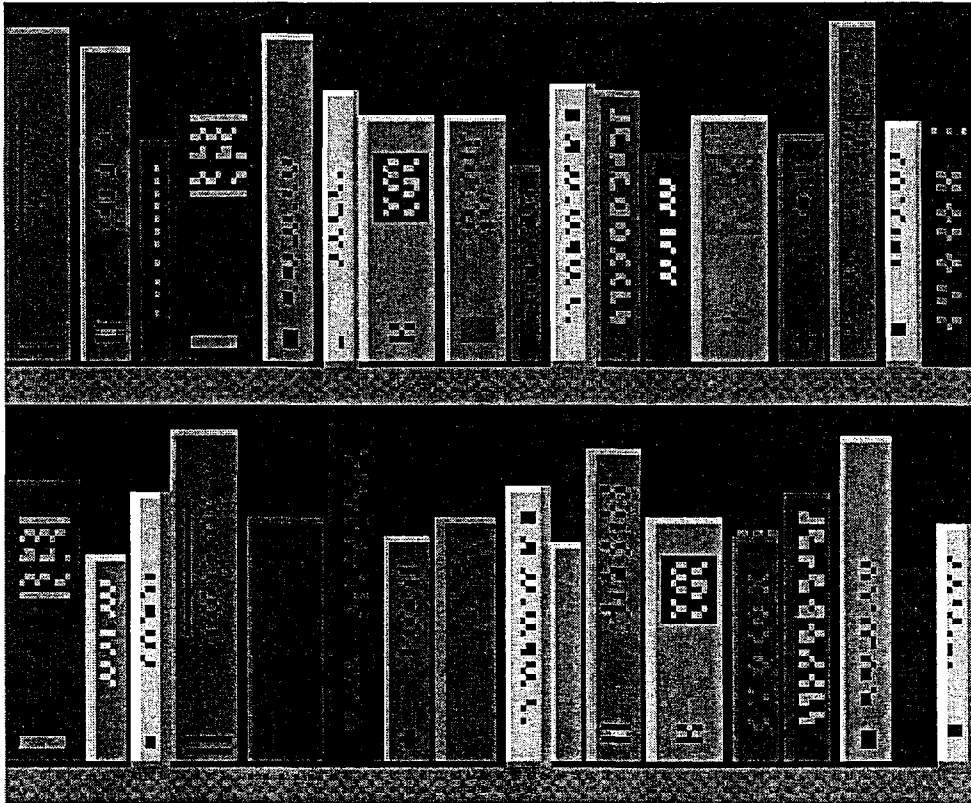


# ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY

## *Annual Report* *July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010*



*Prepared by Christine Hall, Director*

# Annual Report FY2010

## Library Operations

The Alexandria Law Library made improvements to its four-person electronic research workstation this year, dropping Westlaw access down to two terminals, adding limited access to LexisNexis on one, and setting the fourth (Internet terminal) to the City's website, allowing patrons searchable access to the City Charter and Code

The newest offerings provide patrons with two choices of citators--Westlaw's KeyCite and LexisNexis' Shepards--as well as the ability to email or FAX Virginia cases to their offices.

## Finances

Filing fee revenues continued to decline in FY10, the cost of books rose approximately 18% (varies by publisher) and our income from the City remained the same.

## Personnel

Our three Council-appointed board members are Dianna Campagna, Andrew M. Dubinsky and BNA librarian Marilyn Bromley. Each attended more than 75% of the meetings. The officers were Michael L. Zupan, President; Priscilla G. Bornmann, Secretary; and Andrew F. Carroll, III, Treasurer (all appointed by Chief Judge Donald M. Haddock).

## Users

The library installed a directional wireless counter on July 1, 2009 in order to count the foot traffic in and out of the library. This enabled us to determine that 11,136 people passed through our doors during the fiscal year. Of those, the librarian personally provided reference assistance to 1,141 lawyers and 2,777 members of the public.

In addition to those who visited the library in person, the library assisted 1,012 users by telephone, 96 via email and countless others via our website.

## **The Future**

We are continually streamlining our operations and looking for ways to save money without sacrificing the collection.

**ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY  
REFERENCE ASSISTANCE STATISTICS  
July 2009 to June 2010**

General Public Personally Assisted	General Public Phone Calls	General Public Emails	Lawyers Personally Assisted	Lawyers Phone Calls	Lawyers Emails	Patrons Assisted	Patrons
<b>TOTAL</b>							
2,777	751	41	1,141	261	55	5,026	11,136
<b>AVERAGE PER WEEK</b>							
53	14	.79	22	5	1	96	214
<b>MEDIAN PER WEEK</b>							
52	14	1	21	4	1	102	225

**July 2009 to June 2010  
SIGN IN SHEETS  
For  
ALEXANDRIA LAW LIBRARY**

July '09	336
August '09	264
September '09	324
October '09	300
November '09	228
December '09	252
January '10	252
February '10	160
March '10	488
April '10	360
May '10	312
June '10	424
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3700</b>



04/20/11  
Cash Basis

Alexandria Law Library  
Statement of Income and Expenses  
July 2009 through June 2010

	<u>Jul '09 - Jun 10</u>
Income	
305.10 · Bar Association	18,740.00
305.20 · City Council Action	109,843.27
305.30 · FAX Services	11.00
305.40 · Gifts/Grants	1,808.90
305.50 · Photocopy Fees	9,215.13
305.60 · Printing	1,646.52
305.70 · Rental Income	600.00
305.80 · Law Library Fees	46,786.00
350 · Interest	1,050.39
395 · Other Income	18.00
Total Income	<u>189,719.21</u>
Gross Profit	189,719.21
Expense	
509 · Support Services / Non-1099	96,142.44
510 · Operating Supplies	161.80
512 · Postage/Courier	23.14
515 · Gross Wages	9,097.95
529 · Telephone/Cable/Internet	2,842.61
531 · Leased Equipment	697.86
535 · Insurance	2,349.00
538 · Meals and Entertainment	278.13
539 · Travel, Seminars and Education	294.70
542 · FICA Tax	535.64
545 · Other Taxes	410.71
551 · Bank Charges and Merchant Fees	8.00
564 · Legal and Accounting / Non-1099	1,250.00
566 · Office Expenses	2,160.10
575 · Depreciation	800.00
580 · Dues and Subscriptions	54,340.09
595 · Miscellaneous	1,119.70
Total Expense	<u>172,511.87</u>
Net Income	<u><u>17,207.34</u></u>

04/20/11  
Cash Basis

Alexandria Law Library  
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity  
As of June 30, 2010

	<u>Jun 30, 10</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
101 · Petty Cash	328.18
102 · Checking	30,347.53
103 · Bryan Trust	<u>7,171.60</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>37,847.31</u>
Total Current Assets	37,847.31
Fixed Assets	
146 · Office Equipment	9,436.90
147 · Newly Acquired FF&E	2,500.00
149 · Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-8,510.00</u>
Total Fixed Assets	3,426.90
Other Assets	
180 · Investment - Short Term	<u>33,536.95</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>33,536.95</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>74,811.16</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
286 · Beginning Net Assets	55,211.45
286.01 · Unrealized Gain/Loss on Inv	2,392.37
Net Income	<u>17,207.34</u>
Total Equity	<u>74,811.16</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>74,811.16</u></b>



September 20, 2011

From: The Alexandria Library Board  
To: Alexandria City Council

Subject: Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2011

#### Library Board Mission

In accordance with an agreement with the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Library Board sets the policies, rules and regulations of the Library; submits a budget to the City for the operation and maintenance of the Library; and appoints the Director of the Library. The Board also sits as the Board of the Duncan Foundation and the Alexandria Library Foundation that monitors the investment portfolios and approves grants from these funds.

The Director's Annual Report to the Library Board, which provides specific information about Library facilities, operations and services within the system, will be provided separately.

#### Board Membership

The Library Board consists of seven members: 3 appointed by City Council, 3 appointed by the Alexandria Library Company, and 1 City Council Representative. Since Alexandria Library Company appointees have no city applied term limits, these individuals provide a valuable institutional memory as the board experiences turnover. With regard to recruitment, all Board members are constantly on the lookout for potential new members when they represent the Library at various city functions and events. At the Library Director's twice yearly presentation during Citizen's Academy, many participants express interest in serving on the Library Board.

#### Meetings

The Board met 6 times in fiscal 2011: September 20, 2010; October 18, and December 20, 2010; February 24, April 28 and June 20, 2011. All Board members exceeded the 75 percent attendance requirement set by the City, and there were no unexcused absences.

#### Oversight

Director Rose Dawson continues to keep the Board aware of major developments in operations, services, usage, facility conditions, personnel matters and all other significant developments in the Library system. Her input during Board meetings keeps members apprised of developing issues.

The Board was impressed with Director Rose Dawson's leadership during these difficult economic times and equally pleased with the performance of Deputy Director Linden Renner. Congratulations were also extended to Director Dawson for her honor of receiving the Distinguished Service to the Library Profession Award at the National Conference of African American Librarians of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association in August 2010.

The Library continues to experience lower patron count and circulation. However, this was expected due to reduced hours. Circulation numbers from the end of June 2010 to June 2011 indicate an 10.81% decrease and a patron count decrease of 6.47%.

#### Budget

Budgetary issues continued to impact the Library this fiscal year. The Library's non-personnel budget decreased by 4.7%. The system continues to operate with reduced hours and reduced staffing throughout the system. The Library has engaged Unique Management Services, a collection agency, in an attempt to obtain uncollected fines and fees.

The City Manager's objective is to have the budget tie into the City's newly revised strategic plan in which the Library has one initiative, a needs assessment, in Goal 7. The Library has requested funding twice in the last two years to conduct a needs assessment but has not received funding.

In May, the Library was informed by the State Library Board that we would not receive funds in FY12 because of the significant reductions in our budget by City Council in FY10. As a result of the diligent work of Library Administration, city representatives and others, these state funds were restored.

#### Green Roof for the Burke Branch

Based on discussions with General Services concerning the delay in obtaining a contractor for the Green Roof, the project will be delayed until August 2012.

#### Notable Request

Due to a request from City Council, the Library Board was asked to consider the possibility of increasing the number of seats on the Board. The Board, after extensive consideration, felt the number of seats is adequate. The Board also pointed out that the number of seats are controlled by a contract between the City Council and the Alexandria Library Company, not the Library Board.

#### Kudos

Renee DiPilato was appointed Beatley Central Library Manager.

Ashley Jefferson was appointed Burke Branch Manager.

The Board wishes to recognize the following staff for their 2011 Outstanding Employee Performance Awards: Patricia Amaya, Jean Gregorio and David Thorne. We congratulate them for their accomplishments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooksie Koopman, Chair (City Council Appointee)

Oscar P. Fitzgerald, Vice Chair (Library Company Appointee)

Anne Paul, Treasurer (Library Company Appointee)

Gwen Day-Fuller, Secretary (City Council Appointee)

Richard R .G. Hobson (Library Company Appointee)

Frank Fannon IV (City Council Representative)

Thom Downing (City Council Appointee)

419 E. Windsor Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22301  
July 1, 2011

Rose Williams Boyd  
Executive Secretary for  
Boards and Commissions  
Alexandria City Hall Rm 3500  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Please find enclosed the Annual Report and the Attendance Report for Alexandria's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The reports cover the fiscal year period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

If you have any questions concerning the reports, you may contact me via phone at my office, 202.646.3358; home, 703.548.5784; or via email, [Karen.helbrecht@dhs.gov](mailto:Karen.helbrecht@dhs.gov).

Yours truly,



Karen Helbrecht  
LEPC Chair

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**  
**LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

2011 JUN -9 P 3:44

**ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2010 thru JUNE 2011**

**Summary of Activities**

1. The LEPC held quarterly meetings at the Alexandria Sanitation Authority, Covanta Energy, Haz Mat Fire Station 209, and GenOn Potomac River Generating Station.
2. The LEPC received Tier Two Forms for calendar year 2010, and updated the list of facilities with Extremely Hazardous Substances.
3. The LEPC membership changed with one new member representing media and one new member representing a citizen group.
4. The LEPC website was updated with current information.
5. The City's Environmental Industrial Unit was coordinated with the LEPC by Assistant Fire Marshal Russell Furr's attendance at LEPC meetings and LEPC staff attending meetings of the Environmental Industrial Unit.
6. In addition to formal members of the LEPC, representatives from the following attended meetings: Norfolk Southern Railroad; RSI Logistics; Alexandria Sanitation Authority; Virginia American Water Company; American Red Cross; U. S Patent & Trademark Office; Inova Alexandria Hospital; Alexandria Health Department; Pepco; Virginia Department of Emergency Management; U. S. EPA and citizens.

**Specific Goals for the Coming Year**

1. Conduct four quarterly business meetings.
2. Receive Tier Two Forms.
3. Consider attending appropriate training and conferences.
4. Maintain LEPC web page on City's website.
5. Coordinate with City's Environmental Industrial Unit.
6. Review Hazardous Materials Plan
7. Prepare attendance report and annual report.
- 8.

**Recruitment and Leadership Plans**

1. Recruit one new representative from the print and broadcast media.
2. Sustain current membership along with the chair and vice-chair positions.

**Cycle for Ensuring Turnover in Leadership**

1. Maintain current leadership
2. Federal legislation does not mandate term limits.

**Alexandria Marketing Fund  
Marketing Coordinating Council  
FY 2010 Report**

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

2011 JUN -8 P 6:44

## **Background**

The Alexandria Marketing Fund is a program administered by the Alexandria Marketing Committee. The Fund is designed to increase revenues within the City by fostering public/private partnerships that promote Alexandria as a destination for visiting, shopping, dining and doing business. City Council appropriates funding on an annual basis and the Alexandria Marketing Committee reviews and approves applications for funding. The Marketing Coordinating Council provides advisory support to the Marketing Committee by providing information and education to prospective grantees, providing preliminary application reviews, and providing direct pre-and post-application technical assistance to applicants and grantees.

Goals of the Alexandria Marketing Fund include:

- Fostering marketing projects that enhance the long-range marketing priorities of the City.
- Coordinating marketing plans among City, civic, and business organizations in Alexandria.
- Increasing awareness, while expanding the quality of Alexandria's diverse retail, dining, hospitality, cultural attractions and other businesses.
- Promoting Alexandria to specific target audiences including residents and visitors.
- Generating additional business sales and tax revenues in the City.

## **Marketing Coordinating Council**

The Marketing Coordinating Council serves as a non-voting, advisory body to the Alexandria Marketing Committee. The Coordinating Council, currently composed of representatives from the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, the Alexandria Arts Commission, the Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Office of Historic Alexandria, and the City Manager's Office, provides preliminary review of Alexandria Marketing Fund applications. Coordinating Council Members also provide preliminary application feedback to the applicants. The chairmanship is rotated among the Council membership, with a new chair selected for each round of funding.

In FY 2010, the Coordinating Council conducted reviews and provided feedback to eight applicants. The Coordinating Council is also assisting the Alexandria Marketing Fund in the development of new Marketing Fund guidelines, which should be introduced in 2011.

## Statement of Goals

During FY 2010, in collaboration with the Marketing Fund Committee, the Marketing Coordinating Council further refined its role as an advisory group to the Marketing Fund Committee and technical assistance provider to potential grantees. This means that the Coordinating Council's role is to provide feedback and information to the Marketing Fund Committee only. The Coordinating Council will not make decisions or recommendations for or against funding an applicant, which is the sole duty of the Marketing Fund Committee.

The two groups have continued to develop expanded objectives to achieve the overall goal of the Committee: to increase revenues within the City by fostering public/private partnerships that promote Alexandria as a destination for visiting, shopping, dining and doing business. These expanded objectives include the following:

That the Alexandria Marketing Fund

- Serve as an incubator/support for new and replicable marketing ideas and projects,
- Support new technologies and marketing techniques, and
- Encourage participative collaboration among Alexandria organizations to achieve mutual marketing goals.

In FY 2010, The Marketing Fund Committee and the Marketing Coordinating Council continued their efforts to establish policies and procedures to 1) fulfill these expanded objectives; 2) enhance grantee and Committee accountability; and 3) provide the Committee with a means to measure the overall success of the grant program and its impact on grantees and the City.

Toward this end, during the last year, the Committee and Coordinating Council

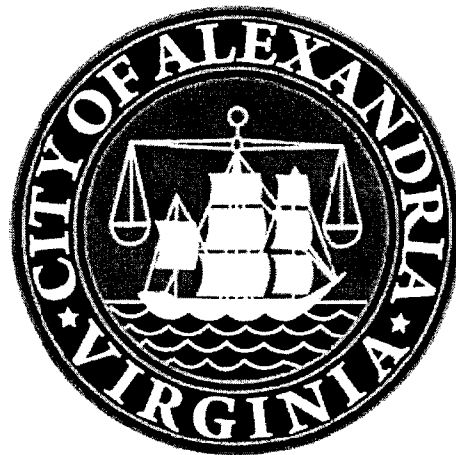
- Formalized Marketing Fund application review and review meeting procedures;
- Embarked on making revisions to the Fund guidelines to attract new applicants; encourage new, innovative projects; and fulfill the expanded objectives identified by the Committee in FY 2009.

The Committee appointed key members to develop revisions to the Marketing Fund guidelines, Web site, application form and budget reporting forms and guidelines. The subcommittee will develop the revisions to bring before the entire Committee for approval in August 2010. The proposed revised guidelines will be presented to City Council in 2011.

**City of Alexandria**  
**Park & Recreation Commission**  
**Annual Report**

**FY 2011**

(July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011)





## **Introduction**

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission is an eleven-member advisory board created by City Council in March 1970 to advise City Council on policy matters related to parks and recreation, as well as to broadly address issues related 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 Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission in its operations allows City residents to participate in planning activities, and serves 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 meet the changing needs of its diverse residents.

The Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month from September to July, except December, at recreation centers throughout the City. The Commission sponsors an annual CIVIC Awards program that recognize outstanding City residents, organizations, and youth. Awards are presented at an annual ceremony in July as part of the City's annual Birthday Celebration.

### **Members of the Park and Recreation Commission for Fiscal Year 2011**

Planning District I	-	Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair
Planning District I	-	Gina Baum (appointed April 2011)
Planning District I	-	Henry Brooks (term expired April 2011)
Planning District I	-	William Cromley
Planning District II	-	Ripley Forbes
Planning District II	-	Robert Moir
Planning District II	-	Stephen Clark Mercer
Planning District III	-	Richard Brune
Planning District III	-	David Dexter (term expired March 2011)
Planning District III	-	Jeff Murphy
Planning District III	-	John Sullivan (appointed March 2011)
Youth Representative	-	Mollie Timmons (appointed February 2011)
Youth Representative	-	Anthony Zamora (graduates June 2011)

### **City Staff**

James Spengler, Director – Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
William Chesley, Deputy Director, RPCA  
Roger Blakeley, Deputy Director, RPCA  
Jack Browand, Division Chief, RPCA  
Ron Kagawa, Division Chief, RPCA  
Robin DeShields, Executive Secretary, RPCA

### **Park and Recreation Commission Accomplishments for FY 2011**

- The Commission received specific project updates, provided input, and continued to support the following projects: Citywide Playground and Outdoor Court Renovations; Synthetic Field Renovation Projects; Waterfront Planning Process; Jones Point Park Reconstruction; and the installation of sport lighting at Hammond Middle School; monitoring and advising on the proposed open space in the Potomac Yard Development; and the relocation and installation of replacement athletic fields at Simpson Park.
- The Commission continued to initiate dialogue with the Alexandria City Public School System to discuss and ensure recreation and park needs are met with the proposed conversion of the Francis C. Hammond athletic field to synthetic turf, and the planned renovation of the Patrick Henry Elementary School and Recreation Center and proposed redevelopment of the Jefferson-Houston Elementary School including Buchanan Park, Durant Center and Old Town Pool, and the expansion of Cora Kelly Elementary.
- The Commission initiated regular updates from Planning and Zoning, and continued to provide recommendations regarding the proposed Waterfront Plan. Members urged staff to consider both active and passive recreations areas, and stressed the fundamental goal of achieving continuous public waterfront access.
- The Commission continued to be active in its monitoring and recommended actions associated the BRAC development and proposed Beauregard Corridor planning. Members stressed the need for public open space including athletic fields, a dog park and improved school site amenities at William Ramsay Elementary School and Recreation Center.
- The Commission solicited and received nominations for the Annual Park and Recreation Commission CIVIC Awards, which were presented at the City's Annual USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration held in July 2011. The CIVIC Awards recognize volunteer efforts of Alexandrians who provide a valuable service in meeting recreation, park, or cultural needs.

### **Public Land Initiatives**

- October 21, 2010 – Following the September 23, 2010 Public Hearing, the Commission received updates and discussed the status of the concept plan for the new City park at the James Bland Development. Several comments were raised and recorded regarding the proposed playground area, and active vs. passive space within the park. The Commission recognized the need for a play area, and recommended placement further from residences. The Commission further recommended coordination with the Commission for Arts prior to final design to incorporate public art features in the park.
- November 12, 2010 – The Commission urged the City Manager to recommend to City Council to re-establish the Open Space Advisory Committee armed with the mission to address current challenges and opportunities before the force of accelerated development returns following the recession.

- February 25, 2011 – The Commission supported the recommendation of the Fort Ward Park and Museum Stakeholders Advisory Committee to provide additional funding in the City’s FY 2012 budget so that further archeological work can proceed at Fort Ward Park.
- June 10, 2011 – The Commission reiterated its support to Council of the proposed Waterfront Plan, specifically the most fundamental goal to establish a continuous open and public riverfront the length of the City, including the relocation of the parking lot at the foot of King Street from the revers edge.

**Formal Commission Recommendations (attached)**

- July 14, 2010 – Proposed Amendment of the District of Columbia Watercraft Speed Limit at the Alexandria Waterfront
- October 22, 2010 – The Park at Montgomery & N. Alfred Streets
- November 12, 2010 – Open Space Plan
- December 3, 2010 – Funding for a Miracle Field
- March 1, 2011 – Reappointment, Park and Recreation Commission Representative, District III
- February 25, 2011 – Funding for Further Fort ward Archaeological Study
- June 10, 2011 – The Waterfront Plan

**Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearings**

The Commission held topic-specific public hearings, and after each of these hearings, residents were provided the opportunity to comment on any park and recreation issues. The Commission encouraged increased community participation by holding public hearings and regular monthly meetings at various recreation center locations throughout the City. The following public hearings were held:

- September 23, 2010 - Concept Plan for Proposed Park at the New James Bland Development  
The purpose was to provide a public forum for Eakin Youngentob & Associates to 1) gather community input about potential park elements that would support the community’s use of the site; and 2) discuss the concept plan for the site.
- February 17, 2011 - Proposed Site Plan on the Four Mile Run Park Expansion  
The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain public comment on the proposed site plan on the Four Mile Run Park Expansion.

**Liaison Groups**

Commission members serve as liaisons to multiple City commissions, committees and subcommittees in promoting park and recreation pursuits as well as community needs.

- Ft. Ward Ad Hoc Advisory Commission - Bob Moir, Ripley Forbes, Rich Brune
- Youth Policy Commission – Stephen Clark Mercer

- Waterfront Committee - William Cromley
- Youth Sports Committee - Jeffrey Murphy
- 4-Mile Run - Ripley Forbes
- Charles Houston Memorial Project – William Cromley
- Freedman’s Cemetery - Bob Moir
- Beauregard Corridor Plan - David Dexter
- ACPS & Capital Improvements - Henry Brooks
- Jones Point Park Community Liaison Group – Judy Noritake

### **Park and Recreation Commission Future Goals**

The Commission will continue to work with Alexandria residents and staff to evaluate existing recreation programs and will continue to make recommendations to enhance and expand programs that will serve the diverse needs of residents. The Commission will hold public hearings on future Department projects and work with staff to ensure budget proposals reflect future CIP renovations and operational needs of the Department. The Commission will continue to work on issues pertaining to parkland and facility needs in support of City Council’s Strategic Master Plan, City Open Space Master Plan, Capital Facilities Maintenance Program, and with the evolving Waterfront Master Plan. In addition, the Commission will seek increased cooperation and coordination with the Alexandria City Public School System in developing mutual benefiting redevelopment opportunities.

Attachments: Formal Commission Recommendations



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS  
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

1108 Jefferson Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3999

Phone (703) 838-4343

Fax (703) 838-6344

## Park and Recreation Commission

July 14, 2010

Mr. James Hartmann  
City Manager  
City of Alexandria

Re: Support for Proposed Amendment of the District of Columbia Watercraft Speed Limit at the Alexandria Waterfront


Dear Mr. Hartmann:

The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission wishes to inform you of our support of a proposed change to the District of Columbia Municipal Regulation, Title 19, Chapter 10 which governs the speed of vessels along the waterfront of Alexandria. It is our understanding that the current regulation is targeted at maintaining a no-wake zone and it accomplishes that goal by limiting the speed of watercraft, which is effective. It is important that this no-wake zone is kept in force as our waterfront currently has an active mix of commercial, motorized and non-motorized small watercraft, as well as an active adult and high school rowing program. For the safety of everyone concerned, and most particularly the rowers in narrow crew shells, we cannot tolerate boat wakes in the vicinity of our waterfront.

That being said, the existing regulation addresses the issue of boat wakes by limiting the speed of any watercraft to 10 knots. While effective, it does not address the innovation in marine technology that is producing a new era of commercial watercraft that can move through the water at much higher speeds without producing a wake. The Park and Recreation Commission, therefore, supports amending the governing regulations to put in place a no-wake performance criteria for this zone so that it is not speed that is regulated but rather the creation of a wake. If such a performance criteria can be crafted then we feel consideration should be given to amending the regulation.

Our Commission urges you, along with the Mayor and City Council, to explore this change with the District of Columbia in order to allow a broader range of appropriate water taxi and commercial boat services to operate from our waterfront, while still assuring the safety of other boaters and rowers which frequent our part of the Potomac River.

With kind regard,

  
Judy R. Guse-Noritake, Chair  
Park and Recreation Commission

Cc: James Spengler, RCPA Director  
Park and Recreation Commissioners  
Nate Macek, Chair, Waterfront Committee

[ci.alexandria.va.us](http://ci.alexandria.va.us)



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS  
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

James B. Spengler  
Director

1108 Jefferson Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3999

Phone (703) 746-4343  
Fax (703) 838-6344

## Park and Recreation Commission

October 22, 2010

Faroll Hamer, Director  
Department of Planning & Zoning  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Re: The Park at Montgomery & N. Alfred Streets

Dear Director Hamer:

The Park and Recreation Commission had a presentation at our September meeting on the park in the James Bland development to be located at the corner of Montgomery and N. Alfred Streets. We understand that under the conditions of the DSUP our Commission was to review and approve the design for the park.

The Commission further discussed the park design at our meeting last night. In general the Commissioners felt that the geometry of the plan had a simple and sophisticated feeling. They wished to underscore that this design should be executed in rich and long-lasting materials such as granite curbs and high quality metal site furnishings that will stand the test of time and use.

That being said, in the month between the original presentation we received a small number of community letters which all express the same concerns most specifically about the placement, configuration and fit-up of the playground. Our own discussions over the course of two meetings reflected some of the same concerns. It was felt that the rest of the park was quite elegant, designed to be serene, so that making an active play area with musical play equipment a central feature was a bit jarring and intrusive. We understand that the DSUP was quite proscriptive about this play area so that little change is possible at this point. Therefore we would recommend that the design team look at a slight reconfiguration of the park plan in order to allow the play area to be tucked further into a corner of the park, leaving the geometry of the oval area intact and perhaps less boisterous for park users that do not have children with them. In many small parks like this we ask the space to be all things and end up with the active playground uses overpowering any other possible contemplative use.

And a final note, we would suggest that the project team make contact with the Arts Commission prior to finalizing the design to see if they can bring beneficial resources and/or ideas to bear in this park.

With these things noted for the record, we offer our support to this concept design. We think when finished this park will be a very welcome addition to the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

  
Judy R. Guse-Noritake, AIA, LEED AP  
Chair, Park and Recreation Commission

Cc: James Spengler, Director RPCA  
Park and Recreation Commissioners

[alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)





DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS  
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

1108 Jefferson Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3999

Phone (703) 746-4343

Fax (703) 838-6344

James B. Spengler  
Director

## Park and Recreation Commission

November 12 2010

Mr. Jim Hartmann  
City Manager  
Alexandria, Virginia  
Re: Open Space

Dear Manager Hartmann:

Early in this decade, in response to increasing development pressures, the Park and Recreation Commission along with the Planning Commission forwarded a proposal to join forces and create a comprehensive Open Space policy for Alexandria. The goal of the effort was to assure that as the City continued to be developed that we also had the foresight to preserve important land in sufficient amount for recreation, environmental quality, and scenic and historic resource protection.

A task force was appointed by the City Manager at that time to engage in this work which included representatives from the Park and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission, but then also representatives from the Environmental Policy Commission and the Archeological Commission. It was rounded out by a small group of citizens well known for their open space and trail advocacy, most notably Ellen Pickering.

Over the course of several years this group, augmented by City staff from the four corresponding City departments, met early morning once a month to develop policy recommendations, funding alternatives and to assemble a fairly comprehensive list of parcels for protection or acquisition. The City Council allocated funding to hire a professional planning firm to carry out the work of producing the Open Space Plan. The plan was finish and adopted in spring of 2003 and then within weeks City Council established the dedicated Open Space Fund by allocating 1% of real estate tax across the City with the goal of acquiring or protecting 100 acres of open space in the next ten years.

In short order following the plan's adoption the City entered into an agreement with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to handle the donations and management of open space easements in the City. The City hired an Open Space Coordinator and then a Bike-Pedestrian Coordinator, both recommendations in the plan. An urban forestry plan was undertaken, also a recommendation of the Open Space Plan.

[alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)

