

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday September 24, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Room 139. 2700 S. Four Mile Run Dr. Sports office

Attending:

Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison	Craig Esherick, Chair
George C. Towner, Jr., Member	Ellen Killalea, Member
Heather Cocozza, Member	Steve Severn, Member
David Tornquist, Member	Shirley Brothwell, Member
Mauricio Coreas, Member	Regina Kouba, Member
Doug Ross, Member	

Members Absent: Asha Patton, Member

Agenda:

- I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes**

- II. Discussion of meeting space options for future and future liaison**

- III. Williamsburg Field Update - use and lighting workgroup update**

- IV. Wilson school update- Deb**

- V. Wakefield Softball and Baseball fields - Deb**

- VI. South Arlington School Site - Deb**

- VII. Long Bridge Park Advisory Group/Aquatics Update– Doug**

- VIII. Field Allocation Study Update – Jen**

- IX. Projects and Themes Updates**
 - a. Expand Gymnastics sooner - Heather**

- X. Ongoing county forums or other workgroups check-in**

Agenda Item	Discussion, Consensus & Action Items
I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes (7:00-7:02pm)	Quick discussion of who was in attendance at the last meeting and motion to approve minutes.
Action Items:	Jennifer Lainhart will request presentation on Long Bridge be made available to public if it is public information.
II. Discussion of Meeting Space (7:0-7:05pm)	Discussed that CHP is not typically available in the evening. Jennifer Lainhart suggested other locations and Craig suggested moving back to Langston that they were not bothered by the noise above the MPR there. Committee members concurred that location worked for them and put to a vote and was passed.
Action Items:	Jennifer Lainhart will bring options for moving to Langston to the next meeting in October.
III. Williamsburg Update (7:05-7:15pm)	<p>Deb gave an update the working group is made up of neighbors mostly mature residents and some other stakeholders. MUSCO presented about light poles, and new LED technology. Conversations about population that will use the fields and adult vs youth games. DPR explained logistics and scheduling. No liaison from Greenbrier committee was in attendance. It will be a combination field but they are only pursuing lighting on the rectangular field.</p> <p>Steve mentioned the county policy regarding synthetic turf fields needing to have lights. But Doug mentioned that mandated policy is on the table but currently the policy excludes diamond fields. George Towner mentioned there were advocates in baseball against turf in past, but that may be changing. A few members voiced their concern that diamond groups feel like second class citizens, that turf at Bluemont was shut down and Tuckahoe.</p> <p>Field at Williamsburg will open mid-November work is behind since they were preparing for the school to open on time this fall.</p>
IV. Wilson School (7:15-7:23pm)	On track with concept and design. Last meeting in October they discussed shared usage on field. Field will be small rectangular field less than full size.
V. Wakefield Softball Field (7:23-7:25)	Deb updated that Wakefield Softball nets are up and punch list items are getting completed still. There is an irrigation issue, a broken sprinkler head. Issue with irrigation is that it's not monitoring rainfall and needs to be calibrated. Floods the infield when irrigation. No one is currently on them. Fields should be open sometimes this fall. Right now we can't even use auxiliary spaces due to liability.
VI. S. Arlington School Site (7:25-7:30)	Looking at site, presentation to school board in November looking at Drew, Gunston, and Jefferson. Evaluating sites looking at feasibility ideas about

	<p>buying houses etc. George Towner mentioned Eads fields? Some other parks on the list.</p> <p>After presentation to the board, it will be open for public comment and board comment and vote on it. Reminder that Friday before the meeting information posted on Board Docs.</p>
VII. Long Bridge Update (7:30-7:40)	<p>Did outreach exercise at our last meeting. Prepare recommendations by January. Also worked with DPR at County Fair. The main issue is how to reduce what we have got to fit into current budget. Created a board and each person got to put 3 dots on the board. Tony Taylor and Doug Ross have been at the pools trying to catch people there and class participants. Erik Beach will collect and translate. Survey will be included in the PSMP (Public Spaces Master Plan). Also survey with Alexandria/Arlington to collaborate. John Vihstadt will meet with Long Bridge Committee on 10/7. Survey with partnership with Alexandria timeline unknown.</p> <p>Will LBC has input into survey? Unknown.</p> <p>Is there still support for facility? Doug seems to think yes. That many were excited about outreach. But some mixed reviews. Some people said don't sell the bonds to retain rating. However there will be 2 new board members so I think final verdict remains to be seen.</p>
VIII. Field Allocation Study (7:40-7:45)	<p>Consultants have complete findings report. From that the team will begin to draft recommendations. More information at December Sports Commission meeting.</p>
IX. Project and Themes (7:45-7:50)	<p>Gymnastics, Heather would like to form a small group with representatives from boys/girls gymnastics, possibly Carly Meyer, Joe Dimeddio, and others. Objective to expand gymnastics classes sooner by moving some into the gymnasium. Start with an analysis of space when it is empty and move some rotations into the gym. Look at where we could move other sports. Including surface at W-L, Tj North Aux etc. Want to meet with them once or twice per month.</p>
X. NEW BUSINESS (7:50-8:30)	<p>Question about county interest in property across from W-L</p> <p>Letter of Complaint- Brian Hannigan refereeing a soccer game at W-L and was upset by football lines on soccer field. He referenced that the Sports Commission had stated that there would not be lines. Craig wanted to clarify that sports commission had not decided that. Some discussion about permanent lines and that they are good. Fairfax County has MANY sports lines sewn in. Better than having to redraw lines. As a point commission is NOT opposed to these lines.</p> <p>Turf field Issue- Article in the post about pros/cons of turf fields. Benefit is less cancellations for example Wakefield did not have to cancel any of their practices/games since they were playing at Barcroft 6. A good thing. Issue of lights VS no lights. Guest mentioned the NATS training Academy complex in SE as a great concept. 2 youth diamonds with no base pads.</p>

The utilization will pay for costs. Talk about AYBL advisory committee coming up with some policies in regards to turfing, and turfing of baseball fields is coming frequently. Commission believes that if building a field lights or not the county should always consider turf first. Commission has thoughts on de-coupling lights from turf. Currently turf fields must have lights (according to the county) but that may be up for discussion?

Adam Balutis president of Arlington Little League was invited to the NATS game with a few other members of little league from Northern Virginia area in their effort to grow baseball in northern Virginia area. Other jurisdictions included Vienna, Great Falls, McLean, Reston, Herndon. NATS met with them and asked how can we help you and all the groups said we need more fields. But consider this may be an option to help fund turf fields?

Ultimate Frisbee won a national championship!

Unique situation at Highview where AGSA is able to do some clinics at High view park which they have not done before adjacent to soccer. Good use of space, thanks to DPR

Meeting Adjourned

(8:15pm)

J. Walter Tejada, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Jennifer Lainhart

Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison