

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/25/16

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Courthouse Plaza, Azalea Room

Attending:

Craig Esherick, Chair	Ellen Killalea, Member
Josh Colman, Staff Liaison	Regina Kouba, Member
Shirley Brothwell, Member	Steve Severn, Member
Heather Cocozza, Member	Doug Ross, Member
Mauricio Coreas, Member	George C. Towner, Jr., Member
David Turnquist, Member	Patricia Hurst, Guest
John Burgess, Guest	Stephen Finn, Guest
Jane Dawkins, Guest	

Agenda:

- I. **Approve Past Meeting Minutes**
- II. **Field Allocation Meeting Feedback/Discussion**
- III. **Public Spaces Master Plan Update- Craig**
- IV. **Long Bridge Park Advisory Group- Doug**
- V. **Discussion regarding remarks Craig will deliver (upcoming meetings with Christian Dorsey, Auditor, County Manager, and Board)**
- VI. **Williamsburg Lights- Steve**
- VII. **Gymnastics Update- Heather**
- VIII. **Skate Park Initiative (Appendix A)**
- IX. **Winter Restroom Services (Appendix B)**
- X. **Projects and Themes for 2016**

Agenda Item	Discussion, Consensus & Action Items
<p>I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes (January 2016)</p> <p>7:02-7:07</p>	<p>Review and motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, approved.</p>
<p>Action Items</p> <p>II. Field Allocation Meeting Feedback/Discussion</p>	<p>Josh will post January minutes to the website.</p> <p>Item discussed in conjunction with Public Space Master Plan (Agenda Item III).</p>
<p>III. Public Space Master Plan</p> <p>7:08-7:17</p>	<p>Craig- Updated group on Public Space Master plan work. Working with consultants to find what to do with public spaces. There were four meetings in February. One of the meetings was an opportunity to prioritize what an individual would do if given the chance- how do you prioritize space. Attendees were given an opportunity to “spend” \$1000 on a variety of options- how would you allocate \$1000. Consultants and county will be doing a series of those things over the next few months- trying to gather information from citizens. There’s a notion that Jennie Dean could get seriously developed- a number of different options on the table- could be a good opportunity to turn a large property into a variety of options. Currently in the “gathering information” stage from the public. No decisions have been made. Similar to the field allocation group.</p> <p>Shirley- questions regarding the plans for Jennie Dean. Had previously understood we’d be in the design phase sooner. Craig- DMV issue prevented that from happening.</p> <p>Doug- the consultant designed and introduced a statistically valid survey of Arlington residents- results will now be announced in March. Shirley- questions were raised about the survey (how are they maintaining the statistical validity?). Doug- Arlingtonians were more enthusiastic in responding then they were originally planning for. More surveys returned then was expected.</p> <p>George- questions regarding the national standards for particular types of facilities- how many fields do you have per 100,000 people?</p>
<p>VIII. Skate Park (agenda item moved up)</p> <p>7:17-7:43</p>	<p>Guests Patricia Hurst and John Burgess presented on behalf of the Arlington Skaters for Arlington Skate Park. They are a group of over 150 skateboarders- all ages, all abilities. Discussed situation at Powhatan Springs- needs the skate park maintained as it is vital to and an asset for the community as a whole. The skate park is not holding up as it should- concrete is crumbling, making it dangerous at</p>

times. It's difficult to skate over pebbles- the problems need to be fixed as this represents a risk to people who use the park. Compared situation to a gymnastics facility- similar to a gymnast performing on uncertain equipment.

Arlington Skaters have been working with DPR for over a year to respond to concerns. A general contractor has concluded that the wrong type of cornet was used and it will continue to crumble. Replacement is the most viable option to fix the problem. DPR has a contractor to design a skate park- the skate community has been very involved. Very pleased that the county manager set aside an amount of money for the full scale design phase of the park. Arlington Skaters are now asking for the commissions support for the project. Construction phase will be proposed in the CIP. Patricia is here to allay any questions/concerns.

