

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

WHEREAS, park and recreation services can make a vital contribution to the personal health and wellbeing of people, and can work to improve the quality of family and community life; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (DPRCR) is to provide healthy and fun recreation, sport, and leisure choices; cultivate, maintain, and protect natural and cultural resources; and provide opportunities for creative expression throughout Arlington; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Arlington County to provide high-quality park and recreational services and facilities in a manner that assures their equitable distribution and availability, and in a manner that facilitates coordinated planning and programming based on citizen input and participation; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance and programming of County park, recreation, and public space resources can benefit from the thoughtful review and oversight from the citizens whose lives and neighborhoods are touched by such resources; and

WHEREAS, the involvement of interested and knowledgeable citizen representatives is of great importance in assessing, evaluating and meeting community park, recreation and public space needs and desires;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Board hereby revises the Arlington County Park and Recreation Commission charge, as follows:

The Commission shall be advisory to the County Board, and in that capacity may make studies, develop recommendations, conduct public meetings and educational programs, hold hearings, prepare reports, and appear before public bodies in furthering the objectives stated above.

The Commission's primary responsibilities shall be to provide the Board with advice and recommendations concerning park and recreation planning, programming, and budgetary matters. The Commission shall also make recommendations concerning parks and facilities naming, Park Enhancement Grants (PEG), and other major park recognition awards, including the Bill Thomas Park Service Award. The Commission shall appoint standing and ad hoc committees as needed to successfully carry-out these responsibilities.

The Commission shall be composed of 13 persons, with a chairperson to be appointed annually by the Board. Terms shall run for three years, with terms staggered. The Commission may appoint additional members, ex-officio, to the Commission to represent other commissions (e.g. sports, arts, and urban forestry), community groups (e.g. Friends of Arlington Parks) and County organizations (e.g. Arlington Schools) that have an interest in park and recreation related matters. Such members shall have no vote. The Commission shall meet on the call of the chairperson.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the functions of the Arlington County Park and Recreation Commission shall include:

1. Review and revision of the Public Spaces Master Plan and its successors. The Public Spaces Master Plan is a required element of the County's overall comprehensive plan. The Public Spaces Master Plan should be reviewed and updated by the Commission every five years. The Commission will also work to oversee and ensure implementation of the recommendations contained with the Public Spaces Master Plan and its successors.
2. Hold public hearings, review, analyze, and make recommendations with respect to all park master plans and issue formal findings on proposed plans.
3. Review, analyze, and make recommendations with respect to area and sector plans that have implications for open space, park and recreation resources as well as other private developments. A representative from the Commission should be represented in planning activities that might impact parks and open space.
4. Review, analyze and comment on the annual DPRCR operating budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget.
5. Oversee, review and make recommendations regarding the County wide Park Enhancement Grants (PEG) programs.
6. Review, and make recommendations concerning the overall distribution and adequacy of park and recreation facilities and opportunities for all County citizens. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring adequate programs and facilities to serve people within the County having special or unmet needs.
7. Study and make recommendations with respect to the coordination, efficiency, and quality of park and recreation facilities, programs, and services serving the County, including rules and practices for their safe conduct.
8. Make recommendations on innovative programs, changes in existing parks and recreation programs and activities to better serve the public.
9. Make recommendations with respect to improved cooperation among public and private agencies, and improved utilization of publicly owned or operated buildings, and other facilities in the interest of more effective services, including the County's school system
10. Make recommendations with respect to more effective integrated planning and programming with other public services, including family and social services, drug abuse, pre-delinquency programs, transportation, housing, zoning and land use, and environmental improvements.

11. Coordination and liaison with those commissions directly related to the DPRCR (e.g. the Arts, Sports, and Urban Forestry Commissions) and with other commissions in the County whose areas of jurisdiction, authority and interest touch on or relate to the park, recreation, and open space matters. This includes the Transportation Commission, Planning Commission, Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2), Commission for the Arts, Historical Affairs and Landmark Affairs Review Board (HALRB), Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) and the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission (FAAC).
12. Coordination and liaison with other organizations and groups such as the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT), and other Federal, local, state and regional groups, both public and private (e.g. Friends of Arlington Parks, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, Cooperative Extension Service, etc.).
13. Carry on such additional projects and activities as the Commission may from time to time undertake or the Board direct, consistent with the overall objectives of the Commission.

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that, the County Manager shall designate a member of the County government staff to serve as coordinator to the Park and Recreation Commission, which duties shall be in addition to such other responsibilities as now exist.

REVISED EDITION ADOPTED BY ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD ON JULY 11, 2006