

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
Park and Recreation Commission**

REGULAR MEETING

**Thursday, November 18, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, Virginia**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Commission Members: Chairperson, Judy Guse -Noritake, Henry Brooks, Rich Brune, William Cromley, David Dexter, Stephen (Clark) Mercer, Robert Moir, Jeffrey Murphy, Anthony Zamora. **Excused Absence:** Ripley Forbes.

RPCA Staff: Director, James B. Spengler, Roger Blakeley, William Chesley, Jack Browand, Ron Kagawa, Laura Durham, Robin DeShields.

Guests: Patricia Miller, Chair, Arts Commission, Mathew Harwood, Co-Chair of the Public Art Committee, and Bill Rivers, Secretary, Youth Sports Advisory Board.

- I. Call to Order by Chair - The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The Chair noted that Mr. Forbes had an excused absence and that there were several last minute additions to the agenda.
- II. Approval of Summary Minutes from October 21, 2010.
David Dexter motioned to approve the October summary minutes. The motion was seconded by Rich Brune. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Additions to Agenda:

- A. Alexandria Waterfront- Public Art Proposal – Public Art Committee 2010.10.30.
presentation - Patricia Miller, Chair of the Arts Commission, and Mathew Harwood, Co-Chair Public Art Committee. To view a copy go to: [http://alexandriava.gov/Waterfront: related documents -Waterfront Public Art proposal](http://alexandriava.gov/Waterfront:related%20documents-Waterfront%20Public%20Art%20proposal).
 - Judy Guse-Noritake Chair of the P&RC commended the Arts Commission for their work on the Alexandria Waterfront – Public Art Proposal and opened the floor up for comments.
 - Comments from Commissioners:
 - Cromley - the report is spectacular, thoughtful, well presented and energetic in its advocacy for the Arts. The integration of art into the landscape is well done.
 - Chair - the report is forwarding looking from an Arts and Urban Design prospective. It is being looked at as an Art Walk going N. to S. along the Waterfront. The Chair said she has no objections to the Public Art's Council idea of possibly extending public art past Harborside, into Windmill Hill Park, and the train tunnel. Although this is not within the purview of the Waterfront Plan, she is encouraged by the broader scope option. There has been discussion for some time about how best to integrate Art, History, and Recreation on the Waterfront.
 - Mercer - the document is very professional; the presentation given at City Hall was very good.
 - Brooks - as a whole the Public Art Proposal is excellent, the details should be reviewed in context with each part of the Waterfront Plan as it is developed. City Council should consider the Art Proposal with adoption of

the Waterfront Plan; specific details should be developed via a public hearing process. As each piece of property along the Waterfront is developed, the related Arts piece should be brought before the Planning Commission for review.

- **Patricia Miller, Chair of the Arts Commission** – said it is important that the Public Art Proposal not get lost as the SAP for the Waterfront Plan is being adopted. Ms. Miller requested endorsement of the Public Art Proposal from the P&RC.
- **Action Item:** The Chair and P&RC, agreed to endorse the Alexandria Waterfront - Public Art Proposal by acclamation and to request that the Planning and Zoning Department include it as an appendix to the Waterfront Master Plan. The Chair will draft a letter to the Director, Planning & Zoning, Farroll Hamer, with copies to Planning Commission and Council.
- Ms. Miller, thanked the P&RC for their support of Alexandria Waterfront - Public Arts Proposal.
- David Dexter said that he and Mr. Harwood are working on development of public art for the West End of Alexandria near the BRAC site.

B. Youth Sports Advisory Board (YSAB) Proposals:

- **Bill Rivers, Secretary, YSAB** - distributed a copy of a letter dated November 15, to the Chair, P&RC from Jim Gibson, Chair YSAB requesting that the Commission support a request to the City to fund two initiatives in the FY 2012 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): 1. Installation of lights at the rectangular fields in Potomac Yards (P.Y.) complex next to the Simpson baseball stadium, and 2. Installation of a Miracle Field at the Lee Center, for use by individuals with physical and mental challenges and children in the City's Therapeutic Recreation program.
- **See Handouts: Fact Sheet/FAQ on Miracle Field, November 2010 and picture of Manassas Park field.**

Discussion:

(2.) Miracle Field:

Roger Blakeley, Deputy Director, RPCA- the miracle field is currently in the City's 10 year CIP budget for **FY 2017**, \$570,000. YSAB proposed estimated cost is \$300,000, RPCA staff feels this estimate may be low. Mr. Rivers - the YSAB is requesting that this be moved up sooner than 2017 in the CIP. James Spengler, Director RPCA said the challenge for staff is that if the \$570,000 is received in an earlier year, what would be the top priority. Next year staff will work with the P&RC to seek guidance during the CIP budget process on establishing top priorities.

- **Bob Moir**- field at Lee Center is not heavily used. This a great place for a miracle field due to the Senior Center and Therapeutic Recreation programs being located here. This is an also opportunity to seek outside funding and sponsors.
- **Stephen (Clark) Mercer** suggested if a letter is written in support of miracle field that at least 1/3 of estimated cost (\$100,000 to \$200,000) should be committed before the project is undertaken. Bill Rivers - donors would be looking for a commitment from the City that if funds are raised, that the City would be ready to move ahead. Donnie Simpson, Simpson Development Co. has committed to undertaking the fundraising effort.
- **Bill Rivers, Secretary, YSAB** asked the P&RC to endorse the miracle field proposal and as an initial step forward a letter of endorsement to the appropriate City officials for action. He will be working with the Therapeutic Recreation Council and the Youth Sports Advisory Board on the private fundraising for this project.
- **Action Item:** The Chair and the P&RC agreed to endorse the letter on the Miracle Field proposal and to ask City Council to move this project up in the CIP process because of the potential of significant cost sharing, so that cost would be significantly less than the \$570,000 in the 2017 CIP.

- **(1.) Installation of Lights at rectangular fields next to Simpson Stadium:**

- A second issue presented for discussion was the request to light the two new soccer fields at Simpson. The Youth Sports Advisory Council recommended that the fields have lights. **Bill Rivers**, said this is important since all other artificial fields have been pushed back in the CIP until FY 2017.
- Director Spengler brought up the concern that increasing play on these fields would have a negative effect on playing conditions. After discussion, **Rich Brune moved** that the miracle fields and rectangular fields at Simpson stadium be addressed as separate issues, and that the miracle field proposal be addressed immediately, so that it can be proactively acted upon. **The motion was seconded by Bob Moir**. All were in favor.
- **Action Item:** The Chair will write a letter asking that the miracle field be moved up in the CIP process. Additionally, she will follow-up as a separate issue with YSAB on the request to install lights on the rectangular field at Simpson Stadium. Spengler- Sport groups would need to understand and accept this trade off to move the request forward. Mr. Spengler will address the issue further with the rectangular sports groups.
- **Bob Moir** – the fields at P.Y. Simpson Stadium should have artificial turf installed. The addition of lights will allow field to be used until 10:00 p.m. Individuals wishing to make recommendations to City Council for updates to the CIP should do so within the next two weeks.
- **Mr. Spengler** said- the viewpoint from OMB, City Manager, and City Council last year, is that several fields are scheduled to come on-line soon: Ben Brenman artificial turf field with lights; Francis Hammond-upper field is currently funded for installation of artificial turf and lights, and Witter field which will have two rectangular artificial turf fields and a baseball field.
- The question from Council is, with all these fields coming on-line soon won't this be enough to handle the sports demand? We have to find a way to make a better case to City Council of what the remaining gap is. The next field conversion proposed is Braddock in 2017.
- **Mr. Cromley**- the City should look at tying in the amount of development (increase in residents) to increase in fields use.
- **The Chair** said a new field is being proposed at the new JBG development site in the West End (10,000 new residents expected for this area). She discussed the Big Box area at Potomac Yards being done without a field and was told this could not be done due to need for a Metro station in P.Y. There is a major population increase coming with that development but no field to accommodate the use we know will come. If issue not pushed, we will get further behind.

