

Joint Meeting Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission and Sports Commission

Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Langston Brown Community Center, MPR
Time: 7:00-9:15 PM

Sports Commission Members Present:

Heather Cocozza, Chair	Justin Wilt
Steve Severn	David Tornquist
Doug Ross	Shirley Brothwell
Drew Murray	Sherry Kohan
Patricia Trapanese	Reggie Kouba
Larry Robertson	John Bacon

Park and Recreation Members Present:

Caroline Haynes, Chair	Bill Ross, Vice Chair
Conor Marshall	Jim Feaster
Nereide Ellis	Michael J. Grace
Stephen Finn	David Howell
Cindy Krech	Andrea Walker
Jesse Boeding	

County/APS Staff:

Jane Rudolph, DPR	Michael Peter, DPR
Kate Thomas, DPR	Josh Colman, DPR
Diane Probus, DPR	Jim Meikle, APS
Deb DeFranco, APS	Ben Burgin, APS

Introductions

[7:03-7:06pm]

- Around the room with introductions.

FY18 Budget Overview (DPR Director Jane Rudolph and Michael Peter)

[7:06-7:45pm]

Jane Rudolph and Michael Peter discussed the FY18 budget.

- County Manager offered his proposed budget on Saturday.
- Board directed the County Manager to look at a series of cuts.

- Budget discussed today is based on initial presentation- not taking into account any potential cuts.
- Discussion on general fund increases
 - The biggest change is a conversion of temporary gymnastics and aquatics staff to permanent positions. This is fully covered by revenue.
 - As a result, some team fees were increased. Gymnastics/Aquatics teams were very interested in this and supportive of having full-time staff.
 - Mobile Work Order System
 - Mowing/Landscaping
- Proposed FY18 Fees
 - Anticipating increase in fee reduction participants
- PayGo Projects
 - Proposed at \$2.5 Million
 - Feasibility Studies- allows planning staff to charge salaries where we don't yet have a budget (for example: working on a new project like Rosslyn Highlands). Planning staff need somewhere to charge time to for these types of projects.
- Budget Hearings
 - Mike will send presentation as well as applicable budget hearing dates to you.
- Cut Proposals- as previously mentioned, County Manager was directed to look at series of cuts. Manager committed to return to Board in two weeks with proposals.
 - DPR has not yet been asked to contribute a specific amount- this was just received at the County Managers office. County Manager currently figuring out strategy for cuts.

Questions on budget from Commission Members:

- Feasibility Studies- what is the makeup of this money? It's essentially planners/designers working on different projects. A place where planners can appropriately charge unsupported projects.
 - Recommendation would be that Commission ask the County Board to fund a project, rather than requesting feasibility studies. If Commission wants to push a project, best to work through County Board.
- Field Maintenance- any increases? No increase in proposed budget right now. Budget narratives have changed to include more info on field maintenance and measures to evaluate.
- Nature Center Programs- Work has been on getting nature centers into registration system- allowing us to get analysis of programs.
- Yorktown Restrooms- funding not included for FY18.
- Budget Cuts- cuts would come from dropping the 2-cent proposed increase to a 1-cent increase.
- How would cuts happen? No direction from County Manager yet.
- What can commissions do? Commission should focus on their priorities, advocate as desired.
- CIP/Land Acquisition- CIP reads that every other year there is a plan for \$3 million for park and land acquisition. Doesn't necessarily mean we have to spend it that year- fund that is added to over time. Land Acquisition can be done via bond or PayGo.

- Outreach to Underserved Populations- working with Virginia Tech to evaluate populations and put targeted marketing towards groups not taking advantage of fee reductions.
- Skate Park- funded, working through the design phase now. Aging infrastructure- full funded at this point. Can update as it moves forward.
- Long Bridge- design/build process. Possible design charrette in the summer.

Stratford Middle School Use Permit (Ben Burgin, Assistant Director of Design & Construction)

[7:45-8:16pm]

Presentation from APS on Stratford Middle School Use Permit.

- Overview of schedule and site plan.
- Review of changes in land transfers.
- After Hours Access maps- facilities available
- Tree Assessment- trees to be removed and strategies for placement.

Parking Discussion

- Building additional parking to accommodate for building over the current parking. Field will remain, but will be smaller. Parking will be close to the field.
- Use of church parking? Church was not interested in leasing parking.
- Garage? Garage was cost-prohibitive for this project.

Field Discussion

- How much of the field is being lost? Shifting the field and taking away some of the perimeter. The field will be able to maintain soccer, but is too small for Ultimate Frisbee.
- Buffer Size- 10ft. all the way around
- Field Objective- provide outdoor recreation space for a middle school.

Trees

- A lot of challenges with trees on the site- many need to be removed because they are in poor to fair condition.
- Some large trees in good health need to be removed.
- A few different strategies to replace these trees.

Land Swap

- Concerns on erosion of park land. People not aware of field size being an issue.

- Existing field has challenges from trees and sun (grass field issues). One of the challenges- gently regarding to improve drainage.

Discussion

- Overlapping areas of interest between two commissions
- Possible areas of conflict
- Potential areas of cooperation going forward

[8:16-9:05pm]

Overlapping areas of interest between two commissions

- There are a lot of areas of agreement.
- From the Park and Recreation Commission perspective they don't feel like they're keeping up
- Land acquisition is a natural area to work together on. They should continue to support funding for DPR for land acquisition.
- They should work together on alternatives for people to participate without having to attend multiple meetings. Look for alternatives for people to participate more. Discussion on the interpretations of open meetings and that it's an issue moving forward. Commissions want to have the ability to meet with people outside the commission meetings without violating open meeting laws.
- Another area of agreement could be keeping and maintaining drop-in sports. There are pick-up sports more along the line of a recreational aspect.
- Discussion on projects and communication both between commissions and from DPR.
- Discussion on the BLPC or PFRC- can the sports commission look into this in the future. The PFRC is called up for all school and county projects, this would be a very normal place to have the Sports Commission involved.
- Discussion on advocacy for programs run by the county itself.
- Land acquisition - how do we stop losing land. We need to discuss more with the County Board. Need to get other recreational users to help and assist with this.
- Should look to communicate with the County Board more regularly. Look to speak to the board on a regular basis. Commissions should look for better joint use and uses for land. How can we bring creative thinking to these projects and plans?
- Can the commissions create collective statements to the board? It would be very impactful if there was a collective statement on an issue or series of issues.

Areas of conflict

- Programmed versus unprogrammed spaces. Sports Commission focuses on organized sports, but neighbors want to go enjoy a park in an open environment.
- Bluemont Park was an example relating to this. Neighbors got very upset because they saw that has open space, not program space.

- Question on whether the Sports Commission should be advocating for unprogrammed sports space as well?
- Could synthetic turf be an area of conflict? Park and Recreation Commission seems to think it's very practical to consider turfing fields. It often matters what you do around those play areas. From a durability and usability standpoint it seems to make a lot of sense.
- Flexible use of space- Park and Recreation Commission always wants to maintain as much flexibility with space as possible.

Meeting Minutes

[9:05-9:07pm]

Review and motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, approved.

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison