

PRINCE WILLIAM

Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Brodie Freer, Chair, Occoquan District
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, At Large Member
Vida Carroll, Brentsville District
Jane Beyer, Vice Chair, Coles District
Rick Berry, Gainesville District
Ross W. Snare, IV, Neabsco District
Oriella Mejia, Potomac District
Sharon Richardson, Woodbridge District

February 19, 2025

George Hellwig Administrative Bldg. Board Room
14420 Bristow Rd. Manassas, VA

Commission Members Present

Rick Berry
Jane Beyer
Sharon Richardson
Vida Carroll
Brodie Freer
Oriella Mejia
Ross Snare
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley

Staff Present

Seth Hendler-Voss
Amir Wenrich
Frances Bridges
Todd Reid
John Blevins

Commission Members Absent

None

Guests

Brent Heavner, President NOVA BMX

Secretary

Janet Bartnik, for Shannon Jaenicke

Citizens

See sign in sheet

Call to Order

At 7:03 p.m. Chair Brodie Freer called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order and Ross Snare led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners welcomed Ms. Mosley to the Commission.

Administrative Items

RES 25-03 Approve Minutes of January 15, 2025. **APPROVED. (JB, RB, 6-0-1, Abstained BFM, Absent from Vote VC, Absent from Meeting None)**

Citizens Time

Ms. Dale Thom, mother of Christian Thom, shared Christian Thom's experiences as a youth in sports and his coaching experiences in adulthood. Christian Thom was appointed to the Parks Commission beginning in 2020. Ms. Thom noted that it would be an honor to have his name attached to Field 1 at George Hellwig Memorial Park.

Ms. Marissa Miller, Neabsco District appointee to the Arts Council, requested direction as to how the Arts Council could have official representation on the Parks Commission.

Mr. Nate Murphy, Neabsco resident, supported the proposal to name Field 1 at George Hellwig Memorial Park for Christian Thom.

Presentations

NOVA BMX

Mr. Brett Heavner presented an update on NOVA BMX Operations. NOVA BMX offers racing via a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) designated organization under an MOU with Prince William County. USA BMX sanctioned events operate four days per week from mid-March through mid-December. NOVA BMX volunteers dedicated over 5,750 hours in 2024. Mr. Heavner stated that racers range in age from 2 to 72. The number of local riders calling NVA BMX home are grown from 230 to 434 since 2019. NOVA BMX is ranked first in the district and the state, second in the region, and 10th in the nation. He highlighted the organization's track rebuild project in 2024, a novice BMX race league operated, NOVA BMX riders competing in the UCI BMX World Championships, the organization's hosting of the state finals, and its pumpkin race. [Copies of presentations are available from the Secretary to the Commission]

Mr. Hendler-Voss indicated that an improvement project in 2019 was supported by the County investment of approximately \$350,000. The Department and NOVA BMX are currently partnering to replace the starting gate with a safer electronic gate.

Commissioners confirmed that capping was permitted on site for some races. Mr. Snare requested the economic impact data from the hosting of the national event. Mr. Heavner thanked the Department's Park Rangers for their support during the large races.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

None

New Business

RES 25-04

RECOMMEND THE NAME "CHRISTIAN THOM FIELD" FOR BASEBALL FIELD #1 AT GEORGE HELLWIG MEMORIAL PARK, MANASSAS, VIRGINIA - COLES MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT- APPROVED. (JB, RS, Unanimous, Absent from Vote none, Absent from Meeting none)

Commissioners thanked the Thom family for attending the meeting, their appreciation for Chistian Thom's legacy of service to youth and the County, and related their knowledge of Christian Thom's extensive service to the community.

Chairman Freer noted that the staff would proceed with creation of signage for the Field. He anticipated that the League would host a naming ceremony at Opening Day.

RES 25-05

APPOINT CLAIBORNE RICHARDSON TO THE ARTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND APPOINT NIKOLE BRILLANT AND MICHELLE ROSS TO THE ARTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027 APPROVED. (RS, OM, Unanimous, Abstained Richardson, Absent from Vote none, Absent from Meeting none)

Director Time

Director Seth Hendler-Voss provided the following updates:

- The FY26 Proposed Budget presented to the BOCS on Feb 18 was shared with the Commission. [Copies of FY26 Proposed Budget pages are available from the Secretary to the Commission]
 - The proposed budget is based on a flat tax for FY26. Should the Board wish to reduce the tax rate, there will need to be adjustments in either expenses or revenues.
 - A 3% salary adjustment is proposed.
 - The proposed budget constitutes 14 budget initiatives requested by DPR, including a number of Board-directed initiatives relating to Historic Preservation acquisitions.
 - The 14 budget initiatives proposed for funding were summarized.
 - The County Executive intends to centralize all project management functions under Transportation.
 - There are a series of dates for public comment and review scheduled through April.
- Camp preview guide drops on the 25th. Registration opens March 4.
- The State of the Parks Event has been rescheduled to March 6, 2025 at Forest Park High School.
- DPR hired 81 new seasonal staff in one night. Human Resources is on track to hire all summer positions in record time. Another hiring event is scheduled at Chinn Center in the next week.
- The Board approved a lease on the farmhouse on the battlefield property being transferred to DPR from the American Battlefield Trust. A farming license for the property was also approved.
- Eugene Loew is leaving the County, having taken a Director position in Stafford County.
- The Arts Grant mandatory workshop for applicants will be held March 25. Commissioners were asked to assist with publicizing the grant opportunity.
- Ms. Bartnik shared that another potential Kaboom! playground build would be presented to the Board March 4. The funder has not yet made a decision.

Mr. Freer presented a copy of the 2023 Commission goals. He requested that each Commissioner consider a Commission and an individual goal as homework for the next meeting

Commissioner's Time

Ms. Richardson	None;
Ms. Mejia	Attended the State of the County and State of the District events. Noted her concern over the potential for federal staffing losses that could impact Prince William Forest Park.
Mr. Snare	Attended the East v West All-Star Basketball event on Sunday. Noted that he would be forwarding a link to the Hoadly Road Star Study survey for distribution to the Trails and Blueways Council.
Mr. Berry	Welcomed Ms. Mosley to the Commission.
Ms. Beyer	Ms. Beyer asked if the start of the March meeting could be pushed 30

minutes to a 7:30pm start.

MOTION

ADJUST THE START OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S MARCH 19, 2025, MEETING TO 7:30PM *APPROVED. (VC, RS, Unanimous, Absent from Vote none, Absent from Meeting none)*

Ms. Mosley

Ms. Mosley introduced herself and her background in the community, her family, Olympic experience, volunteer engagement, and professional career. She has most recently been involved in advocacy for the indoor sports and events center.

Ms. Carroll

Ms. Carroll thanked John Blevins, Veronica Laughman, and Ryan Amato for their work to bring back the 'I Can Shine' adaptive recreation program.

Chair Freer

Chair Freer welcomed Ms. Mosley. There is an important meeting next week between the Department and LRPRA to discuss the Occoquan Greenway.

Closed Session

None.

Adjournment

RES 25-06

Motion to Adjourn at 8:55 pm. ***APPROVED (RS,SR, Unanimous, Absent from Meeting None)***

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on March 19, 2025, at the Hellwig Park Administration Building.

Minutes **APPROVED** at Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on March 19, 2025.

Brodie Freer, Chair

Seth Hendler-Voss, Director

Shannon Jaenicke, Secretary

Parks Comm'ssion
2/19/25

SIGN IN SHEET

Name

BRENT HEAVNER

Jennifer Mirzayan

✓ Dale Thom

Jason Thom

Tammy Thom

ARIS. REP. ✓
LARISSA MILLER

✓ NATE MURPHY

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3/19/25 LARISSA MILLER

MOTION: BEYER

February 19, 2025

SECOND: SNARE

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 25 - 04

**RE: RECOMMEND THE NAME "CHRISTIAN THOM FIELD" FOR BASEBALL FIELD #1 AT
GEORGE HELLWIG MEMORIAL PARK, MANASSAS, VIRGINIA - COLES
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT**

ACTION: APPROVED

WHEREAS, George Hellwig Memorial Park is located at 14420 Bristow Road, Manassas, Virginia and contains a baseball complex with one baseball, one softball, and two Little League fields; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2024, Prince William County Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Christian Thom passed away; and

