

# PRINCE WILLIAM

Parks & Recreation

## Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Brodie Freer, Chair, Occoquan District  
Christian Thom, At Large Member  
Vida Carroll, Brentsville District  
Jane Beyer, Coles District  
Rick Berry, Gainesville District  
Joseph George, Neabsco District  
Selonia Miles, Potomac District  
Sharon Richardson, Woodbridge District

**January 17, 2024**

George Hellwig Administrative Bldg. Board Room  
14420 Bristow Rd. Manassas, VA

### Commission Members Present

Rick Berry  
Jane Beyer  
Vida Carroll  
Brodie Freer  
Sharon Richardson

### Staff Present

Rob Orrison  
Janet Bartnik  
John Blevins  
Amir Wenrich  
Todd Reid  
Eugene Loew

### Commission Members Absent

Joseph George  
Selonia Miles  
Christian Thom

### Guests

none

### Secretary

Shannon Jaenicke

### Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Brodie Freer called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order. Seth Hender-Voss led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chair Freer welcomed two new commissioners, Rick Berry and Vida Carrol. Introductions were made and staff introduced.

### Administrative Items

**RES 24-01** Approve Minutes of December 13, 2023. **APPROVED (JB:SR, Unanimous, Absent: JG, CT, SM Abstain, RB, VC)**

### Citizens Time

None present.

The Chair addressed a number of Citizen Comment emails received over the last month in regard to kite cutting/fighting at Long Park and the litter/hazards it is creating. Chief Reid has been in close contact with these citizens working towards resolving this issue. A memo was provided to the Commission, and further updates will be communicated.

### **Presentations**

**CMP Project Directives** – Seth Hendler-Voss provided the following information regarding new projects that have been initiated with funding from carry-over or proffers.

**Davis Ford Park Masterplan**-Davis Ford Park is located on land transferred to the County from the Service Authority after the decommissioning of the wastewater treatment facility. Developing this park, which is in the 2020 DPR Masterplan, was on the list of potential 2019 Bond Projects, but did not make the final list. Until recently no resources have been allocated to develop the park. Citizens have been advocating for this park and funds were allocated at carry-over to begin a Masterplan. With current staff capacity limitations, the Doves Landing and Silver Lake Master Plans remain the top priority.

**Lake Ridge Park Boathouse Expansion** – This project was a potential 2019 Bond project that did not make the final list. Funding was allocated at carry-over to engage a consultant to determine what expansion is possible given the site constraints. The project will be initiated as DPR has the staff capacity.

**Long Park Diamond Field Lighting** - This project was also a possible 2019 Bond project that did not progress. In December, staff were directed by the BOCS to evaluate the project for moving forward through the use of park proffer funds and to consider an MOU with the league to assume the cost of operating the lights, therefore eliminating any need for additional operating funds. Staff are investigating the existing electrical capacity as the project will be significantly more expensive if additional electric infrastructure is needed.

**Veterans Park Court Conversion** – DPR was directed to convert one tennis court at Veterans Park into 2 dedicated pickleball courts. This project requires the transfer of \$25,000 in park proffers to complete. The proffer request will be considered at the next Board meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> .

**Eastern County Fitness and Aquatic Center**- This is another 2019 Bond project that did make the final list. A recreation center, similar to the Chinn and Dale City Centers, is in the 2020 Master Plan. Funding has been budgeted and appropriated to begin a feasibility study. The project will be initiated as DPR has the staff capacity.

Seth discussed with DCXO Johnson that the DPR Capital Planning and Projects staff lack capacity for taking on these new projects without additional resources. DPR needs to hire another Principal Planner and Principal Engineer. Staff capacity is almost at the limit in keeping up with current CIP, CMP and ARPA projects. These new positions were requested along with the department's other FY25 budget initiatives.

### **Committee Reports**

None. Chair Freer asked that appointing a nominating committee for the vacant Vice Chair position be added to next month's agenda.

### **Old Business**

**Arts Grant Panel – Chair** Freer reminded the Commission of the request to provide recommendations for potential Arts Grants panelists. Social media shareable Information and link to the application site will be sent by the Secretary following tonight's meeting.

### **New Business**

None

### **Director Time**

Seth Hendler-Voss provided the following updates:

- Kite Cutting – the Rangers have attempted to resolve this issue through education and voluntary compliance, but the issue remains and poses a hazard. Seth intends to work with the County Attorney and County Executive to establish a ban of this activity in the parks.
- Staff met today with the consultants for the proposed Indoor Sports and Events Center. The due diligence period through May 18<sup>th</sup> is to conduct site analysis and preliminary engineering, engage with user groups and the community, and develop financial and economic projections. The findings of this due diligence period will be presented to the Board in the spring, and they will make the decision of whether to proceed with the land purchase and develop the project. The decision on the land purchase must be made by May 18, 2024.
- Related to the above project, the consultants will hold local user focus group interviews on Jan 29 and Jan 30. Virtual Focus group interviews are underway with other user groups such as tournament organizers, events rights holders, national and regional expos/conferences organizers. In March and April, broader local community forums and discussions with County Board members will take place.
- The Heavy Construction Contractors Association is constructing a community improvement project at Logan Park behind the Dale City Rec Center. This service project gives back to the local community and makes ADA accessibility improvements to the parking lot and baseball fields.
- The Pat White Elevator project is nearing completion, the elevator car should be delivered any day now.
- Funding has been provided to connect Long Park to sewer. The project to connect to water was completed a few years ago but lacked funding to connect to sewer at the time.
- Cloverdale improvements are complete. A rededication ceremony is planned for March.
- Summer program registration begins March 5.
- Doves Landing Conservation Easement was approved by the BOCS on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The entire property is now under Conservation Easement after this action.
- Budget development is well underway. The CXO will present his proposed budget in February. DPR does not expect any new CIP projects this cycle, but our must do's (utility increases, chemical increases) are likely to be funded. Requests for positions or other DPR initiatives won't be known until the CXO unveils his proposal.
- The Parks Foundation Annual event raised \$35,000 this year. donations were made for the Rollins Ford Pump Track project and for needs-based scholarships for summer camps. A grant application was submitted to the Hylton Foundation to support Count me In, Science in the Park and Hands on History scholarships for 2024.
- Save the date for the Annual State of the Parks address at the Kelly Leadership Center on Feb 29 at 7 pm.
- Reminder that the annual financial disclosure forms are due to the Clerk by Feb 1.

### **Commissioners Time**

Ms. Richardson

Welcomed our two new commissioners, Vida Carroll and Rick Berry.

- Mr. Berry Thanked everyone for the warm welcome. He is happy to be back and looks forward to working with the Commission and staff to leverage partnerships and support the parks in a fiscally responsible way.
- Ms. Beyer Looking forward to working with our new commissioners and hopes everyone will stay safe in this winter weather.
- Ms. Carroll Looking forward to being a member of this commission.
- Mr. Freer Welcomed the two new commissioners and thanked outgoing members Jeff Bergman and Erica Tredinnick for their service.

**Closed Session** None.

**Adjournment**

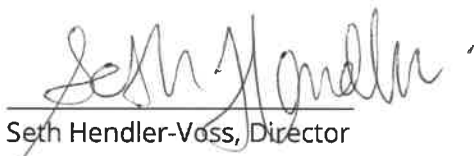
**RES 24-02** Motions to Adjourn at 8:10 pm. **APPROVED (JB:SR, Unanimous, Absent: JG, CT, SM)**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on February 21, 2024, at the Hellwig Park Administration Building.

Minutes **APPROVED** at Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on February 21, 2024.



Brodie Freer, Chair



Seth Hendler-Voss, Director



Shannon Jaenicke, Secretary

