committee** - Jeffrey Murphy – no report.
- C. **Four Mile Run** - Ripley Forbes – no report.
- D. **Charles Houston Memorial Project** - William Cromley – no report.
- E. **Freedman's Cemetery** - Bob Moir – no report.

- F. **Beauregard Corridor**- Chair Noritake - A meeting will be held next week, the Chair is pushing a field to be included.
 - G. **ACPS & Capital Improvements**- Judy Guse-Noritake – no report.
 - H. **Jones Point Park Liaison Group**- Judy Guse-Noritake – no report.
 - I. **P&RC Awards** - Ripley Forbes – no report.
 - J. **Community Gardens Policy**- Chair Noritake - discussion will continue in fall.
- **Other**- Gina Baum asked the status of the proposed Old Town Harris Teeter grocery store. The Chair said this had been approved. Durham- improvements are being made to Montgomery Park.

XI. Agenda Items for July meeting and location:

Report on Needs Assessment, Beauregard Corridor SAP, Alexandria Sanitation Authority Field Presentation - Location TBD.

XII. Adjourn: 9:15 p.m.

At the Commission meeting's close, public comments on other topics were received:

Chyrell Bucksell - Resident of James Bland housing, President, ARHA Resident Association, Commissioner on the ARHA Board, and member of the Parker-Gray Roundtable, spoke at the meeting:

- **Lack of recreation facilities-Edsall Rd**: Ms. Bucksell, a single mother of two, spoke about how the lack of recreation facilities contributes to crime and teen pregnancy. There is no recreation center in walking distance of the Edsall Rd. area. The closest recreation center to where residents on Edsall Rd., who live in Brent Place, is William Ramsey on Sanger Ave. Children go home and then to the Center, it is not walkable.
- **Swim Lessons**: Ms. Bucksell thanked Ralph Baird, Aquatics Director, for helping the Carpenters Shelter get 10 children swimming lessons.
- **Sports for Families**: Regarding expanding programs for Adult Sports, she did a 5k walk at Samuel Tucker Elementary School. She supports having more sports programs for families as an important health and recreation activity and a way to build parent-child bonds. She exercises and takes her children to sporting events regularly
- Ms. Bucksell said she is thankful for the scholarships that helps residents like her, afford recreation classes and activities.

Responses/Comments:

- The Chair said regarding the lack of recreation facilities in the Edsall Road area, the pending redevelopment of Landmark Mall might offer a chance to locate some recreation activities in area.
- The Chair agreed with the importance of finding ways to provide swim lessons for children; she has spoken with the Mayor and Council about the need to provide more access to swim instruction for children for safety reasons, noting that a whole group of children is at risk, especially low-income families. She has called for an aggressive City outreach to provide swimming instruction to youth. Gina Baum suggested offering family swim lessons, as well; she noted that her own children had been able to learn to swim at Chinquapin due to scholarships.
- The Chair, agreed that offering family sports – in addition to youth and adult sports - is a fabulous idea.

The P&RC and staff toured Ben Brenman Park, including the soccer field, after the meeting.