

**PRINCE WILLIAM**  
Parks & Recreation  
**Parks and Recreation  
Commission Agenda**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Brodie Freer, Chair, Occoquan District  
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, At Large Member  
Vida Carroll, Brentsville District  
Jane Beyer, Coles District  
Rick Berry, Gainesville District  
Ross W. Snare IV, Neabsco District  
Oriella Mejia, Potomac District  
Sharon Richardson, Woodbridge District

**February 19, 2025**

7:00 p.m. Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting  
George Hellwig Admin Bldg. – 14420 Bristow Rd. Manassas, VA 20112

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative

- Approve Minutes of January 15, 2025

Community Time

Presentations

- NOVA BMX Operations Update – Brent Heavner, President

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

None

New Business

**RES**

RECOMMEND THE NAME “CHRISTIAN THOM FIELD” FOR BASEBALL FIELD #1 AT GEORGE HELLWIG MEMORIAL PARK, MANASSAS, VIRGINIA - COLES MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

**RES**

APPOINT CLAIBORNE RICHARDSON TO THE ARTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND APPOINT NIKOLE BRILLANT AND MICHELLE ROSS TO THE ARTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027

Director’s Time

Commissioner Time

Meeting Recap

Adjournment

Next Meeting: March 19, 2025

# PRINCE WILLIAM

—Parks & Recreation

## Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Brodie Freer, Chair, Occoquan District  
Vacant, At Large Member  
Vida Carroll, Brentsville District  
Jane Beyer, Vice Chair, Coles District  
Rick Berry, Gainesville District  
Ross W. Snare, IV, Neabsco District  
Oriella Mejia, Potomac District  
Sharon Richardson, Woodbridge District

**January 15, 2025**

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

### Commission Members Present

Rick Berry  
Jane Beyer  
Sharon Richardson  
Vida Carroll  
Brodie Freer

### Staff Present

Janet Bartnik  
John Blevins  
Amir Wenrich  
Patti Pakkala  
Rob Orrison  
Frances Bridges  
Todd Reid  
Rob Belcourt  
Andy Moore

### Commission Members Absent

Oriella Mejia  
Ross Snare

### Guests

### Citizens

See sign in sheet

### Secretary

Shannon Jaenicke

### Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Chair Brodie Freer called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order and Shannon Jaenicke led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### Administrative Items

**RES 25-01** Approve Minutes of December 18, 2024. **APPROVED. (RB, SR, Unanimous, Absent from Vote VC, Absent from Meeting OM, RS)**

### Citizens Time

Chris Egan and Brenda Miles with Prince William County Dogs shared that the ADA accessible ramp at K9 Gunner Dog Park is complete and in use, a much appreciated improvement by users; he also shared that the next fundraiser in support of the park will be in Marchand called Pooch Madness; he thanked Department staff for the effort to clear snow after the Jan 5/6 weather event.

Charlie Grymes and Jeanne Tabara came to speak regarding the important civic duty citizens and this Commission have to advocate to the County Board for the full funding and support of stated goals of the County Strategic and Comprehensive Plans.

### **Presentations**

#### **Dale City Farmers Market**

Mr. Andy Moore presented an update on the Dale City Farmers Market programs, vendors and visitors. They are preparing to review applications for the upcoming spring market season and invited participation on the panel by a Commission representative. [Copies of presentations are available from the Secretary to the Commission]

#### **Office of Historic Preservation**

The Office of Historic Preservation Division Manager, Rob Orrison, presented an update on new programs and on the plans for recent historic property acquisitions made by the County Board of Supervisors. [Copies of presentations are available from the Secretary to the Commission]

#### **County Draft Strategic Plan**

Deputy Director Janet Bartnik presented an overview of the Draft County Strategic Plan with an emphasis on the many strategies within the plan that the Department of Parks and Recreation can play a key role in. Department staff have reviewed the plan and are excited about the opportunities it represents. The draft plan will be presented to the BOCS on February 11<sup>th</sup> and is posted on the County website, along with a few survey questions. [Copies of presentations are available from the Secretary to the Commission]