WHEREAS, Christian Thom served his community with honor, integrity, and worked tirelessly to improve recreational opportunities for county residents through his advocacy on the Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) and on the Boards of Coles District Little League (CDLL) and The First Tee of Prince William County; and

WHEREAS, Christian Thom's support of Little League began as coach for Manassas Park Yorkshire Little League and later as a coach, manager, and Board Vice President of CDLL; and

WHEREAS, Christian Thom's advocacy was instrumental in adding a new baseball complex at Hellwig Park to the 2006 Park Improvement Bond Referendum, later approved by voters; and

WHEREAS, the CDLL Board of Directors has requested naming baseball field #1 at Hellwig Park "Christian Thom Field" in recognition of Mr. Thom's exceptional contributions as to the League and community; and

WHEREAS, at the January 15, 2025, meeting of the Commission, Parks Director Seth Hendler-Voss presented the CDLL request; and

WHEREAS, at the February 19, 2025, meeting of the Commission, citizens were provided an opportunity to provide input on the proposed field naming;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Parks and Recreation Commission does hereby recommend the name "Christian Thom Field" for baseball field #1 at George Hellwig Memorial Park to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors.

Votes:

Ayes: Berry, Beyer, Carroll, Fitzgerald, Freer, Mejia, Richardson, Snare

Nays: None

Absent from Meeting: None

ATTEST:


Secretary to the Commission

MOTION: SNARE

**February 19, 2025
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 25-05**

SECOND: MEJIA

RE: APPOINT CLAIBORNE RICHARDSON TO THE ARTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND APPOINT NIKOLE BRILLANT AND MICHELLE ROSS TO THE ARTS GRANT REVIEW PANEL FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027.

ACTION:

WHEREAS, Prince William County Parks and Recreation is responsible for distributing the Prince William County Board of Supervisors (BOCS) approved Arts Grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department anticipates that the BOCS will fund Arts Grants in Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission, appointed by the BOCS, is responsible for appointing a grant panel with experience in such areas as financial management, grant review, arts education, arts funding and community involvement in the arts; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Grant review panel will independently review and score the arts grant applications and recommend appropriate funding levels; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Grant review panel composition will include five citizen members who are not a current employee or board member of a grant applicant organization, and one member of the Prince William County Finance department; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission will review the Arts Grant review panel's recommendation for grant funding and make a final funding recommendation to the BOCS; and

WHEREAS, there are currently three (3) vacancies on the Arts Grant Panel;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Parks and Recreation Commission hereby appoints Claiborne Richardson to the Arts Grant Review Panel for a one-year term for fiscal year 2026 and appoints Nikole Brilliant and Michelle Ross to the Arts Grant Review Panel for a two-year term for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

Attachment: Biographies

Votes:

Ayes: Berry, Beyer, Carroll, Fitzgerald, Freer, Mejia, Snare

Nays: None

Abstain: Richardson

Absent from Meeting: None

ATTEST:


Shannon Jaenicke, Secretary

Bios of Grant Panelists FY26

Claiborne T. Richardson, II, -is a graduate of West Virginia University's School of Music (B.M.Ed.), and The College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law (J.D.). He studied trumpet with John Wright (Principal Cornetist, Marine Band) and Jack McKie (Pittsburgh Symphony); percussion with Dr. Claiborne Richardson (Lake Braddock S. S., Virginia State University and Howard University) and Frank Delpiano (Principal Percussionist, Marine Band); and studied conducting with Professor Don Wilcox, Frederick Fennell, and Dr. Claiborne Richardson. Clai is a former high school- and middle school-music educator who has also served as a guest conductor and clinician for high school and college instrumental ensembles in Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. He has played for TV, radio, and a touring company. He has played drum set with Herb Smith, Wes Biles, Herman Burney, Michael Thomas, Dr. George Ross, Jacques "The Saxman" Johnson, Kenny Rittenhouse, Joe Kennedy, Jr., Charlie Byrd, Lew Soloff, and Randy Purcell, as well as in the WVU Jazz Ensemble, the Leonard Hannigan Big Band, the Doc Dikeman Big Band, and the Russell Wilson Trio. He is a co-founder of the band Nightmusic.