- **C. Draft Mission and Purpose Statement for the Proposed New Commission to Serve Children and Youth Prenatal to 21 Years.** See attached draft dated November 10, 2010.

- The Children and Youth Alignment Work Group, was established by City Council and the School Board to make recommendations on forming a new Commission to serve Children and Youth prenatal through 21 years, developed the draft Mission and Purpose statement. It has been endorsed by City Council and the School Board, and will be presented to the YSAB at their December meeting. The new Commission will start in February/March 2011 and will replace the Early Childhood and Youth Policy Commissions. In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Spengler said age 21 is the official youth age for social services and other agencies serving youth. Chair - the P&RC has no action on this at this time, further discussion will occur in January with Councilman Krupicka. The document is posted on the City and ACPS websites: <http://alexandriava.gov/HumanServices> or <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/news2011/nr2010111205.php>.

- **III. Division Updates:** To View Full Staff Reports go to www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation/Commission reports.

- **A. Recreation Programs and Services** - William Chesley.
See Staff Report and handouts/fliers:

- **Alexandria Football Awards Program** - November 20, 12 noon, Lee Center, Kauffman Auditorium, followed by Titan's Football Booster Club Fundraiser, Fuddruckers Restaurant, Duke St., 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- **Chinquapin Park Recreation Center- 25th Anniversary Celebration**, December 4, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., 3210 King Street.
- **Annual Cheerleading Competition** - December 11, 11:00 a.m., T. C. Williams H.S.- 3330 King Street.
- The Chair noted that the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting program will be held in Market Sq. the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

B. Operations & Park Planning Monthly Report - Roger Blakeley.

See Staff Report- no comments.

Commissioner Robert Moir congratulated the Department of RPCA for its work on getting the Ben Brenman synthetic turf field completed. He said the newly installed field with lights looks beautiful and it is a great facility. The Chair suggested having open play on the field for the public in the next month, while the lights are being burned in. In conjunction with that kind of event we should also consider having a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and inviting the Mayor and members of City Council.

C. Office on the Arts Update - Alisa Carrel (absent).

- See Staff Report, no comments.

- See Also Item on-Alexandria Waterfront - Public Art Proposal, by Arts Commission listed above.

D. Park Planning Updates - Ron Kagawa.

See Staff Report- and project activities list.

- **Ben Brenman field** - Mr. Kagawa said that Beth Carton, Park Planner, was instrumental in getting this project completed. The Chair followed-up on the parking concerns at Ben Brenman, and asked what is being done to address this. Mr. Kagawa said there is a plan to increase public parking areas. However, the parking currently meets public parking requirements.
- **Holmes Run Trail Crossing** - David Dexter asked for a status update. Chart shows construction in late 2010 - early 2011, project is moving slowly. With BRAC coming soon, completion of Crossing is critical, as it will provide another form of transportation for bicyclers and walkers. Mr. Kagawa said that T&ES is managing the project with VDOT. He will check to see what can be done to move it forward.

E. Marketing, Public Relations & Special Events - Jack Browand.

See Staff Report and copy of the **Draft Foot/Walk/Bike Race Policy and Guidelines:**

- Mr. Browand asked Commissioners to review the draft Policy and Guidelines. There were no other comments. The next step will be to send it to the City Manager's office for further action.

IV. Director's Report - James Spengler (See Director's Report)

- A. Jones Point Park Update** – Project advertised by VDOT, July 27- two bids were received; contract was awarded to Lane Construction Corp. (at a base cost \$15,667,184.75). A “Pardon our Dust” public meeting will be held, December 8 at 7:00 p.m., at Lee Center. The meeting will be hosted by VDOT and Potomac Crossing Consultants (PCC) with participation of the Contractor and NPS. The meeting will be advertised through normal media channels and door hangers will be posted on homes throughout the neighborhood.
- B. Simpson Fields Update** – The project is on schedule for developer to be finished and sod installed by end of year. By next fall, sod will grow and the fields will be ready for use (Fall 2011).
- C. Lake Cook- follow-up** - Mayor Euille received a response from Paul Gilbert, Exec. Director, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (Copy Attached), dated November 9. NVRPA will keep the suggestion of

expanding the fishing pier in mind as they consider any further improvements to the area. No further action will be taken.

- D. ACPS Facility Request**- William Chesley- Deputy Director toured each Recreation Center this week to view possible available space for use by ACPS for Pre-K and Dental program. Major problem is that space inside Recreation Centers cannot be dedicated and there are safety issues. RPCA staff will sit down with the City/Schools facility committee to discuss options, once specs are received.

Chair- *background*- the School Superintendent started this initiative because he saw similar programs in New York City. The goal was to bring services into the school, to help disadvantaged children. ACPS requested space, but did not think through the entire ramifications (i.e. food service, restrooms, health issues, etc.). An option for dental clinics would be to obtain a grant for a mobile unit.

- **New School sites** - ACPS has also recently put in request to CIP through Council for 4 new Pre-K-8 schools: Cora Kelly, Patrick Henry, Jefferson Houston and an undetermined site. RPCA will need to track and coordinate with ACPS to minimize impact to existing programs and facilities. Additionally, work must be done to ensure sufficient new recreation space with each of these projects. The facility manager for ACPS schools has agreed to attend P&RC meeting in January to discuss technology, modular classrooms and the CIP Program.
- **Request to use Durant Center multi-purpose room**. The Chair spoke with the Principal of Jefferson Houston and Center Director. She also took the Chair of the School Board, Yvonne Folkerts, to view the room. Staff determined that this room can't be used due to hanging pendant strip lights. In addition, it is a historic building, with huge windows. You cannot play any manner of games using balls in this room.

- E. Alexandria Neighbor Health Services Initiative** - Judy Guse -Noritake. The group is being given primary responsibility for services that used to be handled by the Alexandria City Health Clinic. They are working out of 2-3 apartment units (Executive Apts.) near 4-Mile Run and a small building by Chez Andrée. They are looking for larger space. The schools asked them to come and build a Health Clinic on the Cora Kelly site. With Cora Kelly school currently K-5 it is to be rebuilt as Pre K-8, nearly double in size. If health clinic is included on Cora Kelly site there may not be enough space for both programs and certainly not for the required parking.

- F. Restaurant Depot DSUP** - The allocation of the \$500,000 for recreation projects in the Eisenhower Valley will be allocated during this year's CIP process. The Chair asked staff to bring a list of projects for discussion and that this item is added back to the agenda for January.

- V.** Commission discussion with Councilman Rob Krupicka on RPCA/ACPS issues –Deferred to January.

VI. Retreat Action Items:

- A. **Next steps on Draft Bylaws**- David Dexter reported that Ripley Forbes (absent) requested that this item be deferred to January, he wants to discuss an adults sports sub-group. Re: Status of Bylaws: Bob Moir-they will be ready in January in addition to YSAB bylaws.
- B. **Follow up on Open Space letter**- (See letter to Jim Hartmann, City Manager, dated 11/12/10). The Director RPCA reported that the City Manager suggested holding a 1-2 day Summit to discuss open space policy issues. He does not favor re-establishing the Open Space Committee at this time. The Chair said the idea of holding a Summit is a good one, due to time. It would allow the community and staff to focus on a set of key issues and policies and bring together other boards and commissions. **Action**: The Chair will send a follow-up note to the City Manager in support of holding an Open Space Summit.

VII. Reports From Commissioners (verbal updates):

- A. **Ft. Ward Ad Hoc Advisory Task Force**- Bob Moir, Ripley Forbes, Rich Brune.
- Rich Brune- two meetings were held this month. The Task Force has completed its recommendations. The report has been posted to the website for public comment (four comments

have been received to-date). At the last meeting, a T&ES member suggested obtaining a grant to change the route of the surface runoff away from Marlboro Estates. To view the task force report go to Ft. Ward group website. Report will be finalized at the December 28, or January 4 meeting. The charge for this group expires in early January. Report will be sent to RPCA, T&ES, and OHA for review and comment. The P&RC will also have a chance to review report and provide comments.

- Bob Moir- they would like to have a Park Master Plan done soon. The Chair said this should be completed as part of the larger master plan for Parks in the City.

B. Youth Policy Commission - Stephen (Clark) Mercer.

- The recent town hall at Patrick Henry was not well attended (Chesley). The next meeting will be at Minnie Howard School. One more meeting will be held then the Commission will disband.

C. Waterfront Committee – William Cromley.

- He was unable to attend the last meeting. Mr. Brooks said the “Parade of Lights” will be held on Sunday December 5.

D. Youth Sports Committee - Jeffrey Murphy.

- **Bill Rivers, Secretary, YSAB.** Major concern is with fields use, lighting etc. The YSAB has formed a Fields sub-committee. Met with Steve Colantuoni, T.C. Athletic Director and Mark Krause-ACPS and RPCA staff to ensure coordination of field use-it was a good meeting. Mr. Colantuoni is interested in putting a softball field at T.C. Williams near parking garage and King St. There is a meeting on Dec. 8 with RPCA and ACPS and sub-committee group to review the CIP plan. Meetings have worked well to improve communication.
- New schools being built should have full-size gymnasiums, this ties in with the Pre-K to 8 school concept.

- **T.C. William’s Night Football Game, October 29-** Steven (Clark) Mercer.

Commissioners Anthony Zamora and Clark Mercer attended the evening football game “under the lights” on October 29. Mr. Zamora **played in the game for T.C. Williams, he** said it was a good event; many people in the community attended. He enjoyed it, and will tell his children about it. Jeff Murphy, P&RC and Mr. Chesley, Deputy Director, RPCA also attended. Clark Mercer- reported that the process has begun to discuss having permanent lights at T.C Williams field. A petition was routed-1,000 signatures obtained, Facebook page has 500 members. Several School Board and Council Members signed the petition.

E. 4-Mile Run- Ripley Forbes (absent).

- The Chair and Laura Durham - reported, while not directly related to the Four Mile Run Restoration Project, the RPCA Park Planning staff continue to work with the pro bono architects group to produce a site plan for the expansion of the existing Four Mile Run Park. A concept plan for the four parcels, including the Duron Building reuse (4109-4125 Mount Vernon Ave.) will be distributed for public comment in January. Staff expects the plan will be brought to the Park and Recreation Commission in February for review.

F. Charles Houston Memorial Project - William Cromley. No meetings.

G. Freedman’s Cemetery- Bob Moir. No meetings.

- **H. Beauregard Corridor**- David Dexter.

- **Beauregard SAP**- The SAP process is moving slowly. Councilmembers Krupicka and Smedberg sent a letter to City Council recommending that the SAP process be halted until traffic solutions are in place. Staff plans to continue discussions with developers. JBG, will hold a three hour briefing on Dec. 13, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. JBG owns 130 acres - there is a total of 230 acres up for redevelopment.

- **BRAC**- Open Space mitigation payment progressing. The City has submitted a dollar amount to the Army, a counteroffer is expected in December; settlement is pending for the open space in the West End.

I. ACPS & Capital Improvements - Henry Brooks

- This item discussed under Director's Report.
- **Other**- Chair – nominations for P&RC Officers will be held in January, with elections in February.

VIII. Agenda items for January meeting and location (note the P&RC does not meet in December).

- Draft Waterfront Plan presentation and comments by the Commission
- Nominations of Officers for P&RC. Elections to be held in February 2011.
- Councilman Rob Krupicka re: ACPS Pre-K and other issues.
- Draft Bylaws.

IX. List of Upcoming Public Meetings – a list was distributed at meeting.

X. Adjournment: 9:20 p.m.