

## **PARKS AND REC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**APRIL 17, 2025**

**Present:** Hosea Mitchell, Jessica Jackson, Jeffrey Fracher, Ned Michie, Mark Denison, Jenny Taylor, Kent Merritt, Tina La Roche, Carla Manno, Adam Courville, Ginger Craghead-Way (Student Member)

**Absent:** Jackie Webber and Amanda Burns

**City:** Riaan Anthony, Katie Lockhart, J. Vaden Hunt- **Deputy City Attorney**, Sau Chan- **Deputy City Attorney**

**Community:** Tom Nowaczyk, Claire Denton-Spalding, Santey and Nim Sang Tamung, Jessie Gammon, Michael Grinnell

Ned Michie calls meeting to order at 5:32pm

- Clarified that garden plot rules would not be discussed or decided at this meeting
- Noted that public comment was welcome and invited individuals to use their three minutes to speak on any topic, including garden plot concerns

### **Administrative Items:**

#### **ADMIN-1 February and March Minutes      Ned Michie**

- Ned asks for motion to approve minutes
- Hosea M moves to approve minutes
- Jessica J seconds
- Minutes are approved with no amendments

### **Public Comment:**

- Multiple community members, primarily gardeners from Azalea Park, voiced concerns about a proposed 5-year limit on garden plot rentals.
- Speakers expressed:
  - Long-term personal investment in garden plots (some for 17+years).
  - Frustration over a lack of prior communication about proposed changes.
  - Concern over loss of infrastructure, plants, and soil improvement invested over years.
  - Advocacy for improved enforcement of existing rules instead of time limits.

**Action Items:**    None

**Information Items:**    None

**Chairman's Matters:**     **None**

**Board Matters:**

**B-1 Board Training**                      **J.Vaden Hunt- Deputy City Attorney**

- Provided an overview of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- Explained that any record relating to public business, regardless of format or device used, can be subject to FOIA.
- Emphasized transparency, legal obligators, and personal liability under FOIA.
- Covered:
  - Who has the right to request public records.
  - What constitutes a public record.
  - Rules for public meeting and communication.
- Discussed legalities of public records and rules for public meetings and communication.

**Director's Matters:**                      **Ned Michie**

- Discussion about how Board members can influence meeting agendas
- Typically the Chair's responsibility, but Board members are encouraged to email agenda items
- Concern about how much public engagement is happening
- Mentioned possibly using emails and online tools to organize meetings and input
- Topics like garden plots, Master Plan, and CIP need more focused time
- Suggestion to hold two meetings in May to address these properly
- Idea to possibly revise bylaws or meeting formats for more effectiveness
- Emphasis on ensuring meetings are accessible and transparent without creating technical or procedural barriers
- Encouragement to use City notifications or targeted outreach to better involve small, defined groups

**Public Comments:**                      **None**

**Adjournment:**                              **Ned Michie**

- Community members were thanked for their attendance and comments
- Attendees were informed of the opportunity to attend or provide input at the next meeting, when garden plots will be on the agenda
- Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm