

Commission Member Reports- January 2018

Reports Submitted

Out of School Time Council

Diamond Field Fund

4MRV

Reed School

Gymnastics Meet

POPS

Rectangular Fields Users Group

Aquatics Committee

Out of School Time Council

Name

Patricia Trapanese

Member Report Subject

OST (Out of School Time) Council

Summary

I attended the OST Council monthly meeting on 1/22/18. They have developed a Program Quality Self-Assessment Guide for youth programs. It will be available in hard copy and electronic formats and is a great tool for program directors. I will get a copy for the Sports Commission. If your organization is interested, they can order additional hard copies. They also provided input on where they recommend the Sports Commission to focus in its efforts to bring more sports opportunities to the underserved. They recommend working with the APS middle schools extended day directors at Kenmore, TJ and Gunston. They don't have a lots of sports focused programming. Also, there is a late bus and many walkers so there is time between the end of the school day and the late bus for sports.

Diamond Field Fund

Name

Steve Severn

Member Report Subject

Diamond Field Fund Committee

Summary

Members of the Arlington County Diamond Field Fund Committee (DFFC) participated in a conference call at noon on Wednesday, Jan 10, 2018.

The following is a synopsis of the discussions and decisions that transpired.

In Attendance:

JP Cooney*, President, Arlington Babe Ruth

Adam Rasmussen, Field and Facilities Director, Arlington Little League

Jerry Spitz, Board member, Arlington Senior Babe Ruth

Doug Wiley Board Member, Arlington Travel Baseball**

Drew Murray, member, Sports Commission (representing Adult Softball)

Steve Severn, Arlington Girls Softball Association, President, Sports Commission member and DFFC Chair

*JP Cooney is replacing Phil Juliano on the DFFC representing ABR

** sitting in for Richie Pacheco, President, Arlington Travel Baseball

Topic: Potential Projects for 2018

Greenbrier Batting Cages- Recommend not-to-exceed budget \$10K

As an alternative approach to the defunct 2017 project to install a concrete pad in the batting cage of Field #2, investigate the possibility of installing synthetic turf in the cage without the use of a concrete full size concrete pad.

Vendors representing non-infill, syn-turf products would be contacted for estimates to install their product in the batting cage(s). Discounts would be sought from the vendor with the notion that this could be used as a small scale "pilot" evaluation program for future County applications. The priority would be the Field #2 batting cage with the other 2 GB cages only considered if budget was maintained.

Investigate the cost and practicality of installing additional lighting for the GB#2 batting cage.

An alternative to Item a , is to investigate the cost and practicality of installing 2 small concrete pads (batters and pitchers stations) in lieu of the originally proposed full size concrete pad. The pads would be covered with commercially available syn-turf mats.

As part of the batting cage improvement effort, inquiries will be made as to the functionality of the pitching machine that now resides in the cage.

i. Who does it belong to?

ii. It apparently is in need of repair, does anyone want to pay to have it repaired?

iii. Would it be used if it were repaired?

iv. Can we have the County dispose of the machine, if no organization claims ownership or responsibility?

Decision- Proceed with the above plan and report back to the DFFC before committing to any aspect of the project.

New Batting Cage for Bluemont Park, Field #3 Recommended Budget \$25-30K

The batting cage that was part of the original design for the renovation of Field #3 was deleted due to cost constraints. The DFFC was considering to take this on as a project for 2018. This would be a worthwhile improvement to an already excellent facility, just recently completed.

The challenge would be to engage and inform the local community regarding the detailed scope of the project and the impact (fence, noise) it might have on the closest neighbors. In view of the reaction of local neighbors to the fencing install on the ball diamond of Field #3 during renovation, the process of community engagement would likely cause significant delay to the start of the project or even cancel it altogether.

Decision- Considering the currently available funds in the DFFC account (~\$75K) the expenditure of over 30% on this project does not seem prudent at this time in view of the financial impact and the tenuous social climate. All members present agreed, with the support of their respective organization Boards, that this project should be shelved for at least 1 year and allow the DFFC account to grow, the project to mature and gain additional "distance" over the controversy of the field fencing.

GB #3 Batters-Eye backdrop- A brief discussion was held on the possibility of resurrecting the project to install a batters eye in the outfield of GB Field #3. Former Sports Commission Chair, Bill Murray will be contacted to see if he still has the price estimates that he originally obtained several years ago. This is not likely to be considered for a 2018 project, but the project should be re-investigated.

Decision- Gather any available information regarding previous efforts to define the scope and cost of installing a batters eye at GB #3. This information would be used to determine viability for future consideration as a DFFC project.

Conference call ended at 12:38

Steve Severn

4MRV

Name

Shirley Brothwell

Member Report Subject

4MRV

Summary

The 4MRV Working Group did not meet in January. Two meetings were scheduled; both were cancelled. The working group chair had agreed to provide time at the January 10 meeting to discuss the contents of the joint PRC/SC letter. Since the meeting was cancelled, I will have to contact him to see when he plans to reschedule this discussion.

There will be a working session with the Board in February. The PRC Chair, Bill Ross, and I plan to conduct outreach to each Board member over the next two weeks to ensure they are aware of the joint letter and the concerns we have about the working group's direction. (Decisions by the Board at the last working session seemed to have been teed up by the Chair to go in a particular direction. I'd like to counter that this time.)

Bill Ross contacted working group members last week to positively state that the joint letter reflects the views of the entire PRC. This was done to counteract statements made by working group Vice Chair Stompler in a working group leadership session that the letter merely reflected the personal views of two people (former PRC Chair Haynes and me) and therefore did not warrant any further attention.

Reed School

Name

Shirley Brothwell

Member Report Subject

Reed School

Summary

I've attended the last two meetings of the Reed School planning committee (much of the work so far is being done jointly by the BLPC and the PFRC). APS intends to create a 725 student elementary school this site that will open by 2021. Project budget is \$49 million. Three concept designs are to be approved by the School Board in March 2018. Sports amenities at this location include a youth diamond field, two soccer fields, and two basketball courts, as well as a playground (all on APS-owned land) and a park on the site of the former Westover library (on County-owned land). There is a very popular sledding hill that connects to two soccer fields.