Questions regarding cost- the design phase amount is \$288,000- we do not have a project cost at this time.

Heather- Questions about designs. Patricia- the original designs have morphed into one design (originally designs B & C), making it a good option. Unfortunately, no one from Arlington Skaters received a Public Space Master Plan survey. They know from using the park that usage is down- it's because the park is dangerous. Parents are concerned and are taking children to other, newer skate parks.

Craig- Questions regarding skate park supervision. Patricia- Older skate boarders tend to educate and watch over the younger skaters. That is customary across the nation (no supervision). Arlington used to have monitors, but it was not cost effective.

David- Questions regarding maintaining skate park as is- what happens if nothing is done? Patricia- They've been working to patch and repair for the last four to five years. Doesn't think that can go on indefinitely. Concrete will continue to crumble.

David- Questions about park usage. Believes it's a slippery slope to go down- people worrying about skateboarders bothering the community. As long as Arlington is making sure the facility is maintained. Reluctant to say we should endorse certain types of activities.

George- questions about why it was done incorrectly to begin with. If you're spending \$288,000 to design it, dreads the thought of the cost to build it. To him, the only issue is cost. It's terrible that the skate park went to waste. How can we be assured if the money is spent to redo it, we won't be back in another 10 years?

John- He's never seen a park deteriorate like Arlington's. He doesn't go there himself because of what's happening to it. Patricia- numerous people feel the same. Started skating 10 years ago, there used to be older people learning and regulars would meet on Saturday/Sunday mornings. Doesn't happen anymore because park has degraded and needs to be fixed. Most of the community doesn't have concerns with users- believes fixing would bring back a sense of ownership and pride for the park. Like any infrastructure, it needs to be maintained. We need to invest in order to make it useful. Cost would depend on size and features- estimations between 1-2 million.

Questions regarding change in donation policies and/or idea of sponsorship. Arlington Skaters are happy to show support, but doesn't believe they'd be able to fundraise a significant amount to cover or contribute. As taxpayers, believes the county government should maintain its assets. Additionally, the skaters do not qualify for a number of the foundations (being above the income threshold).

Multiple questions regarding budget issues, construction cost, park bonds, etc.

Additional questions regarding previous construction, county's concrete issues- have we learned from previous mistakes? Issues discussed regarding concrete problems- substandard concrete, improper curing, etc. How can we ensure it's done correctly? Patricia- skaters are very concerned about making sure the next version of the park gets built correctly. Believes there are experts out there that we need to make sure we bring in. Skate parks should last for at least 15 years minimum.

Ellen- questions regarding maintenance involved after park construction? Patricia- county struggles with this, good at building initially, not good at increasing operations budget to maintain it. That's always part of the struggle- making sure the new investment won't degrade. Operations budget is one sum- it's currently taken out of there.

Patricia requests Sports Commission formal support as they move forward with this.

IV. Long Bridge Park
Advisory Group

7:43-7:50

Doug- discussion about meeting on February 16- optimist they'll get good news in March about the need for facility.

Process is moving into draft recommendation to the county manager- likely occurs in March so county manager can write his recommendation to board. Timeline relates to the CIP which gets approved in July. If we don't get approved as part of that process, it will be the end of the project. Hard part is finding something that everyone can live with- and something that can be within budget.