### **Committee Reports**

**None**

### **Old Business**

**None**

### **New Business**

**None**

### **Director Time**

- Director Seth Hendler-Voss provided the following updates:
- The State of the Parks Event will be held February 13, 2025 at Forest Park High School.
- The State of the County Address will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup> at Hylton Performing Arts Center.
- The Proposed CIP budget will be presented to the BOCS on Feb 11 and the FY26 proposed Budget on Feb 18.
- He thanked grounds and maintenance and other key staff for the excellent response to the Jan 5/6 snow event.
- Our season hiring events will kick off next month. We have a 60 percent return rate for camp counselors this year.
- The Chair, Vice Chair and he met with Coles Little League representatives today regarding a field naming request for Christian Thom.
- He shared the preliminary attendance numbers for the Holiday Lights. Attendance is down from last year, staff have not analyzed the reasons yet, perhaps the colder weather.

**Commissioner's Time**

Ms. Richardson Ms. Richardson commended staff for the Doves Landing Public meeting noting that it is receiving positive media coverage;

Mr. Berry Thanked the citizens that came to tonight's meeting to speak to the Commission.

Ms. Beyer Ms. Beyer was unable to attend the Doves Landing meeting but will be attending a project update with Supervisor Vega next week; She thanked staff for the interesting presentations tonight.

Ms. Carroll Ms. Carroll thanked Rob Orrison for the update on the Buckland Historic Property acquisition; she looks forward to attending Trails and Blueways Council meeting; and she is looking forward to connecting with our Recreation Division for discussions about swim programming.

Chair Freer Chair Freer thanked our grounds maintenance staff for their effort to keep our properties cleared during the recent snow events; he thanked tonight's presenters; and he looks forward to a great year.

**Closed Session** None.

**Adjournment**

**RES 25-02** Motion to Adjourn at 8:50 pm. ***APPROVED (VC;JB, Unanimous, Absent from Meeting OM, RS)***

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on February 19, 2025, at the Hellwig Park Administration Building.

Minutes ***APPROVED*** at Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on February 19, 2025.

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Brodie Freer, Chair

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Seth Hendler-Voss, Director

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Shannon Jaenicke, Secretary

**MOTION:**

**February 19, 2025**

**Regular Meeting**

**SECOND:**

**Res. No. 25 -**

**RE:**

**RECOMMEND THE NAME "CHRISTIAN THOM FIELD" FOR BASEBALL FIELD #1 AT GEORGE HELLWIG MEMORIAL PARK, MANASSAS, VIRGINIA - COLES MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT**

**ACTION:**

**WHEREAS**, George Hellwig Memorial Park is located at 14420 Bristow Road, Manassas, Virginia and contains a baseball complex with one baseball, one softball, and two Little League fields; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 6, 2024, Prince William County Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Christian Thom passed away; and

**WHEREAS**, Christian Thom served his community with honor, integrity, and worked tirelessly to improve recreational opportunities for county residents through his advocacy on the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) and on the Boards of Coles District Little League (CDLL) and The First Tee of Prince William County; and

**WHEREAS**, Christian Thom's support of Little League began as coach for Manassas Park Yorkshire Little League and later as a coach, manager, and Board Vice President of CDLL; and

**WHEREAS**, Christian Thom's advocacy was instrumental in adding a new baseball complex at Hellwig Park to the 2006 Park Improvement Bond Referendum, later approved by voters; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDLL Board of Directors has requested naming baseball field #1 at Hellwig Park "Christian Thom Field" in recognition of Mr. Thom's exceptional contributions as to the League and community; and

**WHEREAS**, at the January 15, 2025, meeting of the Commission, Parks Director Seth Hendler-Voss presented the CDLL request; and

**WHEREAS**, at the February 19, 2025, meeting of the Commission, citizens were provided an opportunity to provide input on the proposed field naming;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Prince William County Parks and Recreation Commission does hereby recommend the name "Christian Thom Field" for baseball field #1 at George Hellwig Memorial Park to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors.

**Votes:**

**Ayes:**

**Nays:**

**Absent from Meeting:**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary to the Commission**

**MOTION:**

**February 19, 2025**

**SECOND:**

**Regular Meeting**

**Res. No. 25**

**RE:**

**APPOINT CLAIBORNE RICHARDSON TO THE ARTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND APPOINT NIKOLE BRILLANT AND MICHELLE ROSS TO THE ARTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027.**

**ACTION:**

**WHEREAS**, Prince William County Parks and Recreation is responsible for distributing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors (BOCS) approved Arts Grant funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Department anticipates that the BOCS will fund Arts Grants in Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Commission, appointed by the BOCS, is responsible for appointing a grant panel with experience in such areas as financial management, grant review, arts education, arts funding and community involvement in the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arts Grant review panel will independently review and score the arts grant applications and recommend appropriate funding levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arts Grant review panel composition will include five citizen members who are not a current employee or board member of a grant applicant organization, and one member of the Prince William County Finance department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Commission will review the Arts Grant review panel's recommendation for grant funding and make a final funding recommendation to the BOCS; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently three (3) vacancies on the Arts Grant Panel;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Prince William County Parks and Recreation Commission hereby appoints Claiborne Richardson to the Arts Grant Review Panel for a one-year term for fiscal year 2026 and appoints Nikole Brilliant and Michelle Ross to the Arts Grant Review Panel for a two-year term for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

Attachment: Biographies

**Votes:**

**Ayes:**

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent from Meeting:**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Shannon Jaenicke, Secretary**

## **Bios of Grant Panelists FY26**

**Claiborne T. Richardson, II**, -is a graduate of West Virginia University's School of Music (B.M.Ed.), and The College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law (J.D.). He studied trumpet with John Wright (Principal Cornetist, Marine Band) and Jack McKie (Pittsburgh Symphony); percussion with Dr. Claiborne Richardson (Lake Braddock S. S., Virginia State University and Howard University) and Frank Delpiano (Principal Percussionist, Marine Band); and studied conducting with Professor Don Wilcox, Frederick Fennell, and Dr. Claiborne Richardson. Clai is a former high school- and middle school-music educator who has also served as a guest conductor and clinician for high school and college instrumental ensembles in Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. He has played for TV, radio, and a touring company. He has played drum set with Herb Smith, Wes Biles, Herman Burney, Michael Thomas, Dr. George Ross, Jacques "The Saxman" Johnson, Kenny Rittenhouse, Joe Kennedy, Jr., Charlie Byrd, Lew Soloff, and Randy Purcell, as well as in the WVU Jazz Ensemble, the Leonard Hannigan Big Band, the Doc Dikeman Big Band, and the Russell Wilson Trio. He is a co-founder of the band Nightmusic.

**Matt Moore** -is an award-winning Creative, Theatrical and Live Events Director who has worked with hundreds of government, nonprofit, political and private sector clients worldwide. In addition to his deep seated production background, Moore has over three decades of extensive experience in not-for-profit management and governance with several national organizations. He has directed hundreds of plays, musicals, commercials and live events in addition to performing in hundreds of shows with the 26-year continuously running Fools! Improv Troupe. Noted directorial credits include "Songs for New World" and "Larry, the Big-Time Broadway Producer" at Triune Entertainment (Winner of the 2023 Broadway World Best Director (nonprofessional) award, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, just to name a few. A performer in his own right, Matt has played lead roles in several musicals including Thenardier in Upper Room's Broadway World Musical of the Decade, "Les Miserables." He is a voice actor and MC with an extensive list of credits and is the founding director of the 26-year continuously running Fools! Improv Troupe.

**Emely Romero** - has been with Prince William County, FRC division for 9 years. She is the Grants Accountant that oversees financial reporting, budgeting, and audits. Prior to Prince William County, Emely worked as an auditor and has experience with Unified Guidance single audits. She has experience in grant administration, compliance, and financial management. She currently helps with financial reporting for state and federal awards received by Prince William County.

**Dawne Horizon** – Dawne is a Magna Cum Laude graduate with a B.A. in Business Administration & Marketing, Dawne has a background in customer service and administrative assistance over 15 years and has run her own health & wellness business over 20 years. A highly skilled and passionate Empowerment Speaker, Inspirational Poet, Writer & 4x Amazon Bestselling Author, serving the community with heart, passion, as well as extensive professional & personal knowledge and experience in business, writing, and wellness.

## **Bios of Grant Panelists FY26 & 27**

**Nikole Brilliant** -My love for art started at a young age, when I was a little girl. I used to draw pictures of people, animals, and landscapes, and this carried on throughout my educational years. In high school I

took many art courses, as well as drawing and painting for fun at home. In college, I majored in art for a year, until changing to design study, which gave me a broader skill set. While taking art, I learned to draw still life, abstract art, and my favorite, painting. The switch to design allowed me to think out of the box and carried into my business degree and work background today. A favorite hobby has been designing home and office spaces which transpired through family outings, collaboration and working with professional designers. As my career pivoted to event planning, there is a lot of use for a design and art background to bring a lively and attractive event to life. Today, I focus on raising funds for two nonprofits, as well as pursuing grants allowing me to understand first-hand the need for such support. My art background keeps me invigorated and allows me to see work and life in a brighter light. I still paint today for fun, mostly focusing on landscapes and scenic pictures, but sometimes I get the itch to bring out my abstract and contemporary side as an outlet. Not only has art become a way of life and an outlet, but it can be very calming and therapeutic in a fast-paced life. Photography has also always been a huge part of my life as well. I can't imagine a world without print. Whether it is capturing the humans I love, sweet animals or gorgeous views to make lasting memories, you can find me with my camera or cell phone snapping photos. In my work I am lucky enough to support social media projects and use my creative side to leverage engaging posts and promote. Event planning is still very organic to me and will always stay with me. I am happy to serve my community in Prince William County, where I have resided for 2 years now. Originally, I am from Fairfax County but have loved my move to Prince William County the last few years, and am excited for the future.

#### **Michelle Ross-**

Michelle lives in Woodbridge and has an extensive background in Arts Administration. Financial Management: Managed organization budget as a Executive Director of Samuels Library, active participant in the budget process as Assistant Director of Prince William Public Libraries. Grant oversight: Oversaw ARPA funds for Samuels Library, managed funds and reporting for grants received by Samuels Library, managed funds and grants received for Sissonville Branch Library, completed grant-writing course in 2019. Grants analysis: Participated in selection process for grants distributed by the Front Royal Rotary Club, served on the Scholarship Committee for the Front Royal Rotary Club and the This is IT! Club (technology club for teens in Warren County, VA). Community Arts: Worked closely with Friends of Samuels Library and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to present a multi-day art festival featuring local artists, speakers, and a visit from VMFA To-Go; Facilitated the installation of a StoryWalk at Eastham Park in Warren County; Represented Samuels Library for Blue Ridge Arts Council's Annual Deck the Halls fundraiser; Served on the committee for and acted in the Sissonville Library Advisory Board's Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser; Served as the head of the West Virginia Book Festival Author Selection Committee; taught many art classes to adults and teens (ex. macramé, fired ink art, squirt gun painting, acrylic dipped wine glasses, and more...). Marketing: Managed and oversaw marketing for Samuels Library, served as Website Chair for the Rotary Club of Front Royal, managed social media for the House of Hope, contributed to social media campaigns for Kanawha County Public Library, created social media content and merchandised online market for OverDrive (international ebook distributor), managed and oversaw social media and digital marketing for Marion County Public Library, managed social media for the West Virginia Digital Entertainment Library Initiative. Other: Served on the Virginia Wine and Craft Festival Committee and Festival of Leaves Committee, served as board member for the House of Hope, planned and executed Samuels Library's A Taste for Books Gala, served as Treasurer for the Warren County SALT/TRIAD Council.