At the Jan. 10 meeting, the group reviewed and commented on a 4th set of concept designs. One design, called the Integrated design, concentrates all of the needed school space on the existing building footprint by tearing down the recently-constructed addition for the Children's School and building a three-story school in its place. This plan would allow for retention of existing sports and park amenities, though possibly rearranged and upgraded. A second design, called the Upper/Lower design, splits the classroom space between the existing construction and new construction on what is currently the youth diamond field. This plan rearranges sports amenities, moving the diamond field and one soccer field, and results in the loss of one basketball court. A third plan, called the Standalone design, builds a 1,000 student school on what is currently the youth diamond and parts of the County park. This plan results in rearrangement of the sports amenities, merging the diamond field outfield and one soccer field, moves the 2nd soccer field, and eliminates one basketball court.

At the Jan. 17 meeting, the planners resurrected a 4th design at the request of the committee. This design, called the Bridge design, would build on 2nd story on the existing Children's School and add additional school space next to it on what is currently the youth baseball diamond. Its impact on the sports amenities are identical to the Upper/Lower design.

Key additional considerations that impact space are the need for additional parking and accommodating bus and parent drop-off. The planners have offered up a range of parking and transportation models. Some impact surrounding streets. Others impact existing parking areas, and some of these also impact the park, either by cutting into the space currently used by the diamond field or by eliminating the upper soccer field and any opportunity for sledding.

At the Jan. 10 meeting, I offered SC input and heard input from neighbors, APS, and teachers. The Jan. 17 meeting was specifically designed for obtaining community input. There is overwhelming support from all quarters for the Integrated design. It has the least impact on the park and provides the best flow and structure for instructional purposes. It falls within the budget, but has the highest "per seat" cost of all the designs. There is concern that the School Board will not favor this design because it entails tearing down 9-year old construction.

Of the other designs, the Standalone design would be \$1-3 million over budget but result in the lowest per student cost, primarily because it offers 275 more seats than the other plans. The Bridge design would be around budget. The Upper/Lower would come in under budget.

The SC should provide input to the School Board in advance of its March 2018 decision point. This is a rare moment where all stakeholders are unified in their preferences (for the Integrated design). The School Board needs to be made aware of the very strong preference, even if it means tearing down recent construction. (Note: The School Board knew at the time it approved the design for the Children's School ten years ago that it might need to

add a second/third story to the building at some point in the future. The design that was approved at that time does not lend itself well or easily to expansion. It is poorly designed for instructional purposes and also not ideal from a construction standpoint. The SB won't be anxious to take the heat for making a poor decision.)

Gymnastics Meet

Name

Shirley Brothwell

Member Report Subject

Gymnastic Meet

Summary

I attended the Aerials invitational meet on Sunday, Jan. 14. There were about 630 participants in the competition. This is bigger than meets that the Aerials have hosted in previous years. Expansions to the gymnastics space at Barcroft Community Center made it possible to host a larger meet under USA Gymnastics rules.

With the two gym structure, participants were able to warm up in one gym while the competition took place in the other gym.

The one concern I have is with spectator comfort and safety. Some space was allocated in the competition gym for movable risers. These were full and additional spectators sat in front of the risers on the floor and stood behind them. All other spectators, of which there seemed to be hundreds, were crammed into the viewing balcony above the gyms. The Aerials provided folding chairs but the balcony was packed and many people were not able to sit down. I heard many parents complain about the accommodations and leave the viewing area in disgust.

I spoke to the booster club president about this. He said the fire marshal had come by and approved the plan ahead of time, but I do wonder if the fire marshal came back and saw the actual circumstances. I also spoke the Carly, the head coach, about trying to increase seating in the competition area. It would be useful to examine whether retractable permanent bleachers could be installed in the one corner set aside for viewing. Carly said the Aerials don't charge a gate fee, which is common at other meets, and this causes families to bring lots of people with them.

Parking, of course, is a concern. The parking garage and parking lot are not sufficient to accommodate the influx of cars. There is some parking available at Barcroft 6 and on the street, but parking in the area is generally tight. Also, the boosters complained about DPR regulations for selling food on site. The requirement to sell only packaged food products (absent a food license) limits what they can provide and cuts into their fundraising profits. DPR could do more to provide information on food trucks that could offer freshly prepared food from the parking lot.

POPS

Name

Justin Wilt

Member Report Subject

POPS

Summary

Two Advisory Committee meetings coming up - Feb. 7 & 13 (prepping for Work Session), followed by the County Board Work Session on Feb. 20.

This work session will be used to provide updates to the Board, and also to seek their input on some more complex topics we are trying to figure out as part of this process, such as land acquisition, fields (turf & lights), Level of Service, natural resources & trees, and casual use spaces.

Unclear at this time if any SC participation is needed beyond routine attendance by rep(s).

Rectangular Fields Users Group

Name

Justin Wilt

Member Report Subject

Rectangular Fields Users Group

Summary

So far have positive responses for participation in this group from Arlington Soccer, Arlington Womens Soccer, and YULA. No reply so far from Aussie Rules football, Arlington Coed Kicks (adult coed), and lacrosse.

Will follow up with the non-respondents and also ask several parents from Flag Football (County-run program) if any of them could represent as well.

Hoping to schedule an initial meeting in February.

Aquatics Committee

Janet Eichers

I attended the Aquatics Committee meeting on January 18th. We did a walk through of the Wakefield Swimming Facility and identified some items of wear and tear that are going to be addressed in the coming year. The heat has been out at that facility for some time though the pools being heated has naturally kept the temperatures at levels conducive to using the facility. We spent the remaining portion of our meeting time reviewing the 2017 budget performance (slightly under budget), and discussing the upcoming budget year. The aquatics program is intending to raise user fees throughout the system by around 5% for users, and 10-15% for groups/rentals. It should be noted that fees have remained constant for 2 previous years and the COL Index has risen during that time, as have maintenance and support costs. I believe that decision will be made before the March budget input dates. Finally we began a collaborative process to prioritize advocacy and communication efforts for the committee that we will continue in the coming few meetings. I will provide updates on that probably from the next meeting this coming month.



ARLINGTON COUNTY
SPORTS COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201



January 8, 2017

The Honorable Katie Cristol
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Cristol,

I am pleased to provide the 2017 annual report on the activities of the Sports Commission and the Aquatics Committee. According to its charter, the Sports Commission serves as a conduit for information about sports and physical fitness programs among community organizations, agencies of the County government, and the Board. The Aquatics Committee serves as a conduit for information about aquatic programs between and among community organizations, including Arlington's several aquatic recreational and competitive associations, and the county government and Arlington Public Schools as they relate to the operations and use of county pools.

As Arlington's population grows, our public land and facilities are increasingly taxed to adequately serve the community. Our advisory bodies are often at the center of contentious discussions about how to best use our fields and sports facilities. The Sports Commission is constantly thinking about ways to improve sports capacity in creative ways that promote collaborative uses across a range of constituents. We strive to serve the Board and the broader Arlington community by engaging in open, constructive dialogue to help identify viable, sustainable solutions to our capacity challenges.

If you or the other Board members have any feedback or questions about the content of this annual report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shirley Brothwell
Chair

Cc: ?

Arlington Sports Commission 2017 Annual Report

Summary

During 2017, the Sports Commission was involved in a number of county processes in both official and voluntary capacities. Due to the growing demand for field space, a top priority in 2017 was the preservation, use, and improvement of outdoor fields. Through its participation in processes like the Williamsburg Lights Working Group, the update to the Public Spaces Master Plan, and the Four Mile Run Valley Working Group, the Commission brings a community-wide, multi-sport perspective to county efforts with near- and long-term impacts. The Commission looks for opportunities to promote investment in Arlington's sports amenities and supported Arlington Sports Foundation efforts to facilitate community-driven investment in synthetic turf for the Gunston Middle School softball field. This project will add hundreds of new playable hours and much-needed flexibility to a key field asset. The Commission continues to work closely with DPR to help ensure that Arlington's fields are fairly shared among new and existing sport user groups and primarily benefit Arlington residents. Finally, the Commission welcomed the Board's actions to bring the Long Bridge Park Aquatics and Fitness Center one step closer to reality, a key milestone following decades of Commission involvement in the siting and design of this important project.

Structure and Membership

The Sports Commission is chartered to have 13 members appointed by the County Board.¹ The Commission started out the year at full strength, but lost several members during 2017. Getting back to full strength is a priority for 2018.

Heather Coccozza served as the Commission Chair from January through June 2017. Shirley Brothwell was designated as Chair in July 2017.

At its July 2017 meeting, the Commission agreed there would be value in having a Vice Chair to help manage the group's increasing workload. The Commission sought the Board's approval, and in September, Justin Wilt was named Vice Chair.

The Commission has two subsidiary bodies: the Aquatics Committee and the Arlington Youth Baseball Authority (AYBA).² Information about the Aquatics Committee's 2017 activities can be found on page 7.

¹ Commission members during 2017 included: John Bacon, Shirley Brothwell, Heather Coccozza (departed June 2017), Sherry Kohan, Reggie Kouba (departed September 2017), Drew Murray, Jessica Paska, Larry Robertson (departed September 2017), Doug Ross (departed xxxx?), Steve Severn, David Tornquist, Patricia Trapanese, and Justin Wilt. The Commission's primary DPR staff liaison is Josh Colman. Debbie DeFranco serves as the group's liaison to Arlington Public Schools.

² The Aquatics Committee reports to the County Board (through the Sports Commission) and the School Board. It makes recommendations on the adequacy and efficiency of aquatic-related programs and facilities, engages stakeholders, and serves as a conduit for information about aquatics programs. The AYBA is charged with improving the baseball experience for ballplayers ages 12 & under, focusing specifically on making progress toward the consolidation of two league-run youth baseball programs.

The Sports Commission meets monthly throughout the year (except in August), generally on the 4th Thursday of each month. In 2017, the Commission met 11 times at the Langston-Brown Community Center. Commission meetings are open to the public, and past attendance by the public suggests that members of the community are interested in Sports Commission business.

Participation in Work Groups, Committees, and Other Processes

The Sports Commission carries out its advisory role in part through official participation in county-established working groups, committees, and task forces. During 2017, the Sports Commission was an official member of the following groups:

- Four Mile Run Valley Working Group
- Greenbrier Operations Committee
- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee
- Public Spaces Master Plan Working Group
- Williamsburg Lights Working Group
- Sports Users Field Allocation Advisory Group

The Commission also voluntarily monitors other processes where it does not have an official role in order to stay informed of any developments that may warrant further attention. During 2017, Commission members monitored processes, received briefings, and attended meetings on a range of topics and initiatives, including:

- Park and Recreation Commission; identify areas of common interest
- Joint Facilities Advisory Committee's sub-committee meetings on the Buck and Carlin Springs properties
- Park planning (Benjamin Banneker, Madison Manor, South Park, Stratford Park)
- Washington/Kirkwood General Land Use Plan
- George Washington University baseball clubhouse and batting cages
- Aquatics Committee
- Out-of-School-Time Advisory Council efforts to examine ways to improve sports participation among underserved youth population
- Youth league presentations on their efforts to provide programs or do outreach to underserved youth
- Arlington County Tennis Association; condition and availability of public courts
- Arlington High School Rifle Program; need for a permanent home

Issues Addressed in 2017

In light of the tremendous growth in youth registrations in field-based sports, the Sports Commission's focus in 2017 was on the protection, expansion, and effective use of Arlington fields. Steady development and a growing county population indicate a likely need for additional sports fields. However, several factors, including limited public land and increased interest in preserving and expanding unprogrammed green spaces, make it difficult to expand the current field inventory.

The Sports Commission supports using existing fields in the most effective way possible. Many of

its 2017 activities and projects were aimed at maximizing the usefulness of existing assets.

- Two Sports Commission members participated in the Williamsburg Field Working Group that was examining a proposal to add lights to two synthetic turf soccer fields. The Commission supports adding lights wherever feasible because this helps expand playable hours. The Commission favored adding lights at Williamsburg due to its proximity to a large number of soccer registrants and supported a range of mitigation steps to minimize the impact of lights on the surrounding neighborhood.
- The Commission has been an active participant in the Planning Our Public Spaces process, providing commentary on the draft plan, particularly the methodology behind the proposed service standards upon which future expansion decisions will be based.
- The Commission was represented on the Four Mile Run Valley Working Group, where it advocated for the preservation of all existing sports amenities and the addition of fitness and small sport amenities and unprogrammed green spaces. The Commission also strongly advocated that the DPR-acquired properties in the Jennie Dean Park planning area west of Nelson Street should be used for sports and recreational purposes.
- The Commission recommended three improvement projects be undertaken using Field Fund money paid by diamond field user groups:
 1. Underway - support a proposal by the Arlington Sports Foundation to change the adult softball field playing surface at Gunston Middle School from natural grass to synthetic turf (contribution from fund = \$190,000);
 2. Completed - construct a storage shed at Greenbrier Park for use by diamond field sports groups (contribution from fund = \$33,000); and
 3. Cancelled - install a new concrete pad at the Greenbrier batting cage (contribution from fund = \$10,000).³

Project #1 improves efficiency by creating a more durable field that better withstands weather events and can be used by multiple sports, including adult softball, youth baseball, and all rectangular field sports. Project #2 helps user groups better maintain the fields at Greenbrier by allowing for on-site storage of maintenance equipment.

- The Commission worked with DPR and sport user groups to further improve DPR's new field allocation policy by making recommendations on residency requirements and new sport user group requirements. [What was the impact of our work?]
- The Commission collected data from sport user groups to analyze field use practices (particularly density of use, i.e., number of players using the fields during practices) to determine whether density can be increased without degrading the quality of the user's experience. [Any more to say about this?]
- The Commission looks for ways to make even small additions to field inventory. In that regard, it made inquiries into whether the concrete courts at the Washington-Lee High

³ Project was cancelled because it could not be completed within the approved funding allocation.

School parking garage (currently used for futsal and other County programs) could be converted to a synthetic turf playing field.

- As part of the Joint Facility Advisory Committee’s deliberations on the Buck and Carlin Springs properties, the Commission advocated that one of the two properties should include a new playing field.

The Commission undertook some non-field related activities as well.

- A Commission member continued to serve on the Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee. Commission members reviewed and commented on the various pool designs and supported the design recommended by the County Manager.
- One Commission member worked with the Out-of-School-Time Commission to [need Patricia’s help here....]

Completed Projects

Projects that the Commission has supported which were finalized in 2017 include:

- Upgrade to Bluemont Field #3
- Expansion of the Gymnastics space at Barcroft Community Center
- Installation of storage shed at Greenbrier Park

Communication

The Sports Commission provided formal input and communication to the Board, County Manager, or other entities on a range of topics in 2017.

Statement/Letter	To/Date	Outcome
<u>Stratford Middle School Athletic Field/Use Permit</u> – revise the plans to allow for a full-sized rectangular field	County Board 3/6/17	
<u>Input on the FY 18 Budget</u> – allocate DPR feasibility study funds to identify a possible location for an indoor sports athletic center, convert temporary gymnastics and aquatics staff positions to permanent, and allocate funds to leave Yorktown restrooms open during the winter	County Manager 3/19/17	
<u>Position on Lighting Williamsburg Fields</u> – light the fields but add appropriate mitigation including an MOA between DPR and the neighborhood and a Friends of Williamsburg Field group to help improve communication	County Board 6/7/17	The County Board directed DPR to study ways to add field capacity in north Arlington.
<u>Membership to the PFRC</u> – request for a permanent Sports Commission role on the	County Board	Request was denied; Sports Commission is encouraged to

Public Facilities Review Commission	6/27/17	identify individual projects where its participation would be useful.
<u>Benjamin Banneker Park</u> – in support of the proposed park redesign plans	County Board 11/26/17	
<u>Joint PRC/SC Letter to the 4MRVWG</u> – Park and Recreation and Sports Commission joint commentary on the Four Mile Run Valley Working Group’s deliberations	Working Group 11/28/17	4MRVWG agreed to discuss the letter at a subsequent meeting.

Arlington Aquatics Committee 2017 Activities

Structure and Membership

The Arlington Aquatics Committee is composed of ten members (five appointed by the Arlington County Board and five appointed by the Arlington Public Schools (APS) Board). Members of the Committee include Donald Hesse, Chair (DPR selected), Cynthia Hilton Vice-Chair (APS selected), Guy Land (APS selected), MacKenzie Kearney (APS selected), Anna Necheles (DPR selected), Diane Romanek (DPR selected), Marilyn Judson (DPR selected), Janet Eichers (DPR selected), Kristi Sawert (APS selected), and Ron Kampeas (APS selected).

The committee has a DPR staff liaison, Jennifer Lainhart, and an APS staff liaison, Helena Machado. Erik Vandemeulebroecke (County Board appointed representative) ended his term in 2017 and was replaced by Marilyn Judson. Two new School Board representatives (Kristi Sawert and Ron Kampeas) were appointed in 2017.

The Arlington Aquatics Committee met eight times in 2017 (three times at the Washington and Lee pool, three times at the Wakefield pool and two times at the Yorktown pool). Committee members also met at the November 28 Arlington County Board meeting.

Participation in Work Groups, Committees, and Other Processes

The Vice Chair of the committee attended meetings concerning plans for development of new high school spaces. The Chair attended key stakeholder meetings in preparation for the FY 2019 budget.

Issues Addressed in 2017

The committee provided recommendations to the APS Director of Aquatics Management for changes or modifications to the existing Pool Rules and Regulations. The committee began its review and update of the current Joint Aquatics Committed Charter to comply with the latest Arlington County Advisory Group Charter format.

Communication

Statement/Letter	To/Date
Input on the FY 18 Budget	County Board & School Board
Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center	County Board 11/28/17

Arlington Sports Commission

2018 Annual Plan

(I) Theme: Recreational Facilities, Facility Capacity and Related Issues

Objective	Activity	Time Frame	Assigned to
1. Take steps to help improve rectangular and diamond field condition, availability, and efficient use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to pursue the viability of putting synthetic turf on the futsal court at W-L b. Advocate for improvements at the Gunston community field c. Seek info from DPR of fields that are scheduled for upgrades over the next 5 years and how DPR goes about making these decisions. Schedule regular meetings for information exchange. d. Learn more about non-infill artificial turf options and encourage DPR to preview these product options. e. Review the results of the field allocation study and the 2017 SC survey of user groups & national governing bodies to identify any themes or areas where further efficiencies could be gained f. Learn more about DPR field scheduling practices (how are fields designated for certain uses, how are fields assigned, what is the role of league volunteers in doing the actual allocation, how does DPR ensure that fields are used as scheduled) g. Survey/interview sports groups, especially volunteers who allocate fields for DPR, to learn more about their experiences, level of satisfaction with current practices, ideas for improvement h. Identify other fields in the county that could be either good for a Sports Foundation project (i.e., moderate improvements) or are just generally overlooked/forgotten i. Organize Sports Commission field trips to certain fields or parks to improve our collective understanding of field locations and conditions k. Research how other communities structure multi-use fields. 		Justin/David
2. Develop a better SC understanding/awareness of current and unmet demand for indoor facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Request briefing from DPR on current use, number of facilities, amenities available at each, how facility is used now (by whom for what), nature of unmet demand, nature of any ongoing considerations to reallocate how facilities are currently used, any plans on the books for adding or expanding indoor capacity. b. Ask DPR to provide information on the perceived need for a MAC/fieldhouse in Arlington and what was envisioned for Long Bridge Park. c. Ask DPR to explain options for "co-located" facilities (what kinds of functions can be located together, how can budget concerns ever be overcome?). 		Justin

(II) Theme: Underserved Groups and Communities

1. Take steps to develop a strategy for addressing the underserved youth population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and collect information from coaches who have organized outreach programs to identify the challenges and options for best addressing/serving this population b. Identify other groups in town who might care about this issue and be willing to work on it 		
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Objective	Activity	Time Frame	Assigned to
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Collect information from DPR and sports leagues to identify underserved schools d. Work with APS and other commissions to develop a possible approach or a pilot program for sustainable outreach e. Prepare a report, make recommendations to the county for steps they can take and steps others can take 		
2. Develop information on the sports needs of the differently-abled community and the extent to which these needs are met by DPR facilities and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish connections with APS teachers and administrators who work with differently-abled children. b. Establish connections with sports leagues or programs that currently serve differently-abled athletes. 		
(III) Improve the Commission's Network			
1. Identify other Commissions and/or interest groups with whom the SC should build a relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Parks and Rec Commission b. Energy and Environment Conservation Commission c. Bicycle Advisory Committee d. Economic Development Committee e. Urban Forestry Commission f. Planning Commission g. APS Strategic Plan Working Group 		Shirley
(IV) Ongoing / Continued Commission Work			
Objective	Activity	Time Frame	Assigned to
1. Continue to participate in the 4MRV project and advocate for increased sports & rec amenities in this area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Send joint letter with PRC to the working group asking for more analysis of the plan for an arts district and submission of an alternative for the two-block area that adheres to the group charge b. Meet with individual Board members to inform them about the direction the WG is taking, seek their support for adherence to the group charge a. Connect with JFAC leadership 	Done	Shirley
2. Continue to participate in the JFAC process and monitor developments related to the Buck/Carlin Springs properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Write letter to JFAC to advocate for including additional field siting options as part of their feasibility study 	January 2018	Shirley/Justin
3. Continue to participate in the POPS process and monitor key developments related to fields, field uses, field capacity, lighting of fields, etc.	Conduct outreach to the Board on the SC perspective about POPS	January-February 2018	Jessica/Shirley
4. Monitor other development projects where fields and indoor spaces are affected/included/possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Madison Manor b. Reed School c. Career Center/new high school d. Work with Member Dorsey, Park and Rec Commission and DPR to ensure that the SC is made aware of other projects where SC representation would be valuable 	January-February 2018	Jessica
		February - March 2018	Justin
		ongoing	Sherry
		ongoing	Shirley or ?
		Request pending	
		ongoing	

Objective	Activity	Time Frame	Assigned to
<p>5. Aid the creation and potential management of diamond and rectangular field advocacy groups.</p>	<p>a. Support the creation of such groups by connecting relevant parties.</p> <p>b. Monitor progress toward group formation and offer support and advice.</p>	<p>October - December 2017</p> <p>January - July 2018</p>	<p>Justin/Shirley</p> <p>Justin for rectangular; Steve for diamond</p>
<p>6. Pursue opportunities to put the Sports Commission in front of the County Board, individual County Board members, the School Board, County officials, other Commission chairs, civic associations, etc.</p>	<p>a. Increase outreach to individual County Board members</p> <p>b. Increase frequency of SC written statements (letters and position statements) on any issue that relates to sports or our objectives</p> <p>c. Ensure that the SC makes oral statements to the Board on issues that relate to sports or our objectives</p> <p>d. Meet at least 1-2 times per year with DPR senior leaders</p> <p>e. Seek meetings with other County officials that could be relevant to our agenda</p> <p>f. Consider ways to outreach to civic associations, promote our Commission, invite their input, seek new members</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout 2018</p>	<p>The Chair and Co-Chair will take the lead on outreach to Board member and meetings with DPR senior leaders. All SC members should participate in identifying opportunities for SC statements and outreach, and all members are welcome to meet with County Board members.</p>

1. Take steps to develop a strategy for addressing the **underserved youth population**
 - a. Identify and collect information from coaches who have organized outreach programs to identify the challenges and options for best addressing/serving this population
 - b. Identify other groups in town who might care about this issue and be willing to work on it
 - c. Collect information from DPR and sports leagues to identify underserved schools
 - d. Work with APS and other commissions to develop a possible approach or a pilot program for sustainable outreach
 - e. Prepare a report, make recommendations to the county for steps they can take and steps others can take

REVISED

1. Take steps to develop a strategy for addressing the **underserved youth population**
 - a. Work with APS and other commissions to develop and implement a pilot program for sustainable outreach
 - b. Identify other sports groups in town who might care about this issue and be willing to work on the pilot program
 - c. After pilot program, prepare report based on experience of key learnings and recommendations to the county on steps that can take to continue to address underserved population. Report will include all sports groups and commissions that are willing to help or already working to address this need. Report will also have recommendations for other program possibilities.

SAFE WHISTLES COALITION

JAN 25 2018

www.safewhistles.com

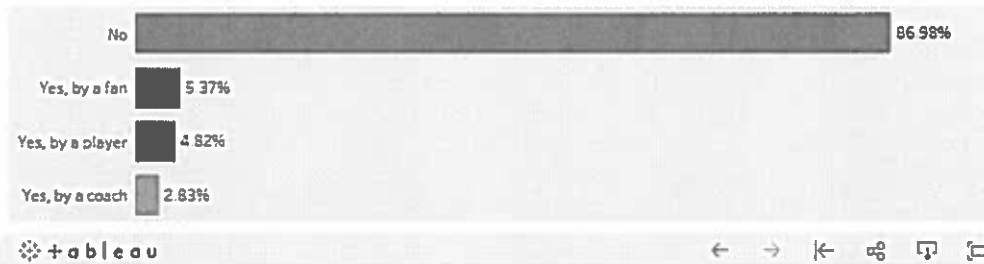
JESSE ROSENTHAL – ARLINGTON SPORTS BIO

- Arlington County Sports Commission Member (2004-2011)
- Arlington Soccer – Asst Coach for NW Lions
- Arlington Basketball – Assistant Coach for Red Hawks
- Arlington Little League/Babe Ruth – Coach for multiple teams
- Professional: USSF Referee Assignor for Arlington County Co-ed Kicks Soccer League since 2004
- Professional: USSF Referee since 1987, Former Associate Instructor
- Safe Whistles Coalition Coordinator – JAN 2018 (www.safewhistles.com)

SPORTS OFFICIAL ABUSE ACCELERATING UNSUSTAINABLE RATES

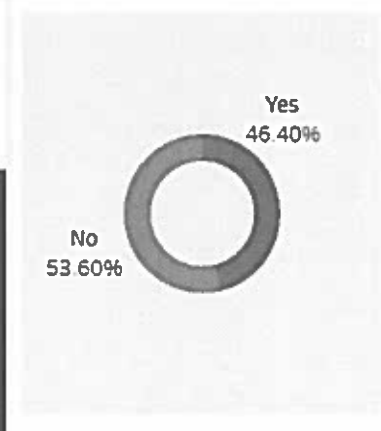
86.35% of Respondents have suffered verbal abuse in their officiating roles.

Have you ever been physically assaulted during or after a game?



Sports Official Abuse Resulting in Fears for Safety

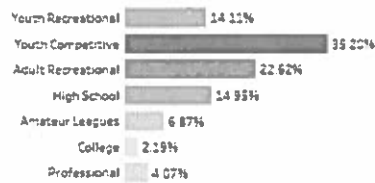
Have you ever felt unsafe or feared for your safety due to administrator, player, coach, or spectator behavior?



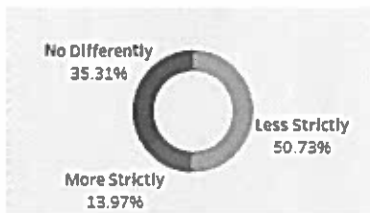
WHEN SPORTSMANSHIP GETS WORSE ...

Does sportsmanship change when there's more on the line?

At what level is sportsmanship worst?



Do officials penalize sportsmanship issues differently during big games, playoffs, or championships?



Does the level of sportsmanship change during big games, playoffs, or championships?

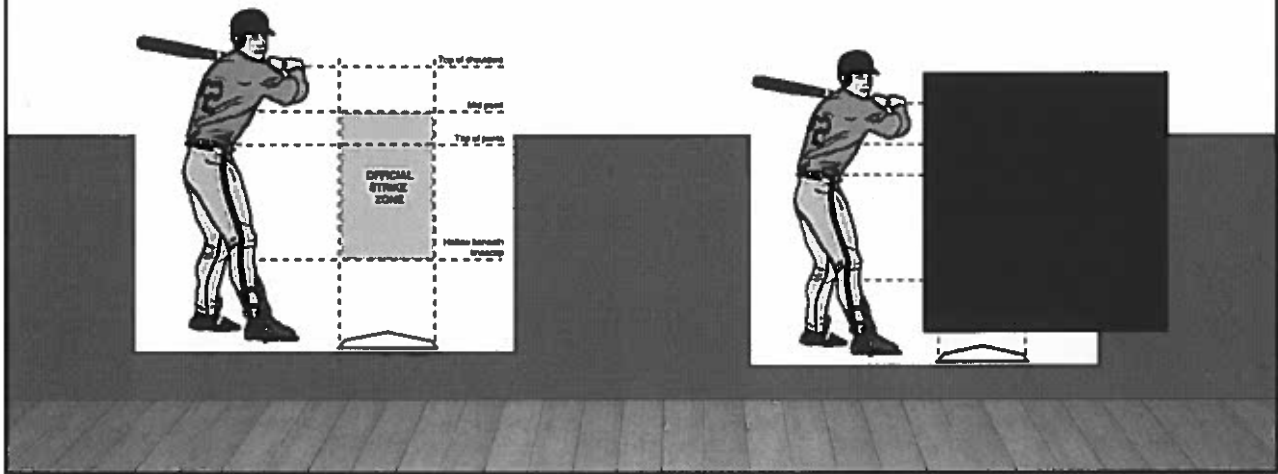


NASQ 2017 Survey Data

OFFICIAL TURNOVER ACCELERATING IN MOST TEAM SPORTS

- 50 percent of baseball umpires retire after first year. Within 6 years, 80 percent have permanently exited umpire responsibilities.
- 35 percent of soccer referees do not renew their certifications.
- 40 percent fewer officials are supporting football games.
- 25 percent of basketball officials are hanging up their whistles.
- 80 percent of all high school sports officials have quit after two years.

IMAGINE THE IMPACT ON YOUR SPORTS ...



WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

- Preference is for deterrence via Visible Enforcement
- Legislative Approach (HB 1315)
- Signage at County Facilities
- Empowering the County Rover/Facility Monitor
- Condition Future Permits on Coach and Spectator Behavior

2018 SPORTS OFFICIAL ABUSE PREVENTION (SOAP) ACT – HB 1315

- Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for a person to, in the presence or hearing of a sports official, curse or abuse the sports official or use violent abusive language toward the sports official concerning the sports official or his relations under circumstances reasonably calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. Currently, such conduct is punished as a Class 3 misdemeanor regardless of the subject of such conduct.
- Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:
- 1. That § 18.2-416 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

- § 18.2-416. Punishment for using abusive language to another
- If any person shall, in the presence or hearing of another, curse or abuse such other person, or use any violent abusive language to such person concerning himself or any of his relations, or otherwise use such language, under circumstances reasonably calculated to provoke a breach of the peace, he shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. If any person violates this section where such other person is a sports official, he is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. For purposes of this section, "sports official" means an umpire, referee, judge, scorekeeper, timekeeper, or other participant who is a neutral participant in a sports event.

SIGNAGE OPTIONS

- **Balanced Loss Prevention Model**
 - "Cheering is great, abusers will be prosecuted"
- **Warning Model**
 - *Virginia Code 18.2-416: If any person shall, in the presence or hearing of another, curse or abuse such other person, or use any violent abusive language to such person concerning himself or any of his relations, or otherwise use such language, under circumstances reasonably calculated to provoke a breach of the peace, he shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor. Class 3 misdemeanors can earn jail sentence.*

Who is next up?

www.safewhistles.com/coalition

www.safewhistles.com

BACKGROUND MATERIALS

NASO METHODOLOGY

- Conducted during the spring and summer of 2017
- The National Officiating Survey was completed by more than **17,000** sports officials from all levels and all sports
- Data variables controlled for Virginia

ARLINGTON SPORTS COMMISSION – LOBBY HISTORY

- Arlington Sports Commission has lobbied General Assembly before
 - Permit hours for neighborhood sports fields
 - Parks Bonds



**ARLINGTON COUNTY
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPORTS COMMISSION
2100 CLARENDON BOULEVARD, SUITE 414
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201**



November 28, 2017

Mr. Charles Monfort, Chairman
Four Mile Run Valley Working Group

Dear Chairman Monfort,

The Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) and the Sports Commission (SC) have monitored and participated in the deliberations of the Four Mile Run Valley Working Group (4MRVWG) since its inception in April 2016. At the outset, we expected a process generating dynamic and innovative designs for the area plan and the park master plan that would fundamentally transform and improve the study area. While the group has engaged in extensive discussions and reviewed many plans over the last 18 months, we don't believe the group has yet realized the full potential of what is possible for this area, and given the late stage of the group's planning efforts, we are disappointed to realize that the final outcomes may not be as transformative as they could have been.

A key focus on the working group has been the two-block area west of Nelson Street. Indeed, we believe the group's focus on this area has been disproportionate and has diverted attention away from creatively planning the rest of the study area. Moreover, we are not convinced that an arts hub in these two blocks is appropriate for reasons we address in this letter, nor are we convinced that it can actually happen. Many important questions, particularly on financing, remain unaddressed.

Because of these issues, we believe the 4MRVWG runs a very real risk of missing the target altogether and doing a disservice to the County Board and residents. The Board may get a clear vision of what some members of the working group prefer for a **tiny portion of the study area**, but constituencies in the surrounding neighborhoods and in the parks, recreation, and sports communities already have challenged and rejected that vision. We believe this pushback will grow stronger and will eventually include a broader cross section of Arlington taxpayers. At the same time, the Board will not get a clear sense for what the working group envisions for **the rest of the study area**. As a result, two consequences are possible: (1) additional planning will be needed, which may or may not include community representatives, or (2) development in the Four Mile Run Valley will be solely market-driven and lack a cohesive and strategic orientation.

Long-Term Planning for Park Expansion

As the working group knows, long-standing and deliberate plans have been implemented over the past twenty years to acquire additional land near Jennie Dean Park **for the purpose of expanding the park to meet a range of county needs.** According to the 2017-2026 CIP, “over the past ten years, the County has strategically increased the park space at Jennie Dean Park through the assemblage of five new properties. The properties...will be developed as an important recreation, cultural and environmental resource to serve this vibrant area as recommended in the Public Spaces Master Plan.” Indeed, the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan recognized the Four Mile Run Valley as one of the few remaining large tracts of open space in Arlington that could help address the “strong documented need for aquatics, fitness, teen center, arts and multi-purpose spaces, along with need for additional outdoor trails, fields and natural areas.” These needs, documented in 2005, have only increased.

In 2016, the County Board directed the 4MRVWG to develop a “Park Master Plan [that] will provide a vision for the comprehensive replacement and realignment of existing park features (exclusively for park purposes) and **the addition of new park amenities to meet the growing demand for active and passive recreation, cultural resources and natural resource preservation.**”

In addition, the working group received a range of public input during the December 2016 visioning session about expanding Jennie Dean Park to meet the growing need for casual use and recreational spaces.

The PRC and SC representatives to the 4MRVWG have expressed concern about and opposition to a movement within the working group that some of the acquired five parcels should be used exclusively for an arts hub instead of park expansion. We believe this singular focus ignores the clear intent of the CIP, the working group charge, and public input that the acquired parcels should be used to address a multiplicity of needs. In our opinion, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to increase recreational and casual use space opportunities at Jennie Dean Park for the near- and long-term benefit of neighbors and the overall community runs the risk of being squandered.

Concerns About a Possible Arts Hub and the Relationship to Park Bonds

The PRC and SC recognize that there is broad support for expanding cultural amenities in the 4MRV, and we support that expansion. However, we have many concerns about the concept of an arts hub as currently envisioned by the 4MRVWG:

1. Real estate acquired with park bond funds for the expansion of Jennie Dean Park should not be redirected toward an entirely different use from what was supported by taxpayers. Doing so violates public trust in using bonds as a means for financing specific types of projects.
2. We recognize that all of cultural resources, parks and recreation once fell under the former Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR). We also recognize that arts and recreation are combined in many jurisdictions and we support integration of uses, where appropriate. However, when bond funds voted on by Arlington taxpayers and designated for park land acquisition have been redirected toward arts

purposes in the past, the results have not been positive; specifically, \$4 million of such funds were redirected to build out the Artisphere. We note that the arts were pulled out from PRCR after it became apparent that the Artisphere was financially unsustainable. We do not want to repeat a costly mistake.

3. Given the unfortunate experiences with the Artisphere, if the 4MRVWG intends to recommend that some of the parcels intended for the expansion of Jennie Dean Park should be similarly redirected toward an arts hub, it is imperative to be fully open and transparent with taxpayers about this plan and give them the opportunity to voice support or opposition.
4. It remains unclear how the proposed arts hub would be financed or managed over time to become self-sustaining. Before any acquired real estate is redirected in this manner, the full nature and extent of the county's financial commitment, including in-kind resources and other subsidies, to the arts groups located at 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive should be fully transparent. Further, the full nature and extent of any future county financial commitment to an arts hub in the 4MRV should also be clearly defined. Many questions remain unaddressed by the 4MRVWG, including how such a hub would be financed, how such a hub would compete with or complement the growing arts hubs elsewhere in the county, and how such a hub might realistically develop in the 4MRV without dedicated county funding or in-kind resources.
5. More information needs to be made available on the usability of county-owned structures that might form the anchors for an arts hub. The working group does not know how long these buildings are expected to be functional in their current state, nor what level of funding would be needed to make them viable structures over the long term. Only once such information has been provided and analyzed can the working group make data-driven recommendations on how these buildings should be used, if at all, in the future. The PRC and SC object to reserving indefinitely the buildings and the associated parcels of land for uses other than the purpose for which they were purchased by the county (expansion of Jennie Dean Park), especially when we have no realistic estimate of the costs necessary to maintain and/or rebuild these structures.
6. The 4MRVWG also has not adequately addressed where an arts district could best be located geographically within the study area. For example, some residents have suggested that any arts district should be located close to existing commercial and entertainment amenities rather than immediately adjacent to Jennie Dean Park, while others favor locating an arts district closer to Nauck Town Square and Drew Model School, which has an arts focus. We believe the working group has an obligation to consider all potential areas and the potential benefits and drawbacks of various locations, rather than focus on one particular area that just happens to have a few county-owned properties within its boundaries or might be preferred by some for other reasons. Indeed, if taxpayers are going to be asked to provide financial support for a new arts hub, the lack of a comprehensive study and site selection would be irresponsible.

Requests/Recommendations

The PRC and SC believe that there are many interesting ways to integrate casual use, recreational and cultural spaces and activities in the Four Mile Run Valley. We recognize that there are a range of uses that need to be addressed, and we firmly support balanced allocation and multi-use facilities. However, we believe it is a mistake for the working group to continue along the current path without doing additional research, obtaining additional input, and developing a more varied set of design options for future planning.

We make the following requests/recommendations:

1. The working group should request specific information to help it understand the current financial commitment and support provided by the county to the arts groups using the building at 3700 Four Mile Run Drive. This information should address what groups are represented in the building, how they were selected, how long they have been present in the building, the nature and extent of their activities in the building (including number of hours present per week/month/year), their annual revenues and expenses, and what rent they pay for the facility and how that has changed over time.
2. The working group should identify desirable arts uses for other parts of the study area and should evaluate the viability of locating an arts hub in more than one part of the study area. This evaluation should include, among other things, the extent to which an arts focus in the Four Mile Run Valley complements or competes with other growing arts hubs around the county, including at Shirlington Village. The working group should also consider potential benefits and drawbacks of differing locations within the study area of an arts hub.
3. The working group should request specific information to help it understand the likely costs associated with rehabilitating the county-owned buildings that are proposed to serve as anchors for an arts hub west of Nelson Street.
4. The working group should develop more specific information on how an arts hub would be financed and the likely nature of the county's financial commitment over time.
5. Before the working group forwards any design plan to the County Board that repurposes real estate parcels that were acquired with park bond funds toward an arts hub, it should seek public input on this idea. This could be done by way of focus group meetings, meetings with civic associations and other interest groups, or other public fora.
6. Before the working group forwards any design plan to the County Board that repurposes real estate parcels that were acquired for park expansion towards an arts hub, it should identify other areas in the study area where a commensurate amount of park expansion could occur. This should include identifying specific properties that the county may wish to acquire for park expansion.
7. Given the very real possibility that, either for financial reasons or lack of taxpayer support, it is not feasible to move forward with an arts hub in the two blocks west of

Nelson Street, the working group should develop at least one design for the park planning area that incorporates all of the county-owned parcels into the expansion of Jennie Dean Park.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,



Caroline Haynes, Chair
Park and Recreation Commission



Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Sports Commission

cc: Honorable Jay Fiset, County Board Chairman
Honorable John Vihstadt, County Board Member and 4MRVWG Liaison
Members, Four Mile Run Valley Working Group
Members, Planning Commission
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Claude Williamson, Director, Community Planning, Housing and Development
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Victor Hoskins, Director, Arlington Economic Development

County Board FY19 Budget Work Session Schedule

Date	Day	Time	Topic	Commissions
Feb 22	Thurs.	4-5:30 pm	Work session with Manager	FAAC attends all
Feb 24	Sat.		County Manager Presents Proposed Budget	
Feb 28	Wed	4-6:30 pm	Revenue Overview Department of Human Services	- Disability, Aging, Long-term care, CSB, Women
March 6	Tues	3-6:00 pm	Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development (General Fund, Community Development Fund, CPHD Development Fund) Housing/Safety Net Libraries	- PC, HALRB - Housing, Tent. Land.
March 9	Fri	9-11 am	Department of Environmental Services (stormwater Fund, General Fund, Utilities Fund, Auto, Printing Fund, Ballston Garage Fund)	-E2C2, Complete Sis., NCAC
March 13	Tues	3-4:30 pm	Department of Parks and Recreation	-Urban Forestry, P&R, Sports, Aquatics
March 19	Mon	4-6:30 pm	Economic Development, BIDs, CPRO, Lee Hwy Alliance Clarendon Alliance Technology Services Compensation	- EDC, Arts - CCRC - ITAC - Civil Service, Human Rights
April 3	Tues	3-6 pm	Fire, Police, Office of Emergency Management, Sheriff	-EPAC, Audit Committee
April 5	Thur.	3-6 pm	Pay-As-You-Go Capital Transportation Capital Fund, Metro Tax Increment Financing Areas Debt Service	-TC
April 3	Tues.	7:00 pm	Public Budget Hearing	
April 5	Thurs.	7:00 pm	Public Tax Rate(s) Hearing	
April 6	Friday	9:00 – 11:30 am	Schools- (add Partnership Youth Risk Survey presentation) in the Board Room	-Partnership CYF, Teen Network Board, Out-of-School Time
April 10	Tues	2:30 -5:30 pm	Clerk of Circuit Court, General District Court, Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Circuit Court Judiciary, Magistrate, Office of Public Defender, Electoral Board, Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue	
April 10	Tues.	6-7:30 pm	Wrap-up-Board direction to staff on what info they still need for decision making	
April 19	Thurs.	5-7 pm	Final budget decisions/ Mark-up – Televised	
April 21	Sat.		Budget Adoption	

Paper Reports: County Board Office, County Manager's Office, Human Resources, County Attorney, Non-Departmental, Regionals, Management and Finance