	<p>Additional concerns regarding sponsorships/partnerships- may be able to get more of what we originally designed if we can get more sponsorships/partnerships. There's been interest from some colleges, but no real follow up.</p>
<p>V. Discussion regarding remarks Craig will deliver (upcoming meetings with Christian Dorsey, Auditor, County Manager, and Board)</p> <p>7:50-8:04</p>	<p>Discussion regarding budget and bonds.</p> <p>Craig is looking for ideas for several upcoming meetings.</p> <p>His ideas for discussion: lack of field space, being more open to public/private partnerships, lights at Williamsburg, more turf fields.</p> <p>Heather- youth population growth, how is the county preparing to handle that? Discussion on field house idea- to be used by multiple sports. Expansion of gymnastics facilities- maybe work with GW gymnastics teams.</p> <p>Stephen F (guest)-get a long term process going regarding purchasing land- we're going to run out of space. Rehabilitation of current facilities- redo what we have- not much discussion focused on that.</p> <p>David- field allocation/Williamsburg lights- local residents are telling county we don't need more space because it's not scheduled correctly. Make sure board is aware that argument is not true. Group- discussion on field allocation process, prioritization, and application. Alert Christian/board of this info.</p> <p>Shirley- eminent domain- discussion of POPS. Look at federal footprint in Arlington. Army/Navy golf course, conversations with Pentagon regarding parking lots and garages.</p> <p>Discussion about school budget, management, and maintenance of joint space and facilities.</p>
<p>VI. Williamsburg Lights</p> <p>8:05- 8:28</p>	<p>Steve S- Letter went to board requesting an extension for Williamsburg group until December. Open items that haven't been addressed. Health effects of LED lighting- they want an independent study on the health effects. Wildlife issues have been raised. There are enough action items that will keep the committee tied up for a while. Eric (chair of Williamsburg committee) had whiteboard session with neighbors. Asked for impact to quality of life questions.</p> <p>Stephen F- Noise pollution, stress, parking, no use of field, vulgar language, etc. Takeaway is that Discovery ES process has caused a lot of these issues- upset about that process and how they were treated.</p> <p>Discussion regarding light options- can we use trees or an obstruction to block some of the light? Vienna field space is a great example- you can't see the light until you're at the facility. They've done a great job</p>

	<p>with tuning the lights- if we could replicate at Williamsburg, that'd be great.</p> <p>Discussion regarding additional issues- problems are with more than lights- noise, usage, traffic are all additional problems. Community is skeptical of prior success mitigating these problems at Greenbrier.</p> <p>Brief discussion regarding permitting, MOU, potential areas of agreement, and timeline.</p>
<p>VII. Gymnastics Update</p> <p>8:28-8:37</p>	<p>Heather provided the commission an update of the gymnastics expansion. Projected end date of project is fall of 2017. An RFP has gone out for all aspects of the project. Discussion of process and work completion order. Improvements include: expanding gymnastics space (taking over previous basketball space), upgrade lighting, and HVAC replacement/upgrades.</p> <p>Ball hockey and basketball are moving to Arlington Mill CC. There will be a new rink system for Arlington Mill. Gymnastics teams have been involved and will continue to be involved in reviewing floor plans, equipment, layout, etc.</p> <p>Discussion regarding construction projects- commission believes someone from user groups should be able to attend a walk through and have input on facility inspections. Provides extra check when things aren't done right.</p> <p>Craig will add this item to discussion with auditor.</p> <p>Jane Dawkins (guest) - believes that Carly (Gymnastics Programmer for DPR) is being listened to in this process.</p>
<p>IX. Winter Restroom Services</p> <p>8:37-8:42</p>	<p>Review letter from citizen regarding Winter Restroom services at Greenbrier Park.</p> <p>Discussion regarding letter, should we look at more than just Greenbrier?</p> <p>Several commission members asked about Washington-Lee- similar problems to Greenbrier during winter months.</p> <p>Josh will bring copy of the entire email- discussion to continue at next month's meeting.</p>
<p>VIII. Skate Park Discussion (resume discussion)</p> <p>8:43-8:49</p>	<p>Discussion regarding potential support for Skate Park. Questions focused on potential cost- many members could support as long as cost is not too high.</p>

Craig- the \$288,000 is going to be spent. Once they come up with a final total- the county board will ask for endorsement. We'll have to eventually vote on it.

Shirley- concern of mix of kids (all ages) using together. No one there to enforce rules, helmets, etc.

Steve S- no discussion on cost recovery, anyone can use. Users can come from anywhere.

Group agrees to defer action until an amount for construction of the project is available.

Adjournment at 8:50pm.

Next meeting will be March 31st (instead of March 24) due to spring break. Meeting will be at Langston.

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison