

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday October 22, 2015
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Fairlington Community Center Room 104

Attending:

Jennifer Lainhart, DPR Staff Liaison	Asha Patton, Member
Craig Esherick, Chair	Steve Severn, Member
Heather Cocozza, Member	Shirley Brothwell, Member
Deborah Defranco APS Staff Liason	Regina Kouba, Member
Doug Ross, Member	Ellen Killalea, Member

Members Absent: George C. Towner, Jr. David Tornquist, Mauricio Coreas,

Agenda:

- I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes**

- II. Community Facilities Study Update-Sal D'Itri CANCELLED ADDED TO NOVEMBER meeting**

- III. Skate park Issues-Tyson Whitney**

- IV. DPR's Collaboration and Donation Policy –Jennifer Fioretti (Deputy Director, DPR)**

- V. Williamsburg Field Update - Severn**

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

- VII. Projects and Themes Updates**

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

Agenda Item	Discussion, Consensus & Action Items
I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes (7:00-7:02pm)	Motion to approve past meeting minutes, seconded
Action Items:	Jennifer Lainhart will post minutes online.

II. Community Facility
Study
(7:05-7:05pm)

Sal D'Itri not available will attend November meeting instead.

Action Items:

Craig will work with Sal to schedule him to attend meeting in November.

III. Skate Park Issues
(7:05-7:23pm)

Skate park at Powhatan Springs. Over 150 skateboarders in group with concerns about the skate park. It's 10 years old and falling apart. The skatepark is built with concrete and has different elements and broken coping stone and tiling is fallen or broken off. There are water seepage issues as well. The group has been working with DPR on these issues and an engineering firm (Gordon) and found out the concrete mixed used was too porous. Some damages from use and wear and tear as well. Spoke in front of the board last Saturday from a safety perspective they have concerns. Working with Patty Hurst from the civic association in Powhatan Springs.

Group-Friends of Arlington Skate Park has hired a firm to do an assessment. Want to pursue a new skateboard park design, had a meeting at Arlington Mill, recommendations to put in a better grade concrete and here are 3 concept drawing available online at Powhatan Springs website:

<http://parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/powhatan-springs-skatepark/>

Cost will depend on the design and scope chosen. No estimates available at this time.

Shirley asked about the park, and remembered that it is unmanned and it is free to skate, but maybe it should cost something to cover the use, Arlington should be open to exploring this option. Initially it was manned, but curious to why it is unmanned now. Jennifer did indicate when it first opened there were more programs and camps there that made it necessary to be manned now it's more open use.

Commission members wanted to know how many unique people and Tyson offered probably several thousand parents/children and guests annually. During the day it is more available (low usage) and afternoon and weekends could have 50 or more people there and busy constant use during those timeframes.

Safety wise there are a lot of differing levels of ability using the facility and sometimes without supervision, who enforces rules etc. Park rangers did temporarily move there and they drive by. Tyson mentioning the possibility of using the park for programs again or contests etc.

One member asked if other skate parks are free. Tyson mentioned most are, Wakefield park and new one in Leesburg. Tyson said when Arlington built the skate park in 2002 the skate park was a destination that skaters

travel to and skaters will travel to unique parks. Earliest possible timing is 2017.

Action Items:

Jennifer Lainhart will provide link to online information in notes. (done)

IV. DPR's Collaboration and Donation Policy (7:25-8:05pm)

Jennifer Fioretti Deputy Director for Arlington County DPR presented on the new collaboration and donation policy.

Comments on presentation which will be available online soon. Sports commission helped to push DPR to come up with this policy and it fits in a time when we don't have access to a lot of resources. DPR briefed the board and now they are briefing commissions.

Slide 3- For example Friends of Gulf Branch created a special project to build an owl cage, could be large contributions or small contributions or contributions of time. Under 50,000 do not have to go to board for approval.

Functional Congruency means that the donation needs to be in harmony with what we do and make sure that the timeline fits for us. This will be part of the application process.

Slide 8- recognition this will depend on the type of contribution and size. No logos are permitted would need to go to county board for approval of logo use.

Administrative policy that is being implemented and now shared with commissions will look back at it after first year to determine what tweaks are needed.

Craig wanted to know what is 3 different organizations wanted to donated \$40K to make a larger project of \$120K, but the answer is no. The project should be under \$50,000 which aligns with other purchasing decisions we are able to make without approval from board.

Donating the item VS donating the money (i.e. Batting cages) If the group has a vendor that they would like to use could they buy the item and then have DPR install it because they are specific on the item meeting safety standards?

Donations could be made towards maintenance. Not sure of the pricing and scope of this but this may be an option. Recommendation from commission to have a menu of what type of maintenance dollars are needed.

Filmore Park-recognition of his son improvements of \$30K, tried intentionally to not be too specific so that DPR can look at each item on a case by case basis.

Is advertising defined in the policy? Text only, no logos. Could do two different projects at same park? Yes.

Does this align with APS policy? Deb thinks APS' goes to 100K.

Williamsburg eligible for adopt-a-field? Is this an APS or DPR issue (possibly APS?)

Kenmore example of pooling money from multiple groups to do work there. Is there an annual limit for projects? Large projects will require board action, website for this policy should also contain some published guidelines for getting to the board action if needed.

No menu is available and the process would work so that groups that are interested in maintaining or taking on a project could work through DPR for costing. Justin Wilt wondering what would landscaping crew possibly get for instance, 10X10 or 12X12 plaque, possibly a press release.

Why can't Arlington County post advertising/logos but other counties can? Zoning ordinances, county attorneys decisions, don't want logos that are not approved by county board.

Action Items:

Jennifer Lainhart will provide web address within notes when information is posted online.

V. Williamsburg Lighting update
(8:05-8:20)

Strong community involvement, very active members who DO not want lights. DPR tried to convince group that there would be no fans for adult games and took a field trip to look at lighting including dark sky lighting to show no overspill into streets and neighborhoods 5-6 different locations visited.

Justin Wilt- planning a bus trip to Vienna to see LED lighting. Musco came back, but they are convinced LED may work but the others don't meet the specs desired. But LED has cost issues related. Worried as well about noise and language. HID lighting is roughly \$400-500K and LED is closer to \$1 million. 80 ft poles are needed to prevent spillage.

Commission wants to promote usage numbers and how much more is gained. Craig said synthetic provides 2 to 1 over grass fields, synthetic with lights provides 3 to 1 over grass fields for usage. Timeline is tight, draft in January decision mid next year.

Action Items:

Jennifer Lainhart will provide link to the working group website:
<http://parks.arlingtonva.us/projects/williamsburg-workgroup/>

VI. Wakefield
(8:20-8:25)

Working with contractor on irrigation issues, DPR will manage field once it's complete. APS will manage dugouts, batting cages. DPR is managing irrigation, they are grooming, APS fixing dugouts but not available for Fall. It's overgrown. DPR is on the fields working now. Hoping to be completely ready for Spring.

VII. Long Bridge Update
(8:25-8:30)

Meeting with John Vihstadt postponed to 11/5. Working on draft of proposed questions for PSMP including a questions to mirror what was asked of Alexandria residents who are in the same boat. All citizens will be surveyed in a random sampling at the same time, the survey for park will be out to all soon.

If board agrees with recommendations of the group there will be cuts and re-design. Based on data, they will chose cuts on features, re-design and re-bid.

Survey is out online now: <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/long-bridge-park-project/> The project has been ongoing for 15 years.

VII and VIII. Project and Themes and Other workgroups
(8:45-9:00)

Craig mentioned the concerted effort by John Foti to get together all of the groups that use outdoor fields and put together a proposal to bring before the commission. Coming soon

Discussion about Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) county is using 5 consultants, opportunity for public comment in January.

<http://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/comprehensive-plan/public-spaces-master-plan/>

Heather mentioned gymnastics plan for expanding in winter and spring ahead of schedule with help of new program specialist. Using Gym to expand offerings on Friday evening in Spring for sure.

Batting Cage issues (Field Fund related) some not being used because they were not constructed properly. Westover and Barcroft remediation efforts, include changing where the batter stands but use at own risk.

How did this happen? Can we go back to vendor and get refund? Need to look at process and recommend SMEs to double check as projects are ongoing.

Justin Wilt Kenmore field, letters to school working with DPR on site, conversations are ongoing, lit grass field is unusable.

Meeting Adjourned

(8:15pm)

J. Walter Tejada, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Jennifer Lainhart

Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison

