

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Park and Recreation Commission

PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 18, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

**Mt. Vernon Recreation Center
2701 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria VA**

AGENDA

- I.** Welcome - Presentation of Proclamation for Recognition of Coaches from the Mid-Atlantic Sports Alliance - Mayor William Euille and Chair Judy Guse-Noritake.
- II.** Public Hearing on Proposed Special Use Permit Application for Community Use of the Duron Paint Store Building - 4109 Mt. Vernon Avenue- Laura Durham
- III.** Approval of Summary Minutes from: January 21, 2010, February 18, 2010.
- IV.** Division Updates:
 - A. Recreation Programs and Services Update - William Chesley
 - B. Operations & Park Planning Monthly Report - Roger Blakeley
 - C. Office on the Arts Update -Alisa Carrel
 - D. Park Planning Updates-Ron Kagawa
 - E. Marketing, Public Relations & Special Events -Jack Browand
- V.** Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary
One –year terms under new Commission guidance from City Council, January 2010.
- VI.** Annual Park and Recreation CIVIC Awards (Volunteer Recognition) – Jack Browand
- VII.** Director's Report - James Spengler
 - A. Patrick Henry School/Recreation Center
- VIII.** Retreat Action Items.
 - A. Review and prioritize consolidated list of action items from retreat.
 - B. Develop list to address at P&RC meetings from April through July 2010.
 - C. Discussion of Draft Operating Procedures for Commission – Ripley Forbes & Henry Brooks.
- IX.** Reports From Commissioners (verbal updates)
 - o Ft. Ward Ad Hoc Advisory Commission-Bob Moir, Ripley Forbes, Rich Brune
 - o Youth Policy Commission- Stephen Mercer
 - o Waterfront Committee- Henry Brooks
 - o Youth Sports Committee- Bob Moir
 - o 4- Mile Run- Ripley Forbes
 - o Charles Houston Memorial Project-William Cromley
 - o Freedman's Cemetery-Bob Moir
 - o Beauregard Corridor- David Dexter
 - o Other

X. Agenda items and location for April meeting.

XI. List of Upcoming Public Meetings

XII. Adjournment

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 18, 2010

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: LAURA D. DURHAM
CITY OPEN SPACE COORDINATOR, PARK PLANNING

RON M. KAGAWA, ASLA LEED AP
ACTING DIVISION CHIEF, PARK PLANNING

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON OPEN SPACE PROPERTY PLANNING FOR
MOUNT VERNON AVE. – DURON PAINT BUILDING SITE - ITEM II

ISSUE:

Staff updated the Commission at its January 21, 2010 meeting regarding the upcoming park planning process for the four opens space parcels on Mount Vernon Avenue (see attached). Subsequent to that meeting, the first Arlandria Action Plan Implementation Group meeting was held. The group was presented with a concept for re-use of the Duron Paint store building proposed by the Architects Anonymous group. The concept was well received by the group, with general support for the proposal. The concept was also presented to the Commission at last month's (February 18) meeting.

The next step in the process in re-use of the building requires that city staff submit a Special Use Permit application for a change in use to a "public building" to the Planning Commission and City Council. Prior to this submission, which is due on March 23, 2010 for the June, 2010 docketing, a public hearing with the Park and Recreation Commission will be held tonight, March 18. Staff is seeking comments from the Commission and the public regarding the SUP application to change the use of the building. Community involvement and investment will be required to successfully use the building for a public benefit, including operations of the building.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2010

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: LAURA D. DURHAM
CITY OPEN SPACE COORDINATOR, PARK PLANNING

RON M. KAGAWA, ASLA LEED AP
ACTING DIVISION CHIEF, PARK PLANNING

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON OPEN SPACE PROPERTY PLANNING FOR
MOUNT VERNON AVENUE – DURON PAINT BUILDING SITE

ISSUE:

In January, 2007 the City acquired four properties adjacent to Four Mile Run Park (4109-4125 Mount Vernon Avenue) in accordance with the City of Alexandria's Open Space Master Plan and using the Open Space Fund. The Arlandria Small Area Plan and Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan both anticipated the use of this property as public open space with park related uses. Between January, 2007 and January, 2009 three of the four existing buildings on the properties were demolished and voluntary environmental remediation was completed. The fourth existing building, previously Duron Paint, was retained to explore the feasibility for community re-use of the building, including any necessary renovation that would be required for such use.

DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS:

While a number of options for possible re-use were considered, the proposed costs for each option were determined to be significant and demolition of the building was again under consideration. In response to this conclusion, a number of local practicing architects from the Northern Virginia AIA Small Firms Roundtable volunteered their services to explore adaptive reuse possibilities for the building. The architects, including the PRC Chair, developed a proposal for the building that would open up some of the building walls and provide a community gathering facility. The group presented this proposal to the City Manager, who in return has asked staff to move forward with the concept.

The first step in this process will be to present the proposal to the Arlandria Action Plan Advisory Group (newly established by City Council in November, 2009) at the group's first meeting. This meeting is expected to be held early in February, 2010 and will serve to kick-off the community park planning process for the four open space parcels, including potential adaptive reuse of the Duron Paint building. Park and Recreation Commissioners will be invited to attend the meeting.

ATTACHMENT

Open Space funding will be used to make improvements to the site. In conjunction with this process, staff will be working on a number of issues, including:

- Planning and Zoning will be processing the SUP;
- General Services will provide cost estimating and procurement; and
- Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will discuss and provide information on operations and maintenance costs of the facility, operation issues per proposed use, and future management responsibilities for the park and facility.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Park and Recreation Commission

Thursday, January 21, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street, Alexandria VA

Commission Members: Judy Guse-Noritake, Chairperson. Henry S. Brooks, Rich Brune, Mathew Coda, William Cromley, Ripley Forbes, Clark (Stephen) Mercer, David Dexter, Robert Moir. Absent: Kaj Vetter.

RPCA Staff: James Spengler, Director, Roger Blakeley, Jack Browand, Ron Kagawa, Laura Durham, Mary Stephenson, Robin DeShields. Absent: William Chesley, Alisa Carrel.

MINUTES

I. Welcome:

- The Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed staff. The Chair announced that Kaj Vetter's term has ended and he will not reapply for another term on the Commission. The Chair sent a message to Mr. Vetter thanking him for his service on the Commission.

II. Approval of Summary Minutes from the November 19, 2009 meeting & Public Hearing.

- Mr. Cromley asked that a correction be made to pg. 5; the comments re: adult soccer was actually made by Mr. Forbes. The public comments from the November 19th P.H. on fee increases were updated for the record. **Henry Brooks moved** to approve the minutes as corrected and amended. Ripley Forbes seconded the motion. The updated minutes will be reposted to the City's website.

III. Division Updates:

Note: A Full Copy of each staff Report was posted to the City's Website in advance. To view staff reports go to www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation- go to Commissions & Committees

A. Recreation Programs and Services Update – report by William Chesley

- Mr. Chesley was absent (see Staff Report). Mr. Spengler asked if there were any questions or comments on the report. He pointed out that the impact for the strategy being used for the Recreation Centers has been misinterpreted by OMB. The department of RPCA was requested to make reductions to its budget for the past two years by over 5 million dollars. One of the strategies used to cope with the reductions was to implement Regional Recreation Centers. Instead of spending money on extending staff hrs. at the smaller Recreation Centers i.e. Charles Barrett and Patrick Henry, they would close at 6:00 p.m. when the after school programs end. Staff would move to the larger Rec. Centers, i.e., Charles Houston to help staff these. The smaller centers would be opened only if there were scheduled youth sports programs being held. The Department of RPCA went this route due to financial reasons; it was not their planned strategy. **Mr. Cromley** asked if the Regional Center approach was the cheapest way to go or if it would be more cost effective to close certain Rec. Centers every other day, as the libraries are doing. **Mr. Spengler**- in speaking with the community, the number one program provided through the Recreation Centers is the Out-of-School-Time program. Parents need coverage Monday-Friday to help with afterschool care. **Chair**-the report notes that enrollment is down by 34%. Mr. Spengler responded that this could be due to a variety of factors, introduction of the new fee last year, the economy, etc. The board discussed ideas to

offset the declining enrollment and/or increase revenues such as increase use for adult sports users or youth sports, and/or bringing in other groups at the smaller Centers.

- Comments: Chair Judy Guse-Noritake:
 - o **Charles Houston Room and Gymnasium Dedication Ceremony-** The Chair announced that the Charles Houston Room Naming Dedication Ceremony will be held on February 27, 2010 in the afternoon as confirmed by Jack Browand.
 - o **Early Morning Fitness Program Registration-** the Chair said that according to the report, registration for classes is currently not meeting program goals (pg. 3). She asked if this program will be continued and asked what the shortfall was. Mr. Spengler will check with Mr. Chesley for further info and an update will be provided.
- B. **Operations & Park Planning Monthly Report-** Roger Blakeley
 - **See Staff Report.** Mr. Brooks commented that staff did a great job during the recent December snow storm. Mr. Blakeley and staff discussed the recent snow operations in December. There were no other questions or comments.
- C. **Office on the Arts Update** –report by Alisa Carrel
 - **See Staff Report.** The board reviewed the written report provided by Ms. Carrel. There were no questions or comments.

IV. **Park Planning Updates:**

- A. **RP&CA- Park Planning, Design & Capital Development Division Redirection of Work Efforts to Focus on Core Activities - Ron Kagawa.**
 - **See Staff Report.** - The role of reviewing private developments plans will be transferred to the City's Department of Planning and Zoning, where it used to be. The result will be a significant savings of staff time (25%). This will allow RPCA Park Planning staff to focus on core programs and to look at developing an overall Park Master Plan for the first time in the City's history. The memo articulates the process. The first part is doing an inventory of where things are now, what shape the parks are in and progress from there; the second is developing park standards. **The Chair** - said the third part, Master Planning, will provide a forward-looking way to manage public land and department resources, and will help answer a lot of questions that are coming to the Commission which should be answered from a broad prospective.
 - The Chair and staff discussed the need to review/update the **Recreational Needs Assessment**, done in 2002. Chair-the demographics in the East and West ends of the City have changed substantially. Henry Brooks- said the original report was very comprehensive- the focus if the report is updated should be how to transfer the needs of the community into plans for various neighborhoods and into actual actions in terms of opportunities for recreation and parks. The Chair said it will be important when the report is updated to ask the right questions, in order to get the right information. **She encouraged staff & Commission Members to review the report prior to the Retreat, and said it is available on-line.**
 - **Mr. Kagawa-** RPCA staff will maintain the department's interest in reviewing open space plans. Staff is committed to completing any pending obligations and projects. Chair- it is important for staff to maintain close working relationships with Planning & Zoning staff. Laura Durham –RPCA staff will have regular monthly meetings with Planning and Zoning development staff.
- B. **Update on Design & Construction at Ben Brenman Park Fields -Ron Kagawa**
 - **See Staff Report-** Mr. Kagawa provided a brief update on the status of the Ben Brenman synthetic turf field conversion project. **Parking Concerns-** At the public hearing on

October 15, 2009 some members of the community expressed concerns about the need to improve parking at Ben Brenman field. **Mr. Kagawa** reported that staff has undertaken a parking analysis to look at existing parking conditions at various times in the park and how they can be improved. Part of the analysis will be looking at changing behavior patterns for drop-offs-and pickups. Staff discussed several options to help improve the parking. It was suggested that staff look at the parking situation in the daytime as well as in the evening. **Chair**-at the work session with City Council on 1/12/10 on athletic fields, Council was okay with most of the plan, but wanted the parking issues addressed. All options should be explored within the framework of maximizing what we already have, and coming up with additional solutions. Open space will not be taken for additional parking spaces. Mr. Kagawa -the project is on target for construction this summer.

C. Mary S. Stephenson Professional AICP Certification Achieved.

- The Chair, Commissioners and RPCA staff congratulated Mary Stephenson for her achievement in passing her certification exams as a professional planner.

D. Freedman's Cemetery Project Update - Mary Stephenson

- See Staff Report- Preliminary Plan will be presented to the Steering Committee on 2/3/09. At that point the design will be available to the public.
- It was noted that some people who spoke at our previous hearing were not in favor of using the word "Contraband" with "Freedman's Cemetery", but prefer "Freedman's Cemetery". Mary- said she is not sure if the name issue will be addressed here it may be dealt with in another forum. **Mr. Cromley** - said that the larger issue is if any of the site will be considered parkland or if it will be just be a memorial area.
- **Action Item:** The Chair asked Bob Moir to be the new P&RC liaison for this group, since Kaj Vetter has resigned from the P&RC.
- The Chair asked for an update at the P&RC next meeting.

V. Open Space Update - Laura Durham

A. Update on Design & Construction of Pocket Parks at 1-7 East Del Ray & 48 S. Early Street-See Staff Report.

- Ms. Durham- the highlights of the report are that both Pocket Parks will be underway, with implementation and construction expected by the end of the summer 2010.

B. Update on Open Space Planning for the Mt. Vernon Properties and Duron Building Reuse. See Staff Report.

- A kick-off meeting with the Arlandria Action Plan Advisory Group is scheduled for 2/17/10, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Cora Kelly Recreation Center. A meeting was held this evening of the coalition of local architects. There is a lot of support for looking at adaptive re-use of the Duron building. City management supports moving forward with the project and it will be presented to the community for public input.
Action Item: The Chair will arrange to have a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Duron Bldg. at the next meeting, this to be added to the agenda.

C. Commonwealth Avenue Open Space (VEPCO) - (discussion item)

- Discussion: The Chair has been receiving emails from community members who are interested in seeing something done with the site soon. There have been requests to have a dog park put there and some people have expressed concerns about crime if the lot is left vacant. **Laura Durham**- when the site was acquired, City Council made it clear that it was to be kept as open space with minimal improvements at this time. Staff is working with community police officer to address potential safety concerns.
- **The Chair**— stated that the site does not meet the criteria for a dog park, according to the Dog Park Master Plan.
- Over the years they have looked at the whole of the community and established guidelines for parks because there is not enough open space in the City. Alexandria

currently has more dog parks than any place in the metropolitan area. Requests for dog park areas are increasing, when open space is available.

- Chair- the people at Tarleton and Holmes Run want to convert a tot lot that is being relocated for use as a dog park. Laura Durham- the residents want to leave the fence up and use the space as a dog park.
- Chair-when The Dog Park Master plan was done by the Parks and Recreation Commission, it was not about dog parks as much as it was about welcoming dogs into our parks in a way that was compatible. We need go back and take a look and see how we can do more for dogs in private developments as they come on line. Until then, staff should let people know that the P&RC is going to revisit and make recommendations to the Dog Park Master Plan as a whole, in the near future.
Ripley Forbes- feels the P&RC should be open to addressing the concerns of this local community regarding use of the new area, in conjunction with looking at the broader issues across the City. If a dog park is not appropriate then staff and the Commission need to explore options for what might be appropriate in the near term.
- **Mr. Cromley** asked if people can use the park now to walk their dogs. The Chair responded that people can walk dogs anyplace in the City as long as they are on a leash. Mr. Cromley said he understands the Chair's point that temporary uses sometimes end up being permanent.
- The Chair said there are three other potential requests for new dog park uses in the City and these need to be addressed in the context of a re-examination of the dog park master plan.
- **Action: The Chair and Ms. Durham will touch base with the community members again and try to come up with other options for use of the site.** Laura Durham said this is a learning curve for RPCA staff in terms of open space acquisition and interim use of acquired open space property/parks.
- **Chair-** said that Elizabeth Wright, who lives near Tarleton Park, has asked if someone from the P&RC can attend the Holmes Run Civic Assoc. meeting in March. Commissioner David Dexter agreed to attend. The Chair will coordinate the meeting and provide the details.

D. Re-establishment of the Open Space Advisory Group- (discussion item).

- Laura Durham -The group was established as a two year Ad Hoc group by City Council in February 2007, and the group is therefore currently inactive. Commissioner Dave Dexter was on the advisory group and chaired the meetings. The group was involved in reviewing new sites and working on outreach. In July, 2009, the funding source for open space acquisition was eliminated by the City due to budget constraints. With the disbursement of the Open Space Fund, any new acquisition will be of the sites that have already been identified by the group, the previous Open Space Steering Committee, or by the City's Small Area Plans. While the need for review of potential open space sites is no longer a priority (due to funding), staff is looking to see how re-establishing the group, or in another form, may help staff in reaching other goals in the Open Space Master Plan. Staff is seeking guidance from the P&RC in making a recommendation on how to handle this.
- **David Dexter**, said the original Charter that was approved was vague; a lot of time was spent trying to define their role. The Chair asked Mr. Dexter to think about defining the group's role for the future. Ms. Durham said the more articulate staff can be the purpose of the group the more helpful it will be. **David Dexter-re: BRAC development**, the Army is obligated to give the City between 2-6 acres of open space. The value of the land can be spent for open space. This would be an important

reason to have the Open Space Advisory Group in place. It will be important to lay out what the group's role will be in the future.

VI. Director's Report – James Spengler

A. City Council Strategic Planning Update:- Mr. Spengler gave an update on the City Council strategic planning process and said the process is coming to an end. He reviewed each of the 7 Strategic Goal areas; and highlighted those activities that will directly impact the Department of RPCA Department (**See Staff Report for details**). City Council may hold a public hearing for adoption of the City's Strategic Plan by the end of February 2010. The plan covers a short term period of 3-5 years. Additional information can be found on-line, under City Council strategic plan.

B. Patrick Henry School/Recreation Center (See Staff Report).

The Director provided an update on the proposed plans for renovation of Patrick Henry School/Recreation Center. Spengler- The ACPS planning process is underway, school enrollment in Alexandria is expected to increase. This will impact the early age groups, and also enrollment at T.C. Williams H.S. going forward. The school has worked on a CIP Program to include placing renovated and new schools to handle capacity issue.

- The first site impacted will be Patrick Henry Recreation Center. The P&RC has worked for many years on a plan for the renovation & expansion of the Center. A Scope of Work was developed in 2008 to increase the square footage from 7,900 sq ft. to approx. 13,000 sq. The gym size would remain the same; additional classrooms, a fitness room and an art room would be added. The Community desires to be able to use the facility for programs during the daytime and evening hrs. The Scope of Work provides two options, both show that in the future there would be a full-size gym attached to the building.
- The schools plans to build a new 100,000 sq. ft. K-8th grade facility, for opening by the fall of 2013- similar to the K-8 format at John Adams School. An initial discussion was held with the school facility staff. If capacity projections are correct, in the near future they may be taking down the existing Patrick Henry School. This would impact use of the fields- which may be inoperable for a few years. Once P.H. is taken down a decision will need to be made whether to leave the existing Rec. Center up during the construction process and/or how and if to connect it to the auxiliary gym.
- The City's OMB in the CIP process is attempting to set policy for the School and Park Commission setting the Patrick Henry Scoping is at 6.1 Million the schools need at least 20 mil. They budgeted 23 million budget in the CIP for combined facility.
- **Spengler-** In the next few months the P&RC will need to weigh in with a statement on behalf of the community on what they want to see as the policy for the new facility. The Chair and Henry Brooks said that options should not be compromised, it is important that the project be done right the first time.
- The Chair and staff discussed the best way to get Planning and Zoning, the Schools and the Recreation needs all together into one comprehensive planning process. This is important since the CIP for the City for the next 15 years, focuses mostly on the schools because the buildings are old. The group discussed what would be the best way for the Parks and Recreation Commission to become involved in the process and to establish strong ongoing ties with the School Board.
- The P&RC discussed having a representative from the School Board on the Commission, or having a member from the P&RC attend School Board meetings, in order to work together collaboratively on issues. One challenge cited with this is that both groups meet on some of the same Thursdays.
- Jefferson Houston site-staff discussed the Jefferson Houston site as another upcoming large project, where public/private partnership would be important.
- Cromley- The plan is to put density there because it is by the Metro.

- **Action Item:** The Chair-said the first step would be for her to speak with the Chair of the School Board. Additionally, she will arrange to meeting with the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Mr. John Komoroski.
- Mr. Spengler said he will keep the group informed on the progress.

C. **P&RC Retreat Update:**

- The Chair and staff reviewed the survey results for the retreat. The results were amended to include information from Mr. Forbes as received at the meeting. **The Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**, at a location to be determined.
- The Chair commented that items #9 & #10 of the survey comments-pertain to procedural issues that can be discussed at a later time.
- **Action Item:** The Director RPCA and Chair will review the list of suggested topics and prioritize the list, with input from the Commissioners.

VII. **Reports From Commissioners** (verbal reports)

- o **Ft. Ward Ad Hoc Advisory Committee** - Members: Bob Moir, Ripley Forbes, and Rich Brune. **Mr. Brune** reported that the 1st Ft. Ward Advisory Meeting was held on 1/26/10, a secretary was elected. The group discussed the P&RC attending a meeting to inform the History Group on what is going on there. The group is working on establishing a Mission Statement. Commissioners discussed trying to bring the group up-to-date to let them know that there is now a guard on duty during the weekends now at Ft. Ward Park.
- o **Youth Policy Commission** – Clark Mercer
 - RPF for grants going out. They are working on developing criteria for the proposed grants.
- o **Waterfront Committee** - Henry Brooks
 - The Waterfront meeting was held last Tuesday, January 14, 2010.
 - The Old Town Civic Association presented its waterfront plan. It showed different aspects of what City's is looking at. The OTCA feels that there is a need to strengthen businesses along King St. first, before starting to invest in businesses off King St.
 - **Mr. Cromley** said people want community development along the Waterfront for two reasons: to create vibrancy and also the development helps pays for the Waterfront improvements. **Henry Brooks-** said he can present the City's Waterfront plan at the next meeting. **Action Item: The Chair asked Roger Blakeley if he would send PDF of the plan to the P&RC members.**
- o **Youth Sports Committee** - Bob Moir
 - Mr. Moir, was unable to attend the recent Youth Sports meeting. His understanding is that fields were discussed. He stated that the numbers for participations have increased in all sports areas. Mr. Spengler reported that meeting was mostly a discussion about the upcoming work session with City Council on 1/12/10 on athletic fields and the Urban Forestry report.
- o **4- Mile Run-** Ripley Forbes
 - Bycling, skating, bike path.
 - Mr. Forbes- distributed several handouts and asked that Continuing of the Vision Process by the Department of Health - Coalition for Healthy Alexandria has developed metrics, Mr. Forbes-page three there are 12 metrics that apply to the P&RC,
 - Reduce measures

- Other Liaison reports:
- **Charles Houston Memorial Project-** William Cromley- the Charles Houston Memorial Project, is not meeting regularly now, finalists have been selected.
- **Freedman's Cemetery-** Robert Moir noted that he is the Liaison for this group.

Judy Guse-Noritake, Chairperson:

4 Mile Run Bridge Design Competition-The Chair asked for an update on the status of the 4-Mile Run Bridge Design Competition. Ron Kagawa-reported that the competition is closed; 44 responses were received. Public review will be held in the spring. An all day presentation, by the three finalists will be held on March 3/26/10 at the G. W. Masonic Temple.

Term of Commissioners: The Chair reported-the term for Kaj Vetta, Robert Moir, Ripley Forbes, and William Cromley, would be expiring soon. All but Kaj Vetta are reapplying. The Chair asked that a motion be made approving the sending of a letter reappointing all but Mr. Vetter for another term. **David Dexter moved** to approve a letter to the City Clerk supporting reappointing those reapplying to the Commission. **Rich Brune seconded** the motion. All were in favor. **Action Item:** The Chair will prepare and send a letter to the City Clerk for reappointment of said Commissioners. She noted that Mathew Coda will be graduating from high school soon, and there will be a need to recruit for both his position and the other vacant student position.

Other Business:

Charles Houston Awarded LEED Gold Certification- Ron Kagawa. Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria was awarded the LEED Goal Certification by America's Crown Communities 2009.

William Cromley-the Alexandria Masters Soccer League is having its winter season and just played their first game, it rained the entire day they didn't even notice. This is their first season on turf fields at Ft. Ward, it drains beautifully.

VIII. List of Upcoming Public Meetings - a list of upcoming meeting was distributed at the meeting.

IX. Adjournment: 9:30 p.m.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

**Park and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, February 18, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

**Charles Houston Recreation Center
901 Wythe Street, Alexandria VA**

SUMMARY MINUTES

Commission Members: Judy Guse-Noritake, Chairperson. Henry S. Brooks, Rich Brune, Mathew Coda, William Cromley, David Dexter, Ripley Forbes, Clark (Stephen) Mercer, Robert Moir, Jeff Murphy.

RPCA Staff: James Spengler, Director, Roger Blakeley, Jack Browand, Ron Kagawa, Mary Stephenson, Robin DeShields. Absent: Roger Blakeley, Alisa Carrel.

Guest: Nathan Macek-Chair, Waterfront Committee.

- I. Welcome: The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed staff.
- II. **Presentation on Duron Paint Building Site -4109 Mt. Vernon Avenue- Judy Guse-Noritake, Chairperson.** The Chair gave the presentation.
 - The presentation was also given to the Arlandria Action Advisory Group on 2/17/10; public response was characterized as largely enthusiastic.
 - Background: In 2007, the City bought 4 parcels located at 4109-4125 Mt. Vernon Avenue, adjacent to Four Mile Run Park for use as open space. Three of the four buildings were torn down; the Duron paint building was left standing. Estimated costs to install HVAC and bring the bldg. up to standard was ¼ million dollars. The cost to demolish the building was estimated at \$80K. Due to costs/budget, the City decided to leave the building up while considering options for demolition or re-use. A group of architects from Alexandria and Arlington proposed to develop some conceptual ideas for the building's re-use on a pro-bono basis, with the goal of being able to use the building for community purposes as a simple, multipurpose facility. Because the biggest cost to renovate was to re-do the HVAC system they proposed instead to use the building as a seasonal building without heat or AC.
 - The proposed site design will open the building up on the west side with a large barn-door opening. The mural will be relocated to interior of building and the restrooms will be reconfigured & renovated to with ADA standards. Daylight harvesting (non-electrical) will be accomplished by installing light tubes and skylights. Community uses of the building could include cultural events, environmental education, small performances, summer youth camps, farmers and holiday markets, and other community uses. The proposal shows possible phasing of the building along with the series of 3 "outdoor rooms" on the adjacent sites to the north where buildings were torn down.
 - Funding- some services will be provided pro-bono; some funds will come from the Open Space Fund to help underwrite what can't be done with in-kind funds, along with some community sweat equity.
 - Mr. Spengler thanked the Chair of the P&RC who has been instrumental in getting this project moving forward. Two years ago, General Services did a study on the Duron building and their analysis was that it would be less expensive to tear the building down than to rehabilitate it. The Chair worked with a small group of architects, "Architects Anonymous", who looked at the site pro-bono to suggest uses and design concepts that would benefit the community with a minimal monetary investment. The City Manager, after seeing their presentation, agreed to consider their proposal for re-purposing the building instead of tearing it down, with the understanding that the Arlandria community needs to be in support of the project, and that there be volunteer and in-kind services for accomplishing the project and the on-going operations of the building and adjoining sites.

- **Next Steps:**
- Public Hearing on proposed SUP Application, March 18, 2010.
- Submit SUP Application in March 23 for the June Planning Commission and City Council public hearings.
- Community meetings and involvement - March-May.
- Begin construction by the end of summer or fall.
- The park planning process for all four parcels will also be initiated with any plan to come back to the P&RC for review and comment.

Business Items:

- **Introduction of New Commissioner:** The Chair introduced new Commissioner Mr. Jeffrey Murphy who was appointed to the P&RC at the 2/16/10 City Council meeting.
- **Minutes of January 21, 2010** -this item was deferred to the next regular meeting, 3/18/10 due to the recent major snowstorm, the City was closed for 10 days.

III. DIVISION UPDATES:

Note: To view a full copy of Staff Reports, please go to www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation/Commission & Committees.

A. Recreation Programs and Services Update - William Chesley

- **See Staff Report: Follow-up Discussion on Update-Early Morning Fitness Program Registration at Charles Houston:** Mr. Chesley reported that the program has been in place since last summer and is designed to be full cost recovery (10% is being recovered currently). City Council approved \$26,000 for the program. The Program is not taking off in the community as well as expected. Staff is working to improve its marketing and outreach efforts. The program will be re-evaluated in June and a decision made whether to continue it. The City of Alexandria offers a Wellness Program for its employees, currently there are more City employees than paying patrons. The overall monthly participation rate varies - cost is \$3.00 per visit.
- The Chair reminded staff of the **Charles Houston Room and Gymnasium Naming/Dedication Ceremony:** February 27, 2010 from 3-4 p.m. at Charles Houston. This will be a major community event. She encouraged P&RC members to attend.
- **Out of School Time Program:** Mr. Spengler will give a presentation at the next City Council/School Board sub-committee meeting on 2/22/10. There is a difference in enrollment vs. average daily attendance. Enrollment is down but the average daily attendance is better. When parents pay a fee for children to participate in programs, attendance is usually better. The meeting is at 5:00 p.m. at the School Admin. building-2000 N. Beauregard St. Meetings are held monthly.

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

- **See Staff Report.** Mr. Blakeley was absent. The Director will provide further information under (Item V). The P&RC requested that a summary report if possible be provided in the future.

C. Office on the Arts Update –report by Alisa Carrel

- **See Staff Report.** Staff reviewed the report; there were no questions or comments.

IV. Park Planning Updates:

A. Update on Playgrounds Report -Ron Kagawa

- See Staff Report- Mr. Forbes asked which playgrounds had passed their Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards- he wanted to know if the ones in need of the most repair have safety issues-this may help Council in making a decision. Mr. Kagawa- a number of playgrounds in the City currently have old equipment, staff is reviewing these and making recommendations for repair/replacement. Mr. Spengler- approximately 10-12 playgrounds out of 40 are in need of repair. Current funding is allocated to do about three per year. **Action Item:** RPCA staff will pull together the playground inventory list again and send this out to the P&RC. The list has three categories of the status of playgrounds.

B. Witter Fields Update- Ron Kagawa

- See Staff Report. - The project is on schedule and construction will begin in the summer with completion anticipated by the end of 2011.

C. Freedmen's Cemetery Update- Mary Stephenson

- See Staff Report & Drawings - Mary Stephenson provided an update of the Freedmen's Cemetery project including drawings of the site. The site is near Washington and Columbus Streets. The Official Name of the Cemetery- will be the "**Contrabands and Freedmen's Memorial Cemetery**", also known as "Freedmen's Cemetery". The site will include interpretative elements explaining the wording "Contraband". Mary- In 1864-it is believed that very few "Contraband"are laid to rest there. A lot of progress has been made since the 2/3/10 Steering Committee Meeting. Grave markers will be installed for all known graves, as well as fencing and a "name wall"; the wall will incorporate benches for seating. The site will also include a remnant of the old office building stairs. The stairs can not be removed or it may disturb the graves. A sign will be posted describing the stairs as part of the former site. Mary-Neighbors expressed concerned about noise due to the removal of the office building. VDOT planted some vegetation to help calm noise, and some additional trees will be planted. In most areas trees can not be planted because this might disturb the graves. There will be a sound wall 25 ft. tall along the Beltway side of the site.
- The group discussed concerns about handling potential graffiti on the name-wall and benches. Mary said the design is not a flat surface but textured to discourage graffiti, but will also allow graffiti to be removed.
- On-street parking will be available; there is no parking planned at the site.
- The Chair asked Bob Moir to serve as the new liaison for the group, since Kaj Vetter has resigned.

Next Steps:

- 3/11/10-an informational meeting, an Open House, for design will be held and then the design will go before the Planning Commission and City Council for final approval.
- **Mary Stephenson's departure-** Mr. Spengler announced that Mrs. Stephenson will be leaving to relocate overseas with her husband, effective March 12, 2010. Mary has been an important talent in the RPCA organization and was instrumental in getting the Athletic Field Study completed. The Chair said we are losing a very talented person. The group wished Mary well.

V. Director's Report – James Spengler

A. **Patrick Henry School/Recreation Center**

- See Staff Report: Mr. Spengler provided an update on the project and a lengthy discussion ensued with the P&RC members.
- The Alexandria School system is moving forward with their CIP for a new K-8 facility identified as, school site #1.
- It will be placed on the existing Patrick Henry field location; both campuses will be operational for a period of time. A meeting of staff was held with the schools, G.S., OMB and RPCA to discuss challenges. Staff will work together as a joint project team.
- The concern is that in the school planning process, recreational uses will become secondary to schools. The biggest problem is the schools are unsure of how they will manage increasing enrollment.
- RPCA – can we operate the old and new Recreation Centers concurrently?
- General Services estimates that the existing Recreation Center is structurally sound and has a useful life of 20-30 more years and could serve as a stand alone Center if needed.
- Interest continues in building a West End Recreation Center, this will be looked at when Landmark Mall is redeveloped. Patrick Henry could serve as the West End Center for the next several years.
- **In looking at the school CIP vs. the City CIP for recreation, the opportunity for additional recreation facilities, over the next ten years lies in working with the school as they build new school sites.**
- Given the City's current budget situation, one of the policy issues is whether the City can afford the School/Recreation Center concept, which is not currently funded. The Operating Budget is moving in one direction, the CIP another. The majority of funds is on the school side and will be there for some time. As school enrollment increases it will have a direct correlation on Recreation Services.
- Ripley Forbes- asked if there is an opportunity to engage the schools and/or to intervene in the CIP. Mr. Spengler responded that 8 different public meetings are planned between now and May when the budget is adopted. Bob Moir- said he feels it is an unconscionable for the schools to build schools without field space.
- The P&RC needs to be involved as the project moves forward to provide advice to RPCA and City Council. The goal is to find ways where the schools, RPCA, P&RC and Planning can work together collaboratively on solutions.
- **This item was selected as one of the top issues for discussion at the upcoming Park and Recreation Retreat March 6 and will continue to be on the regular agenda for discussion.**

B. **Retreat –March 6, 2010**

- The Director outlined the plan for the upcoming Retreat to be held 3/6/10 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, location-TBD. The top three priorities selected by Commissioners for discussion at the retreat are:
 - o 1. Planning for joint school/recreation expansion.
 - o 2. A Master Plan for Parks.
 - o 3. Layout out the top priorities for the next one or two years.
- Dave Dexter will be the Facilitator for the retreat.
- The retreat will include a discussion on the role of Commissioners, including legislative requirements and governance procedures.
- The Master Plan for parks will focus on use of the parks. The City may be losing some fields and open space, due to renovation of school sites (P.H., J.H.) this will impact use of Recreation Centers and services. The goal will be to figure out what land is in our inventory and how to preserve it in a useful fashion.

- **Snow Storm Update- See Staff Report (Item # III-B)**
- The Director gave an update on the recent snow storm/blizzard in the absence of Mr. Blakeley. The City Manager issued an emergency declaration and City went into emergency management mode. The normal organizational structure during this mode changes. All resources and new operational units now fall under the command of the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The City Manager is the Incident Commander in charge of the event, not individual departments. All calls go through the EOC. **The EOC operated 24-7**, until the event was over; many staff worked in shifts (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) over the last week. Software tracked the number hrs. Worked-FEMA will reimbursement the City. An estimated \$8 mil. was spent to date; none was budgeted for. RPCA was responsible for: **Mass Care and debris removal**- Charles Houston and William Ramsey Rec. Centers were opened as warming centers. Charles Houston was later used as a shelter. An estimated 12 persons used the Centers; this helped ensure people who experienced power outages had some place to go and did not freeze. All **Park Maintenance Operations**- which are normally handled by RPCA, fell under the command of the EOC. During, non-emergency situations T&ES does schools and sidewalks. Priorities were determined by the EOC: priorities were to clear streets first for emergency vehicles; clearing bus stops and fire hydrants. The parks and marina were not a top priority. The schools were the third priority—this upset some people. Several off-site locations were used to dump the snow, no parks were used because it would damage the turf. In case the P&RC/staff receives calls or questions, they should let people know that the City was under the authority of the EOC, City Manager, during the recent snow storm, not RPCA.
- **600 N. Henry Street -Open Space Site** - The site was approved to contract for purchase and use as open space at the 2/16/10 City Council Meeting (Res. No. 2383), utilizing \$2.4 mil. of available open space funds.
- A member of the P&RC inquired as to how the P&RC could be notified of upcoming City land purchases for open space in the future. Mr. Spengler – City Council discusses possible land purchases/negotiations during Executive Sessions. Information is confidential and not official until Council votes on approving it. The Sequence is as follows: Council authorizes negotiations with potential seller; it is then brought back to Council for discussion/decision to move forward or not. City staff prepares a docket item to vote on contract for purchase. Planning Commission makes the final decision according to Section 9.06 of the City Charter. A docket item will be done for the March Planning Commission docket. In the Braddock Metro Plan this site is specifically identified as the preferred location for community open space. Intent is to work with the US Post Office regarding potential acquisition of the adjacent site. This is the 12th parcel purchased with Open Space funds.
- **Action Items**: A weekly email blast will be sent on upcoming docket items to the P&RC. Mr. Spengler will speak with the City Attorney to see if there is a legal way to share land purchase information with the P&RC in advance.
- **The Field at Ben Brenman Park-COA Request**- The Director, shared a copy of a letter received from Mr. Gary Carr which was sent to the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members and schools regarding the project. Mr. Carr feels that replacing the fields at Francis Hammond should be made the priority, not Ben Brenman. The Director RPCA sent a response to Mr. Carr, supporting staff's recommendations and findings re: Ben Brenman. He will keep staff updated on any further information. There was an article in the Alexandria Gazette today regarding this.

VI. Reports From Commissioners (verbal updates):

- o Ft. Ward Ad Hoc Advisory Comm.-Bob Moir, Ripley Forbes, Rich Brune-none.
- o Youth Policy Commission- Stephen Mercer- none.
- o Waterfront Committee- Henry Brooks - the last Waterfront meeting was postponed; the next meeting is this Tuesday.
- o Youth Sports Committee- Bob Moir- the meeting was cancelled last week.
- o 4- Mile Run- Ripley Forbes- none.
 - o Chair –asked about the status of the Pedestrian Bridge Design Competition. Mr. Kagawa: 40 applications were received, of very high quality. A one-day event will be held at the Masonic Temple for the top 3 finalist. He will let the Commission know the date and time.
- o Charles Houston Memorial Project-William Cromley
 - o 4 Artists chosen as semi-finalists.
- o Freedmen’s Cemetery-Bob Moir
 - o See Update by Mary Stephenson previously given (Item IV-C).
- o Beauregard Corridor Plan-Dave Dexter
 - o Holmes Run/Winkler Preserve –opportunity to for additional open space.
 - o Chair - She looked at Congressman Moran’s web site. He has a statement on protecting Mark Winkler. David Dexter spoke at the meeting last night.
- o Chair- Judy-Guse Noritake- asked Mr. Coda if he has had any success in helping to recruit another student for the vacant position yet. Mr. Coda responded he has not had any luck with this yet.

VII. List of Upcoming Public Meetings-was provided at the meeting.

VIII. Adjournment – 9:30 p.m.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 15, 2010

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: WILLIAM CHESLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECREATION
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION,
PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: MARCH 18, 2010 COMMISSION MEETING, ITEM IV-A
RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REPORT

Youth Activities

- Championship games for the Youth Basketball Program were held on March 13. 960 youth were enrolled in the league program and 95 children were enrolled in the Basketball Fundamentals School. Youth Sports enrollment has increased by 41% over the past 3 years.
- Registration is underway for tee ball, coach pitch and girls softball. The programs are scheduled to begin in May.
- The Class Program Section offered 224 classes during the winter session. Of that total, 193 (86%) classes met the minimum enrollment requirement and were successfully implemented at various venues during the fall session. Spring/Summer class registration begins March 29, for residents and April 5, for non residents.
- The City-wide Cheerleading Competition is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2000, 11:00 a.m. at T.C.Williams High School. The cost of tickets purchased in advance is \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for youth 6-12 years of age. Tickets purchased at the door are \$6.00 and \$3.00 for adults and youth, respectively.

Adult Activities

- The Class Program Section offered 224 classes during the winter session. Of that total, 193 (86%) classes met the minimum enrollment requirement and were successfully implemented at various venues during the fall session. Spring/Summer class registration begins March 29, for residents and April 5, for non-residents.
- Registration for Spring and Summer softball and soccer leagues are underway.

Neighborhood Recreation Centers

- RPCA is coordinating its Capital Facilities Maintenance Program (CFMP) with guidance and direction from the Department of General Services. \$100K is budgeted for the CFMP in FY-2010. Beginning in FY-2011, it is anticipated that \$500K will be budgeted annually in the CFMP for maintenance and repairs of RPCA's recreation centers. Projects totaling more than \$3 million dollars have been identified and included in the CFMP schedule through FY-2014.
- Registration for the 2010 summer program begins on March 31. "Power-On" is the new brand for the after school and summer program. The new "Power-On" brand is reflected on all summer program promotional materials and program information. The 2010 "Power On" summer program guide is available at all recreation centers and schools.
- 1,112 children enrolled (-34% change from last year's YTD enrollment) in the after school program as of 2/28/10.
- Work continues on the plan to implement the National Safe Place Program at all of our full-time recreation centers. Safe Place provides access to immediate help and safety for youth in crisis and makes it easy for youth to quickly connect with a service providing agency to access help. This process takes approximately 12 months to complete as it requires certain community partnerships to be formed, training staff, community education and awareness, etc.
- The ceremony for the naming of the Charles Houston Recreation Center gymnasium and pool was held on Saturday, February 27. More than 400 people attended the event.
- The Winter/Spring late night adult basketball league at Charles Houston Recreation Center is underway. Seven teams are playing games every Thursday and attracting as many as 75 spectators per game.

Aquatics

- Staff is working to get the outdoor pools ready for the upcoming season. The Old Town and Warwick Pools are scheduled to open on Memorial Day and Charles Houston and Ewald will open on June 28. The Nannie J. Lee and Colasonto Pools did not open last year due to budget reductions and will remain closed this year for the same reason.

Environmental Education

- The Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center is hosting a "Pirates of the Chesapeake" Spring break camp for children 7-10 years of age.
- Other new programs and activities being planned include a Traveling Naturalist Program, Nature Center Docent Training Program, Traveling Nature Exhibit, and a Nature Art

Contest and Exhibit. Staff will consider seeking funding in the FY-2012 budget to implement a fee based after school nature program.

Other

- The Recreation Services Division is developing a business plan for the Division which will articulate the strategic direction of the Division for the next three years. A community stakeholders meeting is scheduled at the Nannie J. Lee Center on March 23 at 6:30 p.m. to get community input on the draft plan. The plan is expected to be completed by April 2010.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 18, 2010

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: ROGER BLAKELEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PARK OPERATIONS-
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: **MONTHLY REPORT- ITEM IV-B**

Luckett Field New Score Board:

A new score board was installed at Luckett field as part of the overall renovation of the facility. Bishop Ireton High School participated in the cost of the new score board. The addition is part of the standardization of the parks system and athletic fields. Bishop Ireton High School had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new scoreboard on Monday, March 15, 2010 at Luckett Field. The ceremony was held just prior to their softball game against Bishop O'Connell.

Bill Simmons, the Athletic Director at the school, has requested RPCA staff be a part of the ceremony as a way of thanking our staff for all the hard work and to show the ongoing public private partnership between the school's Booster Club and the City.

Volunteers for Parks Operations:

The Parks Operations section has received help from 81 volunteers during the last three months. 81 people have volunteered for work and clean up projects and have logged in over 710 hours. Most of the hours have come in the form of snow removal and park clean-up projects. The next three months are typically the largest number of volunteers as spring allows people to comfortably be outdoors.

Minnie Howard Field will host Girls 10-14 field hockey this summer:

Because of the synthetic field program at the start of the summer we are going to have a new field hockey program for young women 10 -14 years old. This program could not have happened unless we had the synthetic fields in place to handle the constant year round play. The program will run from mid-June to the end of July.

Polk Field to Close Down in April:

In April the APCS Capital Development section will close down the school field at Polk in order to install a geo-thermal heating and cooling system. The field will be the primary location for the project the field will be out of service for around a year. The APCS has agreed to rebuild the field when the project is completed.

Bishop Ireton replaces the wind screen at 4-Mile Frank Mann Field:

The wind screen at the Frank Mann Baseball field will receive a new wind screen to replace the current one. The wind screen is used to allow the batters to see the ball better and it brightens up the look of the field.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 18, 2010

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: ALISA CARREL, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: **MARCH 18, 2010 COMMISSION MEETING, ITEM IV-C
UPDATE ON THE OFFICE OF THE ARTS AND ARTS COMMISSION
ACTIVITIES**

Art on the Waterfront Community Meeting:

Meeting was held on March 10. Pat Miller, Chair of the Arts Commission, moderated and P&Z facilitated. Matthew Harwood (Public Art Committee) presented the Art Walk concept presentation, Karl Moritz (P&Z) provided an update on the plan and the process; and Lance Mallamo (OHA) spoke on the themes that came out of the history-focused meeting. P&Z staff is finalizing the notes. Preliminary themes included: 1) Connectivity of Space; 2) Use of Space and Facilities; 3) Interactive and Educational Opportunities; 4) Activated Spaces; 5) Integration with Infrastructure; 6) Visual Attraction to Waterfront; 7) Highest Design Excellence.

Charles Houston Memorial & Police Memorial:

Artist reference checks completed. Awaiting approval from Procurement to make announcement of the finalists. A June Gala is currently being discussed as a fund raising activity for the Houston Memorial. Additional outreach to be scheduled.

Freedmen's Cemetery:

Community meeting held on March 11. Finalizing edits of RFQ based on changes made by the design team. Finalizing web site with OHA and Information Technology Services.

Public Art and Planning & Zoning:

1. Mount Vernon Commons – marble sculpture to be installed soon (possibly within next few days) at Mt. Vernon and Commonwealth.
2. BRAC – P&Z and Office of the Arts to meet with Army to discuss mural: process, materials, cost and maintenance. Draft recommendations currently being developed. Public Art Committee to give presentation at March 17 meeting of advisory group.
3. Eisenhower – agreement reached with developer. Public Art plan includes relocation of Eisenhower statue to site near Metro, \$5,000 maintenance contribution, and other requirements.
4. Beauregard Corridor – working with consultants on inclusion of public art.
5. Calvert on Mount Vernon – onsite public art being provided: artistic design of water feature and paving; reed panel to be used for wall covering.
6. Potomac Yard – submitting final comments.

Public Art Funding Policy:

Pat Miller and Alisa Carrel are meeting with key developers and land use attorneys. Met with Duncan Blair, a meeting is scheduled with Mary Catherine Gibbs and Kathy Puskar. Additional individual meetings will be scheduled. Once these meetings are completed, a community meeting will be organized.

Torpedo Factory Art Center:

The Efficiency and Productivity Study by MAI is now available online at: www.alexandria.gov/arts - follow link to "News & Information" and then "Reports & Research." The Office of the Arts submitted a grant application to the Virginia Commission for the Arts in the amount of \$20,000 to fund marketing opportunities including new banners and other outdoor signage, as recommended in the MAI study. The Virginia Commission for the Arts is facing a 16.4% budget cut in FY11, therefore, funding will be highly competitive.

Alexandria Poet Laureate:

Applications for new Poet Laureate have been submitted. Selection Panel interviewed finalists on 3/15/10. New Poet Laureate to be announced soon.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 18, 2010

TO: PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: PARK PLANNING, DESIGN & CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

RON M. KAGAWA, ASLA LEED AP
ACTING DIVISION CHIEF

**SUBJECT: PARK PLANNING ACTIVITIES UPDATE
OVERVIEW – SELECTED PROJECTS AT A GLANCE, ITEM IV-D.**

I. Park Planning

Potomac Yard & Metro Small Area Plan In Progress

Revisions to the working draft are being finalized. The Potomac Yard Planning Advisory Group held its final meeting on February 4th, at which time the majority of the members supported the plan. A joint work session was held for the City Council and Planning Commission on February 23. The plan has been tentatively docketed for Planning Commission and City Council in April. The CDD for Potomac Yard North is anticipated to follow the Small Area Plan in early summer.

Waterfront Small Area Plan In Progress

P&Z established weekly team meetings with consultant and involved staff. Laura Durham and Laura Seidler are leads. Topical meetings Arts was held on March 8. It is anticipated that Faroll Hamer, Director of the Department of Planning & Zoning will present the plan at the April 15 Park & Recreation Commission meeting.

Park Master Planning In Progress

As a core service initiative the Park Master Planning Inventory and Standards Projects were presented to the Park and Recreation Commission at their March 06 retreat and subsequently to the Youth Sports Advisory Board on March 8 for comments and input.

Open Space Planning & Acquisition Ongoing

Contract for acquisition of Braddock Small Area Plan parcel (600 N. Henry Street property) approved by City Council on February 16, 2010. Section 9.06 of the City Charter action approved by Planning Commission on March 02. Final purchase remains contingent on completion of the Phase II Environmental Assessment.

Four Mile Run Pedestrian-Cyclist Bridge Competition Design Competition

Three finalists have been selected from 45+ international entries.

Finalists are: Olin/Buro Happold/Exploration Architecture/L'Observatoire International
Grimshaw/Arup/Scape

Rosales+Partners/Bergermann Schlaich & Partners/Simpson, Gumpertz & Heger

Public Presentation is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial Auditorium. <http://www.4milerun.org/>

II. Capital Project Implementation

1-7 East Del Ray

Contract Documents

Site Grading Plan is under review with Transportation & Environmental Services. Anticipate two weeks for review. Project is tracking for late summer (phase one) construction start.

48 South Early Street-Pedestrian Bridge

Construction

Contract awarded to Fort Myer Construction. Contract commenced on started March 1. Geotechnical investigations performed on March 9. Estimated completion: June 30, 2010.

2009 Athletic Field-Ben Brenman

Design & Engineering

First internal document review held during the week of March 3. Anticipate first submission of Site Grading Plan to City in late March. Public meeting to accept comments on project design including lights is being scheduled for mid-April. Special Use Permit for lights submitted. Anticipate Planning Commission and City Council review in May, 2010. Construction commencement anticipated in Summer, 2010.

Playgrounds

Contract Documents

Landover Grading Plan mylars submitted. Invitation to bid closed on March 3. Construction is expected to commence mid/late April. Playgrounds at Mulligan (\$99,000), Stevenson (\$126,000), Tarleton (\$104,300) Parks are in bid document preparation stage. Solicitations are anticipated in April.

Witter Athletics

Contract Documents

Consultant FHWA and VDOT submittal in anticipated in late January. Staff finalizing materials and finish selections with consultant. Anticipate solicitation Summer, 2010.

Four Mile Run Demonstration Project

Contract Documents

Review of 30 percent construction documents. 60 percent documents anticipated in June, 2010.

Mount Vernon Avenue-Duron Paint Building Site

Planning & Design

Information provided under separate cover in Staff Updates.

###

4 MILE RUN PEDESTRIAN-CYCLIST BRIDGE PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION



PUBLIC PRESENTATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL
101 CALLAHAN DRIVE ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22301



This public presentation is the final phase in the 4 Mile Run Pedestrian Cyclist Bridge Professional Competition evaluation process. The top three finalist teams will be sharing their professional work and a conceptual design of the bridge to the public on Saturday, March 27, 2010. All are welcome to attend the lectures, ask questions, and enjoy the public reception to follow. At the conclusion of the presentations, the Selection Panel will deliberate and announce the top ranked team based on the strength of their professional skills and the potential for their conceptual design to become an icon for the ecological restoration of Four Mile Run and its surrounding community.

FINALIST TEAMS

TEAM A: OLIN / BURO HAPPOLD / EXPLORATIONS ARCHITECTURE / L'OBSERVATOIRE INTERNATIONAL

TEAM B: GRIMSHAW / ARUP / SCAPE

TEAM C: ROSALES + PARTNERS / BERGERMANN SCHLAICH AND PARTNER / SIMPSON GUMPERTZ AND HEGER

SELECTION PANEL

Michael J Abrahams, PE

Julie Beckman

Frank Schlesinger, FAIA

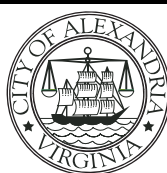
Michael Vergason, FASLA

IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND, PLEASE REGISTER AT:

www.4milerun.org

S C H E D U L E :

1:00 PM	OPENING REMARKS
1:30 PM	TEAM A PRESENTATION
2:30 PM	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
2:45 PM	BREAK
3:00 PM	TEAM B PRESENTATION
4:00 PM	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
4:15 PM	BREAK
4:30 PM	TEAM C PRESENTATION
5:30 PM	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
5:45 PM	FINAL REMARKS
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	PUBLIC RECEPTION
7:00 PM	JURY ANNOUNCEMENT



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 18, 2010

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIRECTOR
MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION - ITEM IV-E
MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION
UPDATE.

- **2010 Spring & Summer Recreation Program Guide**

The program guide has been printed and is being prepared for mailing to approximately 11,300 subscribers. The guide will be posted on line Friday, March 19 and will be received in the mail the week of March 22. Additional copies will be available at City facilities. Class registration begins Wednesday, March 31 for City residents, and Friday, April 2 for nonresidents.

- **Special Events – Race Guidelines and Procedures**

As a result of the increase in the number of race applications, the Special Events Committee has formed a Race Subcommittee to develop race specific guidelines and procedures for City Council consideration. Currently, 21 race/walks and biking events are approved or pending approval for 2010 (Attachment 1). The new policy will include race specific rules and regulations, approved routes (including routes connecting with the Woodrow Wilson Bridge), distances, estimated fees, and desired number of races to ensure compliance within the adopted Special Events Policies and Procedures Manual. In addition, City staff will initiate discussions with representatives from National Harbor to facilitate cooperative planning in events which impact the City of Alexandria.

Per the Special Events Policy, adopted on January 23, 2010, special event applications, are evaluated to ensure (1) Within Old Town, alternating weekends of special events is maintained; (2) events will be scheduled to not overly burden any one neighborhood on a consistent basis; and (3) events shall not severely impact the quality of life within the area it is being held.

Currently, 21 events, on 20 days are scheduled in Old Town through December 31, 2010, resulting in 17 days requiring street closures and/or the removal of parking (Attachment 2). The number of events currently scheduled represents 77% of the weekends available to stage special events on alternating weekends.

The City's Special Events Committee will forward the proposed guidelines and procedures to the Commission in May for review and comment.

- **Special Events Calendar – March/April 2010**

Saturday, March 27 - **Shred and Share**

Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. from 10 am to 4 pm

Saturday, April 10 – **Annual Citywide Cheerleading Competition**

TC Williams HS, 3330 King St from 11 am to 1 pm

Tuesday, April 13 – **Days of Remembrance**

Market Square, 301 King St. from noon to 1 pm

Saturday, April 24 – **Project Discovery Walk-a-thon**

Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd. from 8 am to noon

Saturday, April 24 – **Earth Day 2010**

Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Dr. from 10 am to 2 pm

Sunday, April 25 – **26th Annual GW Parkway Classic Race**

Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. at 6 am

Sunday, April 25 – **March for Babies 5K Walk**

Cameron Run Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., at 6 am

Friday, April 30 – **Spring For Alexandria**

Community Service Day from 10 am to 1 pm

Reception: Market Square, 301 King St. from noon to 5 pm

Attachment 1: 2010 Approved/Proposed Race/Walks & Biking

Attachment 2: 2010 Calendar of Events in Old Town

**City of Alexandria
2010 Approved/Proposed Race/Walks & Biking**

Event	Date	Location
George Washington Birthday 10K	February	Eisenhower Valley
George Washington Birthday Win Sprint (New) – 1 mile	February	Old Town One Year Approval
Run vs Row – 5K	March - TBD	Old Town
Project Discovery	April	Ft. Ward Park/Minnie Howard
Sip & Dip Autism Walk – 5K	April – Pending Final Review	Eisenhower Valley
March for the Babies – 5K	April	Eisenhower Valley
GW Parkway Classis – 10 mile	April	Old Town
Alexandria Running Festival Half Marathon	May	Eisenhower Valley One Year Approval
Human Resource Command US Army Fun Run – 5K	May	Eisenhower Valley
Tucker Elementary 5K Run & Walk	May	AL Boothe Park, Brenman Park, and Holmes Run Parkway Trails
Bike DC in Alexandria 2010	May Inquiry Made – Application Not Submitted	City of Alexandria Bike Trails and Streets
Fight Childhood Obesity/YMCA – 5K	May – Pending Final Review	Eisenhower Valley
NOVA/DC Metro Vision Walk – 5K	May – Pending Final Review	NOVA Community College Alexandria Campus
National Red Cross - 5K	June	Eisenhower Valley
Dash for Dad – 10K	September	Eisenhower Valley
Old Town Doggie Walk	September	Old Town
WW Bridge Half Marathon	September Recommending Denial	Old Town
Walk to Fight Breast Cancer - 1K, 3K & 5K	October	Eisenhower Valley
BA 1K & 5K Walk	November	Eisenhower Valley
MMRF 5K	November	Eisenhower Valley
Turkey Trot – 5 mile	November	Del Ray

Note Pending Approval: Applicant has changed condition of original application and further clarification has been requested.

Total Approved/Proposed 2010 Race/Walks & Biking: 21

- Old Town: 5
- Eisenhower Valley: 11
- West End: 3
- Del Ray: 1
- Bike Trails: 1

2010 Calendar of Events in Old Town Alexandria

	Special Events	Location	Time	2010 Date
1	G.W. Birthday Parade/One Mile Win Sprint (1 & 2)	Cameron, Royal, Fairfax Streets & Assembly Area	12-2pm	02/15/10
2	St. Patrick's Day Parade/Dog & Antique Car Show (1 & 2)	King, Royal, Fairfax Streets & Assembly Areas	10am-3pm	03/06/10
3	National Tartan Day (2)	Market Square	12pm	04/10/10
4	Days of Remembrance (2)	Market Square	12-1pm	04/13/10
5	GW Parkway Classic 10 Mile Race (1 & 2)	GW Parkway(South) to Oronoco Bay Park	6am-12pm	04/25/10
6	Spring for Alexandria	Market Square	12-5pm	05/07/10
7	Colin Casey Fun Run/St. Mary's Fair (1 & 2)	Royal, Franklin and Union Streets	8-11am	05/16/10
8	City of Alexandria Bike to Work Day	Market Square	5:30-9:30am	05/21/10
9	Taste of Old Town North	Montgomery Park	4-8pm	05/27/10
10	Volunteer Alexandria Arts & Crafts Show (2)	Market Square	12-6pm	06/05/10
	Volunteer Alexandria Arts & Crafts Show (2)	Market Square	12-6pm	06/06/10
11	USA/Alexandria Birthday (1 & 2)	Oronoco Bay Park	6-10pm	07/10/10
12	Friendship Firehouse Festival (1 & 2)	Friendship Firehouse/Alfred Street	10am-3pm	08/07/10
13	Irish Festival (1 & 2)	Waterfront Park/Strand Street	12-7pm	08/14/10
14	Alexandria Festival of the Arts (1 & 2)	King Street (Washington to Union Streets)	10am -7pm	09/11/10
	Alexandria Festival of the Arts (1 & 2)	King Street (Washington to Union Streets)	10am-5pm	09/12/10
15	Old Town Dog Walk	Sidewalk Route in Old Town	9-11am	09/12/10
16	Paws in the Park	Montgomery Park	11am-1pm	10/23/10
17	City Tree Lighting Program (2)	Market Square	7-9pm	11/26/10
18	Upper King Street Tree Lighting (2)	King Street Garden Park	5-6pm	11/26/10
19	Scottish Christmas Walk (1 & 2)	Asaph, Queen, Fairfax and King Streets	10:30am-12:30pm	12/04/10
20	Parade of Boats (2)	City Marina	3-7pm	12/04/10
21	First Night Alexandria	King Street/Old Town	6pm-12am	12/31/10

Other Activities

Upper King Street Fresh Farmers Market (2)	King Street Gardens Park (Wednesdays)	1-7:30pm	May-Oct
Spring, Summer and Holiday Concerts (2)	Various Old Town Locations	Varies	Varies
Supper Under the Stars (2)	King Street Gardens Park	Varies	Varies
Weddings at Waterfront Park - Average 12 per year (2)	Waterfrint and Oronoca Bay Parks	Varies	Varies

(1) Requires Street Closures

(2) Requires Parking Removal

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 18, 2010

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIRECTOR
MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: **PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION - ITEM VI**
2010 PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION CIVIC AWARDS

2010 marks the 25th Annual Park and Recreation Commission volunteer recognition awards program. The annual awards are presented at the City of Alexandria Birthday Celebration scheduled for Saturday, July 10 at Oronoco Bay Park. And provide a forum to formally recognize outstanding residents who have provided a valuable service to our community in meeting recreation, park, or cultural needs.

The Commission identifies three members to review and recommend award recipients in three categories: Citizen (Individual) Award; Group, Club, or Organization Award; and Corporate Neighbor Award. Recipients of the awards are volunteers who have contributed time, talent or resources in an exemplary fashion.

Attached is the draft nomination package for Commission review.

Attachment: 2010 Park and Recreation Commission CIVIC Awards Nomination Package

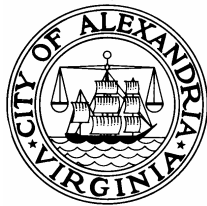
The City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission

Presents the

*2010 CIVIC Awards
Citizen Involved Volunteers In the Community*

Deadline: Thursday, June 10, 2010

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
1108 Jefferson Street • Alexandria, VA 22314
www.alexandriava.gov/recreation



2010 Park and Recreation Commission CIVIC Awards

The City of Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission announces its 25th annual awards program to select and formally recognize outstanding residents who have provided a valuable service to our community in meeting recreation, park, or cultural needs. An Alexandria group, club, organization or corporate neighbor may also be nominated for an award for such service. Nominees for the award for citizen, group, club, organization, or corporate neighbor should be volunteers who have contributed time, talent or resources in an exemplary fashion. Youth nominations are encouraged. Whether the volunteer activity involves removing invasive plants, coaching youth, or providing program support at City nature and recreation centers, the CIVIC Awards recognize the special, unsung volunteer efforts of Alexandrians involved in their community. The Park and Recreation Commission invites your help in identifying those who contribute so that they may be recognized.

Timing: The awards will be presented at the Alexandria Birthday Celebration on July 10, at Oronoco Bay Park. **Nominations must be received no later than Thursday, June 10.** Nominations should be addressed and mailed or delivered to the Park and Recreation Commission, c/o William Chesley, Deputy Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or faxed to 703.684.6826 no later than Thursday, June 10.

Selection: Selection will be made by a special committee of the Park and Recreation Commission.

Criteria: Nominees for the CIVIC awards must reside in the City of Alexandria.

Applicable Subjects: Youth sports coaches; support of recreation programs, activities or events; parks or public open space maintenance or beautification; residents serving on special study groups or projects; cultural activities; and planning of programs and activities.

Submission Requirements: Submissions **must** include the following:

1. The nominee's name, address, and telephone number(s), or the key individual to contact if a nominee is a group, club, agency, organization or corporate neighbor.
2. Name, address, and telephone number of the person nominating the candidate.
3. A brief description (not exceeding one page) of the nominee's accomplishments and qualifications for such an award.

To submit a nomination on-line, visit

<http://www3.alexandriava.gov/forms/recreation/civicawards>

For more information, call the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities at 703.746.4343.

2010 Park & Recreation Commission CIVIC Awards

Name of Nominee: _____

Are you submitting this nomination for a:

- ☐ Citizen (Individual) Award
- ☐ Group, Club, or Organization Award
- ☐ Corporate Neighbor Award

If nominating an individual for a Citizen Award:

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

If nominating a Group, Club, Organization or Corporate Neighbor Award:

Name of Group, Club, Organization or Corporate Neighbor: _____

Name of Key Contact Individual: _____

Contact's Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Person submitting this nomination:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Attach a brief description (not to exceed one page) of the nominee's accomplishments and qualifications for this award.

Applications are due by Thursday, June 10, 2010, and may be submitted:

1. Online at <http://www3.alexandriava.gov/forms/recreation/civicawards>
2. Faxed to Attn.: William Chesley at 703.684.6826
3. By Mail or In Person:
 - Park and Recreation Commission
 - c/o William Chesley, Deputy Director
 - 1108 Jefferson Street
 - Alexandria, Virginia 22314

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION RETREAT
MARCH, 6, 2010
COMMUNITY ROOM- POTOMAC YARD FIRE STATION
650 Maskell Street -Alexandria, VA 22301

8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON

CONSOLIDATED LIST OF ACTION ITEMS

PLANNING FOR JOINT SCHOOLS/RECREATION EXPANSION:

1. Define the Problem

- Coordination efforts
 - How to monitor school board procedures?
- Communication method-timing
- Proper Information
 - How to coordinate development opportunities?
- Open up line of communication with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)
 - Be proactive, not reactive
 - Be a part of integrated planning- site and program
 - Focus on impact on physical activities-youth physical activities
- Physical Activity Impact Statement
 - School expansion impact(s) on adjacent park space(s)
 - Why does it matter?
 - How it affects physical activity of children?
 - Healthy Alexandria Involvement?
- Master Plan Chinquapin?
 - T.C. Williams H.S. & Rec. Center and Field
- K-8 School Process Involvement
 - Liaison Efforts between Boards and Commissions
 - Athletic Impact Study for new/proposed construction quantifiable numbers.
 - City Staff and Departments

- o Big Scale/Broad Issues Planning and Zoning
 - o How P&RC is involved in the process of the proposed new K-8 school?
- Open Space Conservation- Easements to preclude school bldg. expansion on City-owned land
 - o Easements? What are the athletic impacts of open space removal?
- Holistic Planning across programs.
- Schools entering a phase of Capital Construction
 - o Identify positive net changes
 - o Develop Position Statement
 - o How decision of one site affects other locations?

Action Item: Rich Brune and Ripley Forbes to Draft a Resolution Statement on Proposed Work and Coordination of Projects/ACPS, RPCA for March Meeting of P&RC

MASTER PLAN FOR PARKS:

1. Inventory Standards

- Passive Areas
 - Inventory of standards for passive vs. active sites?
- Maintenance Levels
 - Adoptive statement of maintenance level-identify to guide
- Appropriate standards for sites and passive areas.
- *Adopt statement about park sites and guidance for decision making in the future
 - Competing interests resolution
 - Birds vs. dogs vs. invasive species (example)
 - What are ideal standards and uses for individual sites?
- *Sustainable process revisit over time (federal land management agencies update park/forest master plans every ten years through a full public process).

2. Process and Input

- Focus on issues
- “Friends of Groups” for park sites
 - * Process for identifying and making a “Friends Group” for sites.
 - *Process for Developing a scope and Charge of Work for “Friends Groups”
 - Identify community support for standards and uses.
 - District Participation from Community, what should it be?
 - How do we recognize “Friend Groups”?
 - Identify? Entitlement issues?
- - Presents guidance, SOP, Lessons Learned
 - Need a Roadmap for engagement
- *Interface Process with P&RC
 - P&RC as forum for information exchange
 - Inventory and standards updates at P&RC meetings
 - Potential for meeting overload by P&RC members-identify process

- o The business cycle is an “unpredictable mistress”....
- o When does the public provide input?
- o P&RC Communication with Rec. Center Advisory Board/Groups.
- o *Better identify process to assist.
- o Identify \$\$ to complete planning
- o Need to be prepared by 2014
- *Staff-provide a transparent process and models for “Friends Groups” w/NRPA, etc.
 - o NRPA & NPS Standards for governing “Friends Groups? Do they exist?
 - o Develop standards/how to set up “Friends Groups”

TOP PRIORITIES FOR NEXT 12 to 24 MONTHS:

Administrative:

- Fulfill Requirements for Legislative Regulations (Annual)
 - o Commission Officer Slate
 - o Election at March 2010 P&RC Meeting
- Define P&RC rules, roles, procedures
 - o Establish sub-group
 - o Staff (SB) to identify example/precedent

Planning:

- Coordination between ACPS, P&RC, RPCA
- Dog Park Master Plan Update
 - o Update in context of new regulations, ex. Chesapeake Bay Protection Act.
- City Open Space Master Plan
 - o Advisory Group
 - o Funding
 - o Easements
- Overall Citizen Engagement in supporting parks
 - o Metrics
- Community Gardens
 - o Standards
 - o Process
- Waterfront Master Plan
 - o Input in Process
- Cultural Resources
 - o Ft. Ward Park
 - o Freedmen's Cemetery
 - o Waterfront

Recreation:

- Overall Citizen Engagement in supporting parks
 - o Metrics

- Adult Recreation Needs
 - o What is the demand/program
- Recreational Needs Assessment Update/Health and Physical Activities.