Matt Moore -is an award-winning Creative, Theatrical and Live Events Director who has worked with hundreds of government, nonprofit, political and private sector clients worldwide. In addition to his deep seated production background, Moore has over three decades of extensive experience in not-for-profit management and governance with several national organizations. He has directed hundreds of plays, musicals, commercials and live events in addition to performing in hundreds of shows with the 26-year continuously running Fools! Improv Troupe. Noted directorial credits include "Songs for New World" and "Larry, the Big-Time Broadway Producer" at Triune Entertainment (Winner of the 2023 Broadway World Best Director (nonprofessional) award, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, just to name a few. A performer in his own right, Matt has played lead roles in several musicals including Thenardier in Upper Room's Broadway World Musical of the Decade, "Les Miserables." He is a voice actor and MC with an extensive list of credits and is the founding director of the 26-year continuously running Fools! Improv Troupe.

Emely Romero - has been with Prince William County, FRC division for 9 years. She is the Grants Accountant that oversees financial reporting, budgeting, and audits. Prior to Prince William County, Emely worked as an auditor and has experience with Unified Guidance single audits. She has experience in grant administration, compliance, and financial management. She currently helps with financial reporting for state and federal awards received by Prince William County.

Dawne Horizon – Dawne is a Magna Cum Laude graduate with a B.A. in Business Administration & Marketing, Dawne has a background in customer service and administrative assistance over 15 years and has run her own health & wellness business over 20 years. A highly skilled and passionate Empowerment Speaker, Inspirational Poet, Writer & 4x Amazon Bestselling Author, serving the community with heart, passion, as well as extensive professional & personal knowledge and experience in business, writing, and wellness.

Bios of Grant Panelists FY26 & 27

Nikole Brilliant -My love for art started at a young age, when I was a little girl. I used to draw pictures of people, animals, and landscapes, and this carried on throughout my educational years. In high school I

took many art courses, as well as drawing and painting for fun at home. In college, I majored in art for a year, until changing to design study, which gave me a broader skill set. While taking art, I learned to draw still life, abstract art, and my favorite, painting. The switch to design allowed me to think out of the box and carried into my business degree and work background today. A favorite hobby has been designing home and office spaces which transpired through family outings, collaboration and working with professional designers. As my career pivoted to event planning, there is a lot of use for a design and art background to bring a lively and attractive event to life. Today, I focus on raising funds for two nonprofits, as well as pursuing grants allowing me to understand first-hand the need for such support. My art background keeps me invigorated and allows me to see work and life in a brighter light. I still paint today for fun, mostly focusing on landscapes and scenic pictures, but sometimes I get the itch to bring out my abstract and contemporary side as an outlet. Not only has art become a way of life and an outlet, but it can be very calming and therapeutic in a fast-paced life. Photography has also always been a huge part of my life as well. I can't imagine a world without print. Whether it is capturing the humans I love, sweet animals or gorgeous views to make lasting memories, you can find me with my camera or cell phone snapping photos. In my work I am lucky enough to support social media projects and use my creative side to leverage engaging posts and promote. Event planning is still very organic to me and will always stay with me. I am happy to serve my community in Prince William County, where I have resided for 2 years now. Originally, I am from Fairfax County but have loved my move to Prince William County the last few years, and am excited for the future.

Michelle Ross-

Michelle lives in Woodbridge and has an extensive background in Arts Administration. Financial Management: Managed organization budget as a Executive Director of Samuels Library, active participant in the budget process as Assistant Director of Prince William Public Libraries. Grant oversight: Oversaw ARPA funds for Samuels Library, managed funds and reporting for grants received by Samuels Library, managed funds and grants received for Sissonville Branch Library, completed grant-writing course in 2019. Grants analysis: Participated in selection process for grants distributed by the Front Royal Rotary Club, served on the Scholarship Committee for the Front Royal Rotary Club and the This is IT! Club (technology club for teens in Warren County, VA). Community Arts: Worked closely with Friends of Samuels Library and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to present a multi-day art festival featuring local artists, speakers, and a visit from VMFA To-Go; Facilitated the installation of a StoryWalk at Eastham Park in Warren County; Represented Samuels Library for Blue Ridge Arts Council's Annual Deck the Halls fundraiser; Served on the committee for and acted in the Sissonville Library Advisory Board's Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser; Served as the head of the West Virginia Book Festival Author Selection Committee; taught many art classes to adults and teens (ex. macramé, fired ink art, squirt gun painting, acrylic dipped wine glasses, and more...). Marketing: Managed and oversaw marketing for Samuels Library, served as Website Chair for the Rotary Club of Front Royal, managed social media for the House of Hope, contributed to social media campaigns for Kanawha County Public Library, created social media content and merchandised online market for OverDrive (international ebook distributor), managed and oversaw social media and digital marketing for Marion County Public Library, managed social media for the West Virginia Digital Entertainment Library Initiative. Other: Served on the Virginia Wine and Craft Festival Committee and Festival of Leaves Committee, served as board member for the House of Hope, planned and executed Samuels Library's A Taste for Books Gala, served as Treasurer for the Warren County SALT/TRIAD Council.



NOVA BMX

2024 Season Update

Prince William County Parks Commission
January 15, 2025





Overview

- **The BMX track is a county-owned facility that has been in operation since 2000**
- **The facility offers BMX racing sanctioned by USABMX**
- **Since 2009, the Northern Virginia BMX Parents Association (NOVA BMX) has operated the track under an MOU with PWC**
- **NOVA BMX is a 501(c)(3), 100% volunteer-run organization**

Overview

- **NOVA BMX operates from mid-March through mid-December**
- **The track hosted a total of 120 BMX events during 2024 (not including track work days)**
- **During the height of our season, we operate four days a week:**
 - **Monday – Practice**
 - **Tuesday – BMX League / Tots Tuesday**
 - **Wednesday – Racing**
 - **Thursday – Clinics**
 - **Saturday – Racing**



volunteers dedicated over
5,750 hours
to NOVA BMX during the 2024 season

at \$30 an hour, that's \$172,500 worth of staff time

Overview

Income:

- race and practice registration fees
- concessions
- sponsorships & donations

Expenses:

- facility maintenance
- USA BMX fees
- awards
- concessions supplies
- capital projects

Races & Riders



A Typical Race...

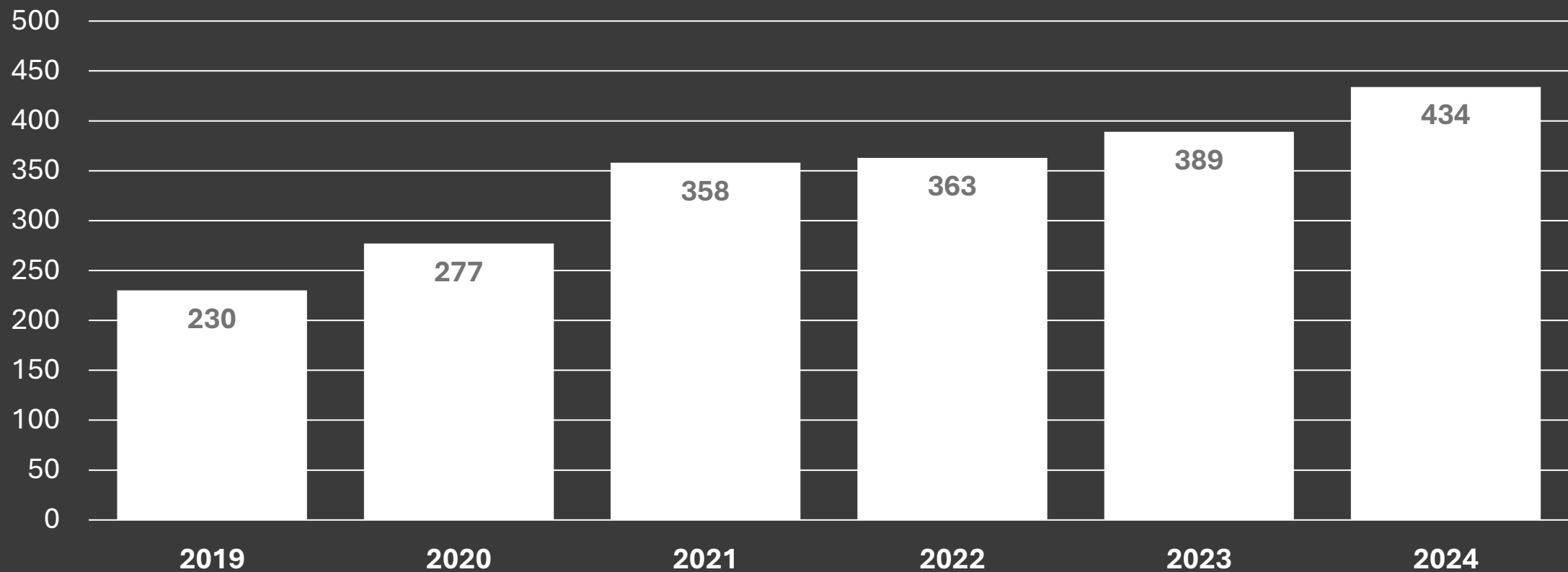
- 100 riders ranging in age from 2 – 72.
- Riders are grouped by age, proficiency, and bike type
- 25+ motos (groups), 3 rounds per moto, means the gate drops 75 times per race





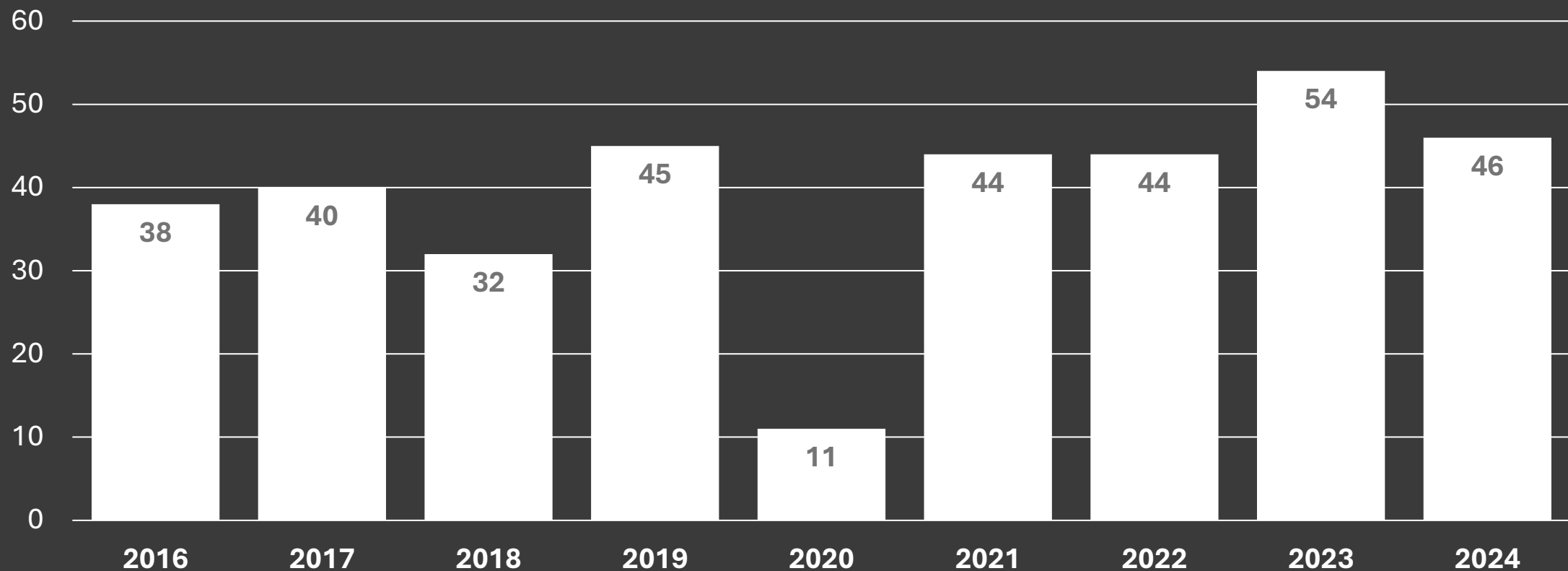
Local Riders

Riders Who List Nova BMX as Their Home Track by Year



Races Hosted

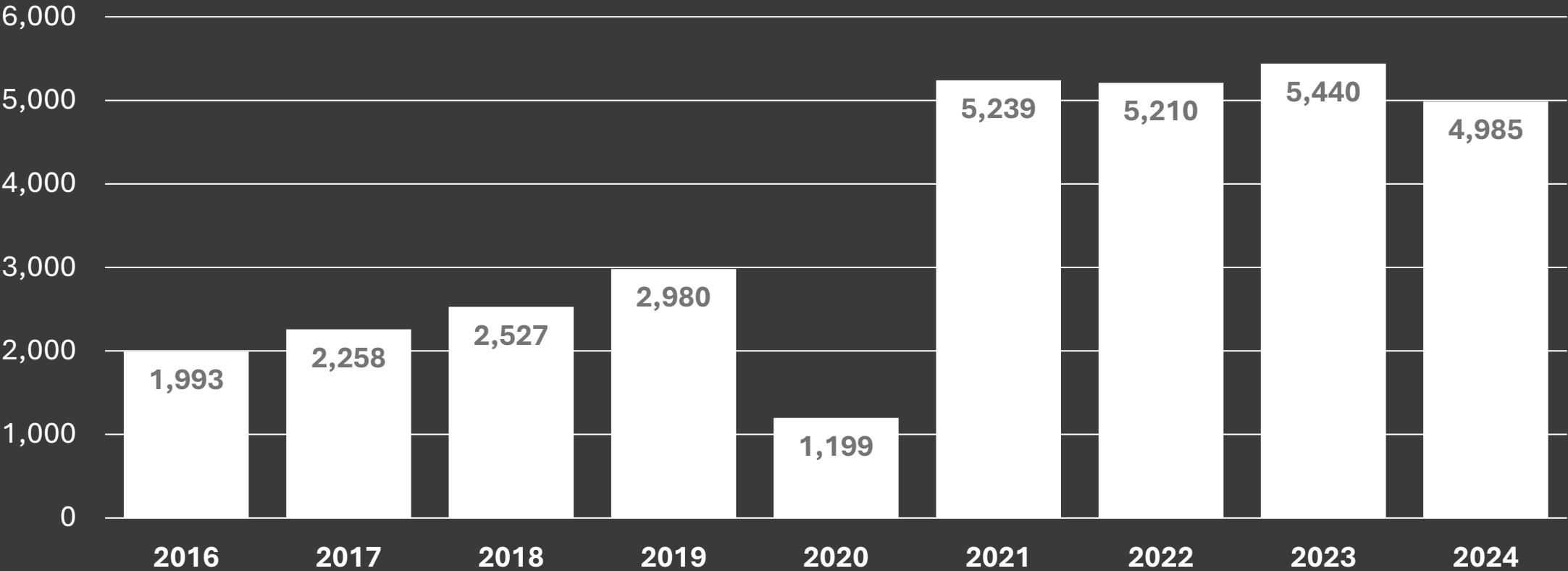
Total Races Hosted by Year (Excluding Nationals)





Total Rider Count

Total Rider Registrations (Excluding Nationals)



Standings





How Tracks Are Ranked

- **Membership points** - # of riders listing NOVA BMX as their home track
- **Points for advancement** – progression of riders in proficiency
- **Average rider count for single point races** – capped at 100 riders maximum counting toward track ranking

Standings

#1

Track in the District (VA01)

Standings

#1

Track in the State 6 years running

Standings



4th consecutive year in the top 10

Standings

#10

Track in the Nation (+ Canada)

2024 Highlights



Track rebuild

- 2024 began with a complete track rebuild
- All four straights taken to flat and rebuilt
- “5th straight” added for balance bikes
- Total cost: \$35,000



BMX Race League

- USA BMX program for riders with no BMX experience whatsoever
- 6-week program
- 107 participants at NOVA BMX across 3 sessions in 2024



On the World Stage

- The “NOVA 9” represented the U.S. at the UCI BMX World Championships
- Hayden Day ranked World #4



State Finals

- NOVA BMX hosted the State Championship Race for the 6th consecutive year
- 301 riders and 66 motos
- Top 3 teams in the state competition were NOVA-based!



Pumpkin Race

- 2nd annual Halloween pumpkin race
- Unique to NOVA BMX
- Most exciting race of the year



Questions

