

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday March 26, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Room 104, Fairlington Community Center

Attending:

Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison	Doug Ross, Member
Mauricio Coreas, Member	Steve Severn, Member
Regina Kouba, Member	Craig Esherick, Chair
Heather Cocozza, Member	Debbie DeFranco, APS Liaison
Ellen Killalea, Member	David Tornquist, Member

Members Absent: George C. Towner, Jr., Member (out of town), Asha Patton, Member, Shirley Brothwell, Member

Agenda:

- I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes**
- II. New Member Introductions-Jennifer Lainhart, DPR liaison, David Tornquist, Member**
- III. FY2016 Proposed Fee Schedule for DPR Programs and Services**
- IV. FY2016 Budget Work Sessions-Commissions APS and DPR -Heather**
- V. Gymnastics/Aquatics TEAM Work Group Update**
- VI. Long Bridge Park Pool Update –Press Release March 17th – Doug**
- VII. Softball Field at Wakefield-Deb DeFranco**
- VIII. Update on Diamond Field Fund Workgroup- Batting Cages at Westover and ATS**
- IX. Tuckahoe Project Proposed meeting 3/26**
- X. Vote on Sports Commissions Themes & Projects (Appendix A)**

Agenda Item

Discussion, Consensus & Action Items

II. New Member Introductions
(7:00-7:10pm)

Due to time restrictions proposed shifting agenda topic order to: II, I, III, X, VI, VIII, VIII, IX, V, and IV. AGREED.

Jennifer Lainhart joined as the DPR staff liaison to the group. Gave short introduction. Introduced David Tornquist, gave short introduction and described YULA (Youth Ultimate League of Arlington) has 9 HS teams with 170 HS players and 5 MS teams, 100 MS players. It is self-funded by parents.

YULA Invite tournament was this past weekend 3/21-3/22 at Long Bridge Park. It has become one of the largest youth tournaments for this sport in US. 36 teams participated from 7 states, 550 kids. Used Long Bridge park and some other fields. 5 out of the top 25 teams in nation participated.

I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes
(7:10-7:20pm)

In section II. Need clarification on issues with Bishop O'Connell. In Section III. Remove last sentence: "The money is needed from classes to support the team fees." Not necessarily true and the statement before says what was intended. Meeting Minutes approved with above changes.

Action Items:

Suggested action item to follow up on the agreement with Bishop O'Connell in regards to DPR use including diamond and rectangular use. Use seems to have decreased. Craig will check with Robin Leonard.

III.
FY 2016 Proposed Fee Schedule for DPR Programs and Services
(7:20-7:30pm)

Chairman wants commission to discuss and consider formally endorsing the work of the Aquatics/Gymnastics workgroup and the creation of the FY2016 Proposed fee schedule.

Heather gave highlights of work: surcharge for team for non-residents 15%, recommendation to reduce fees for classes and teams based on using the number of registered participants and not the defined minimums.

New proposed work: only gymnastics and aquatics have been confirmed, want to look at other sports leagues surcharges and reduce other non-sports programs to 15% as well.

Jennifer Lainhart provided the link to the proposed fee schedule.

Consensus:

Heather motioned to endorse the work using the following language:
The Arlington Sports Commission appreciates the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) collaborative and transparent process to study and evaluate the fees associated with gymnastics and swimming competitive teams. The Sports Commission supports 22.H. FY 2016 Proposed Fee Schedule for DPR Programs and Services, which reflects much of the work done by the Aquatics and Gymnastics Team Work Group.

The motion was approved.

Action Item: Craig will send the endorsement to the county board using the language that the commission voted on.

X. Vote on Themes and Projects (7:30-7:38pm) Heather posed the question about leaving project #3 in even if it felt like it could not be achieved based on county's response from budget meetings. No one objected to leaving in. Discussion around project #5 confusion around the wording of signage. What is signage, what are we asking for? Suggestion to take out "and paid signage" add "more significant" before sponsorships. David asked where YULA fits in (technically an affiliate) Final agreed upon #5 as "Help to develop a County/DPR policy to support more significant sponsorship to benefit the sports programs in the county." In # 2 Projects change "Aggressively" to "Actively"

Motion to approve, approved.

Action Items: Staff Liaison will post on website, serve as a tool to guide groups work.

VI. Long Bridge Update (7:38-7:40pm) Discussed and provided copies of County's press release from March 17, 2015 which covered how the county intends to move forward with Long Bridge. Development of Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee. County will use the approved 64 million dollar budget and redesign as necessary. Surveys will be going out to get broad citizen input and as part of Public Spaces Master Plan. Not clear how County will gather committee members for the process.

Action Item: Doug will express interest to be on the committee, sports commission support this.

VIII. Update on Diamond Field Fund Workgroup- Batting cages at Westover and ATS (7:40-7:43pm) The 4 batting cages are too expensive (not enough money in fund) John Foti had proposed to build at Westover and ATS but principal at ATS rejected proposal. Debbie stated that Holly (principal) did get feedback from teachers and Debbie and others, and they appreciate the need to increase and enhance baseball opportunities but the cages infringe on the field space, the location and structure will effect multiple programs and events including recess. Group will need to look elsewhere and Debbie said this project is a definite no-go at ATS.

Action Items: Steve will follow up with Diamond Field Fund Group to relay message about ATS

VII. Softball Field at Wakefield- Debbie DeFranco (7:43-7:49) Debbie said there were 3-4 walkthroughs but she and representatives from DPR were not invited to those. Contractor is now estimating that fields will be playable by mid-April. The irrigation is behind due to contractor and County miscommunication and that will be done at the end of May. Issues with the field were safety concerns, they will be pulling up drainage grates and caps behind home plate. Some of the issues had to do with the new technology in irrigation to promote drainage but ended up being dangerous. Steve asked about earlier peer

reviews. Debbie does not know why she or AD or others were not involved or consulted about the early walkthrough (1/9). Some of the issues were common sense, 3rd based bull pen has entrance to geothermal vault which was grading above ground and present safety issue. The Vault provides access to the geothermal system for school and someone needs to be able to get down into it. But not sure why it was planned inside bull pen, on 1st base side it is outside field area.
*Question was posed if this could affect the TJ plans as well.

There was also a mystery of locks cut and broken gates and bleachers were moved possibly with a vehicle. Conversation with the construction and design about batting cage issues that won't affect the opening of the field, but one batting cage has 3 entrances and the other has 1 as intended. The ordering of a new cage will not affect the opening date. Planning for mid-April and end of May for irrigation.

In the meantime Wakefield Softball will use Barcroft until 6pm when other youth programs need it and will move back to Wakefield when it's ready.

IX. Tuckahoe Project proposed
2016 meeting on 3/26
(7:49-7:50)

Quick Check-In to notify the commission of the public meeting on 3/26. John Foti from Diamond Field Fund workgroup and a few county representatives were in attendance and we will get report as needed next meeting.

Action Items:

Question was posed if O'Connell would be involved in meeting. Jennifer Lainhart, Craig and/or Steve will report back with information at next meeting.

V. Aquatics and Gymnastics
Workgroup
(7:50-7:55)

Outstanding work for Phase II of project: Group was tasked to look at alternative operating models including possible privatization. At the County Board Session Jane told the group to wait until 2017 to start work on this as the work may involve the use of outside consultant. The workgroup is drafting a 2 page letter. They feel as though the immediate concerns have been solved. If they are to look into privatization they need more information to continue. Doug offered that it may be a question of why the county feels the need to be tied up in an elite group that includes a number of member from outside the county. So the group is drafting the letter to get clarification on the next steps that address what was initially proposed as phase 2.

Action Items:

Workgroup will report back and share letter when available.

IV. FY 2016 Budget Work
Sessions with Commissions
DPR & APS- Heather
(7:55-8:35pm)

On 3/18 the county board held a work session which allowed commissions to attend and give a 3 minute presentation. The presentation was supposed to include: key issues in policy area and opportunities for collaboration or topics for further study beyond 2016.

On Wednesday 3/11 the few that attended the DPR briefing to commissions (Reggie, Heather, Doug, and Craig) strategized a bit about

what to bring forward at the work session on 3/18. They identified 3 key issues: expanding gymnastics, fields, and pools. For collaboration they discussed guidelines for private sponsorships, creative ways to use indoor gymnasiums (mention of those with different surfaces and glass etc.), and working closely with APS to fund work on fields. And for further study suggested possibility to collaborate with George Mason University.

At the Work session Board member John Vihstadt posed a question to Heather. He asked for specific examples of how DPR and APS can collaborate or work cooperatively better? She answered that she would pose the question to the Sports Commission and get a response to him.

Debbie mentioned success in partnering with sports leagues to provide clinics, registration and possibly reduced fees at target schools that have lower enrollment in current programs (for instance Hoffman-Boston/Carver program for basketball) also when locating sports programs at underutilized schools/recreation centers.

Heather mentioned an idea would be looking at APS and DPR usage on fields and how payments are made between them. Jennifer and Debbie agreed that is what MOAs are for and those are looked at annually. Debbie thought it might be helpful to prepare and keep data on number of school kids using sports programs to persuade school officials that when they are saying no to programs they are in essence saying no to their students/families.

Heather mentioned better allocation of space at ALL county facilities to include APS and DPR and specifically better communication between agencies on facility scheduling. If it's not possible to have the same scheduling platform due to budget constraints making sure communication is increase/improved (some examples include basketball practice scheduled on top of school meetings, swim practices cancelled for events at pools without notice, events could be held elsewhere libraries etc. instead of at school which displaces practices.).

Future facility planning and review should include APS, DPR and other SME (subject matter experts) identified for the project. This is evident from a few recent events: walkthrough at Wakefield, YT HS Gym bleachers, YT high school auxiliary gym no lines.

Debbie recognized they need to do a better job in getting feedback on plans and walk-throughs, and especially with outdoor spaces including DPR and sports. Mentioned work at Abingdon that would move gym to front of school for easier access.

Heather mentioned DPR/APS working together to find alternative location for ball hockey and indoor soccer. Group thought that this should be work done by DPR with input from user groups collaborate with APS as needed. Jennifer L clarified the ball hockey is adult group that operates year round, indoor soccer adults are year round and then youth indoor soccer in winter. Craig asked about possible update on ASA's indoor plan, which is currently on hold. Debbie suggested possible use of W-L Parking deck in non-winter season, or TJ north auxiliary and the possibility of a rink at that location.

Consensus:

This was the final version which Craig shared with the board by Craig:

Opportunities for Arlington County to Work more Cooperatively with Arlington Public Schools (APS)

- Better communications between APS and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for facility scheduling. Note: APS and DPR do not have access to each other's facility scheduling software
- Development of new or remodeled APS sports facilities (e.g., fields, courts and gymnasiums) should have joint walk-throughs with DPR and include Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)
- DPR operated and affiliated sports leagues and teams work with APS to provide sports clinics at schools and provide reduced fees for families that qualify

Action Items:

Heather will provide group with final ideas which were agreed upon and Jennifer will add to minutes for today's meeting and Craig will share with the board.

Other business items (not on agenda) (8:35-8:43pm)

Gunston Renovation- need more information, work scheduled for mid-April, field access may be restricted?

VII. Meeting Adjourned
(8:43pm)

Williamsburg Lighting in June, try to use Greenbrier process as a model.

J. Walter Tejada, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison

Handouts provided:

Parks and Recreation Fee Flier

Press Release from Arlington County DPR on Arlington County to Re-examine Long Bridge Park Plans:

<http://newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/arlington-to-re-examine-long-bridge-park-plans/>

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Appendix B

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Appendix C

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