


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE FY 2005 ANNUAL
REPORT FROM THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

ISSUE: City Council consideration of the FY 2005 Annual Report from the Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission (Attachment).

RECOMMENDATIONS: 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.

ATTACHMENT: FY 2005 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

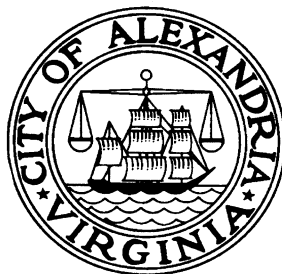
City of Alexandria

Park & Recreation Commission



Dora Kelley Nature Park

FY 2005 Annual Report
July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005



**ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005**

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 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 2005

Planning District I	-	Judy Guse-Noritake, Chair
Planning District I	-	Henry Brooks
Planning District I	-	William Conkey
Planning District II	-	Kenneth Basta (Appointed November 2004)
Planning District II	-	Picot Chappell (Term Expired April 2005)
Planning District II	-	Ripley Forbes
Planning District II	-	William Hendrickson
Planning District III	-	Patricia Broussard (Term Expired April 2005)
Planning District III	-	David Dexter (Appointed March 2005)
Planning District III	-	Ellen Murray (Term Expired April 2005)
Planning District III	-	Kaj Vetter
Youth Representative	-	Owen Jones (Appointed January 2005)
Youth Representative	-	Francesca Schneller (Term Expired April 2005)
Youth Representative	-	Aaron Wilson (Appointed September 2004)

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 continued to work with staff and received updates on the progress of the current renovation and expansion of the Jerome “Buddie” Ford Nature Center. The dedication and reopening of the center is scheduled for the Fall of 2005.
- The Commission continued to work with staff on the plans for the proposed renovations of the Charles Houston and Patrick Henry Recreation Centers; and
- The Commission continued to work with staff and the Alexandria Public Schools on monitoring the design and construction of the new T. C. Williams High School to ensure that the new building will provide adequate resources that would benefit expanded school and recreation programming for all the residents of the City; and
- The Commission worked with staff on the proposed plans for new athletic facilities at the Witter property and All Sports Facility at Joseph Hensley Park. In addition, the Commission worked with staff from the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, and the Office of Historic Alexandria on the proposed Freedmen's Cemetery; 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 9, 2005. Outstanding Citizen Awards were presented to the following: Jane DeWeerd, Lenwood Harris, Jasmine Lister, Cub Scout Pack 129, Cindy McCartney, Jeanne Kelly, Rosa Byrd, Ruby Tucker, Michael Oliver, and James Paulk. These citizens were recognized for the dedicated volunteer service in enriching the quality of life for the residents of the City of Alexandria; and
- The Commission continued to work with the Four Mile Run Joint Task Force, made up of a member of the Park and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, Environmental Policy Commission, and citizen representatives from both Arlington and Alexandria. Staff and consultants have developed a Master Plan to guide the planning and design process of the Four Mile Run Stream Restoration that will include Four Mile Run Park. Renovation plans were presented to the public in planned Open House forums in FY 2005.

2. Park and Recreation Commission Public Hearings

- The Alexandria Park and Recreation Commission encouraged public participation in the decision making process involving recreation issues by holding public hearings. Public Hearings were held on January 27, 2005, for residents from Planning District I; November 18, 2004, for residents from Planning District III; and October 21, 2004 for residents from Planning District II.

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 continue to monitor the progress of the new construction of T. C. Williams High School, the future renovations of the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center, Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Charles Houston Recreation Center, and Jones Point Park; and monitor the progress on new proposed athletic facilities at the Witter properties and the City's All Sports Facility at Joseph Hensley 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.