

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 25, 2005

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2004 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

---

**ISSUE:** City Council consideration of the FY 2004 Annual Report from the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission (Attachment).

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council receive the Annual Report from the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission and thank the Commission for its efforts on behalf of the City.

**DISCUSSION:** The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is an eleven-member advisory board created by City Council in March 1970 to study issues relating to park and recreation needs. City Council appoints nine residents to the Commission from three planning districts and two high school age members to represent the youth of the City.

The work of the Park and Recreation Commission supports four of the seven 2004-2009 City Council Goals; (One) Quality Development and Redevelopment that is Well Planned and Consistent with Alexandria's Vision, (Two) A City that Respects, Protects and Enhances the Natural Environment, (Three) An Integrated, Multimodal Transportation System that Efficiently and Effectively Gets People from Point "A" to Point "B" and (Five) A caring Community that is Diverse and Affordable. The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission has prepared a report that highlights the principal activities of the Commission during FY 2004 (July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004) and the Commission's planned future efforts.

**ATTACHMENT:** FY 2004 Annual Report for the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission

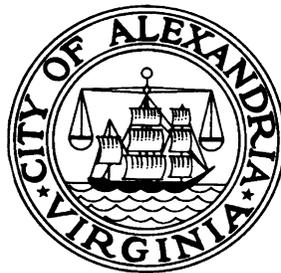
**STAFF:**

Kirk Kincannon, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Jack Browand, Recreation Supervisor, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

# **City of Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission**



**FY 2004 Annual Report  
July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004**



**ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004**

**Introduction**

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is an eleven-member advisory board created by City Council in March 1970 to study issues relating to park and recreation needs. City Council appoints nine residents to the Commission from three planning districts and two high school age members to represent the youth of the City.

The purpose of the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is to allow City residents to participate in planning activities, serve as a panel to hear citizen suggestions or concerns relating to recreation and park programs, advise City Council on community recreation needs, and assist the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities in its continuing effort to be aware of and sensitive to public needs, and to adjust its programming to meet the changing needs of its diverse residents.

The Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month from September to June at recreation centers throughout the City. The Commission recognizes outstanding City residents, organizations, and youth at its annual ceremony in July as part of the City's annual Birthday Celebration.

**Members of the Park and Recreation Commission for Fiscal Year 2004**

Planning District I	-	Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair
Planning District I	-	Henry Brooks
Planning District I	-	William Conkey
Planning District II	-	Picot Chappell
Planning District II	-	Bruce Dwyer (Term expired February 2004)
Planning District II	-	Kirk Fedder (Term Expired January 2004)
Planning District II	-	Ripley Forbes (Appointed February 2004)
Planning District II	-	William Hendrickson (Appointed February 2004)
Planning District III	-	Patricia Broussard
Planning District III	-	Ellen Murray
Planning District III	-	Fabian Robitaille (Term expired January 2004)
Planning District III	-	Kaj Vetter (Appointed February 2004)
Youth Representative	-	Jessica Schneller (Term expired March 2004)
Youth Representative	-	Francesca Schneller

## City Staff

Kirk Kincannon, Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
Janet Barnett, Deputy Director - Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

### 1. **Park and Recreation Commission Accomplishments**

The Commission worked with staff and the Alexandria Public Schools in monitoring the design and construction of the a new T. C. Williams High School to ensure that new building will be able to provide adequate resources that would benefit expanded school and recreation programming for all the residents of the City; and

The Commission is working with the Four Mile Run Joint Task Force, made up of Park and Recreation Commission members, Planning Commission members, Environmental Policy Commission members, and citizen representatives from both Arlington and Alexandria, staff and consultants to develop a Master Plan to guide the planning and design process of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration that will include the Four Mile Run Park. The Task Force and Agency Coordination Group (which is the staff component of the project) is developing concept plans and will present these plans in an Open House forum in FY 2005; and

The Commission worked with staff and received updates on the progress of projects including the Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, and the Charles Houston and Patrick Henry Recreation Centers. In addition, a public hearing was held on March 18, 2004 to receive comments on the proposed renovations of the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center; and

The Commission continued to work with staff, the Waterfront Committee, and the public on the planning and design process of Windmill Hill Park; and

The Commission solicited and received nominations for the Annual Park and Recreation Commission Awards and were awarded at the City's Annual USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration held on July 10, 2004. Outstanding Citizen Awards were presented to the following: Thomas E. Call, Jr. for his commitment to the beautification of the City; Ellen Pickering for her dedication in the preservation of the City's waterfront; Peggy Ashbrook for her commitment to the beautification of the City; and Bruce Dwyer for his commitment and advocacy in the development of the City's trail system

### 2. **Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearings**

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission encouraged public participation in the decision making process involving recreational issues by holding public hearings. Public Hearings were held on October 16, 2003, for residents from Planning District I; January 15, 2004, for residents from Planning District III; and March 18, 2004 for residents from

Planning District II and for public comment on the proposed renovations of the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center as indicated.

**3. Park and Recreation Commission Future Goals**

The Commission will continue to evaluate existing recreation programs and make recommendations to modify programs or add new programs to best serve the diverse needs of Alexandria residents from different age groups, demographic groups, and geographic areas. The Commission will closely monitor the progress of the new construction of T. C. Williams High School, and the future renovations of the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Charles Houston Recreation Center, and Jones Point Park. In addition, the Commission will continue to work on issues pertaining to open space and program needs identified in the adopted City of Alexandria Open Space and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Strategic Master Plan.