

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday April 23, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Room 104, Fairlington Community Center

Attending:

Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison	Steve Severn, Member
George C. Towner, Jr., Member	Craig Esherick, Chair
Asha Patton, Member	Mikael Manoukian
David Tornquist, Member	William Maxwell
Heather Cocozza, Member	Chris Jorss
Doug Ross, Member	Jim Presswood

Members Absent: Mauricio Coreas, Member (out of town), Regina Kouba, Member, , Shirley Brothwell, Member, Ellen Killalea, Member, Debbie DeFranco, APS Liaison

Agenda:

- I. **Approve Past Meeting Minutes**
- II. **Discussion of summer meeting schedule**
- III. **Sand Volleyball Courts Discussion-Mikael Manoukian**
- IV. **Tuckahoe Project - John Foti**
- V. **Update on Diamond Field Fund workgroup- Batting Cages**
- VI. **Sports User Group Allocation Policy Consultant work update-Jennifer Lainhart**
- VII. **Update on Field Fund accounting and available funds-Jennifer Lainhart**
- VIII. **Update on Capital Projects from Lisa Grandle-Jennifer Lainhart**
- IX. **Long Bridge Park Pool Update if available– DPR/Doug**
- X. **Update Softball Field at Wakefield –if available**

XI. Discussion of next steps towards project goals

XII. Sports Commission members involvement or interest in ongoing county forums or workgroups

Agenda Item	Discussion, Consensus & Action Items
I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes (7:00-7:03pm)	In section II. Should read "YULA Invite Tournament" and some grammar edited. Move to approve with edits, motion approved. Jennifer Lainhart will finalize and post to website.
Action Items:	
II. Summer Schedule (7:03-7:05pm)	Group agreed that we would meet as scheduled in May and June and take July and August off unless pressing matters come up that required a meeting to be called. The group will resume in September on the same time frame. Jennifer Lainhart will share this information with the missing members.
Action Item:	
III. Sand Volleyball Court Discussion-Mikael Manoukian (7:05-7:45pm)	3 citizens came in support of this issue. 12 parks with sand volleyball courts. All parks have a single recreation quality court and many need maintenance. At Westover ct. There is 1 light tower that doesn't work and the net system is not functioning well, crank doesn't work. Mikael contributed addition of cloth/fabric lines to this court \$100-200 value. Discussion about Lubber Run which is asphalt and recommendation by commission to attend upcoming open house to voice their opinion about court there. Mentioned long time rental at Quincy (Orange Line) did not get space and it was allocated to DC social sports (late request?) But furthers their opinion that parks should have dual courts so that one can be drop-in and the other able to be reserved. Jennifer Lainhart clarified request process is first come first serve so group probably submitted late and missed. Concern over series of meetings dating back to 11/2014 that were held in regard to Quincy park renovation where they and other advocates were told and even showed designs for 2 courts at this location but 3 weeks ago were told that this was not going to happen due to project scope (playground focus) and tree issues due to some local objection to cutting down a tree. Also concern about a concrete curve near the volleyball court which poses a safety concern. Also no crank at Quincy, broken/missing. This group and some others have created a local volleyball committee in the interest of this topic whose main goal is to advocate for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More outdoor multi court facilities• Higher quality competition grade courts (easy maintenance)

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- Ensuring in concept/construction volleyball courts are checked by subject matter experts and not just playground build groups
 - Proper lighting systems on more courts
 - Better maintenance in general

In short term asking for improvements at Westover, bulbs (lights, crank (tension)

Also brief discussion of the courts at 2451 Crystal Dr. which belong to Vornado properties. Advocating possible dialogue between county and Vornado to aid in maintenance with those courts.

George Towner suggested they might look into building advocacy and adopt-a-field program to allow them more opportunity to get materials to perform routine maintenance. Looking at alternate locations that could have lights in S. Arlington near Wakefield as Chris Torss mentioned he would want to get his HS girls players out onto a sand volleyball court as sand volleyball is a growing sport and colleges have increased number of teams and scholarships available for the sport etc.

Action Item:

Jennifer Lainhart will follow up with Kurt Louis on proposed short term maintenance issues. Recommended from group to volleyball advocates to stay involved in planning processes as necessary.

XII. Discussion on Community Facilities Study (7:45-8:12pm)

Craig gave a brief update on the study and indicating all of the groups vying for space for facilities in the upcoming years and some of the challenges.

Jim Presswood came to speak on behalf of Arlington Parks Coalition. IN regards to TJ school project. Right now it's unclear what is going to happen as Plan B is not moving forward. Jim is lobbying to save "park land" which is in the form currently of parking lot on west side of TJ. Jim has been advocating for the county/APS to think long term and create a vision for that site instead of just addressing the seats issue by sprawling our a new school on top of the park land that is the parking lot.

Sports commission offered to check with Vote Yes for Parks, and continue to find ways to connect with the sports community on preserving an increasing park and community space. Craig offered to go to DPR leadership as needed, to discuss further advocacy.

IV. Tuckahoe Project Update (8:12-8:25pm)

John Foti has been making a proposal to include turf in the current Tuckahoe maintenance scheduled. He has a presentation to Jane Rudolph (director of DPR) this week (week of 4/27). Craig supports this and John has support of PTA at Tuckahoe and from baseball groups. Steve Severn did not lend his support since the project does not affect or improve his group's playing fields. Others would be interested in seeing the presentation from John before lending support to the project.

From county project manager, Joshua Serck: "the funding for the field renovations and park accessibility improvements at Tuckahoe park fall under the County's Park Maintenance Capital program. The intention is to replace what is already there and bring the facility up to current standards... IN order to install synthetic turf where it does not presently exist, the county could need to conduct a series of studies, surveys and meetings to determine an ideal location."

Some were concerned that they don't see the real value of turf at that location without lights.

Action Item: Craig will report back on John's meeting with Jane and bring John in for presentation if available.

V. Update on Diamond Field Fund Workgroup- Batting cages at Westover (8:25-8:30pm)

Quote came in lower than previous after new fence vendor was involved so it seems like project will move forward at this time. Steve Severn still concerned that there is no location for AGSA to place batting cages after being turned down at ATS and told Highview park is not an option.

Action Items: Steve will follow up with Diamond Field Fund Group about alternate locations for batting cage for AGSA

VI. Update on Sport User Group Allocation RFP (8:30-8:33)

Contract has been signed with GreenPlay and will provide a more detailed update at the Sports Commission meeting in May. George Towner requested the specs on the contractor.

Action Items: Jennifer Lainhart will follow up with specs and more information will be provided next meeting.

VII. Field Funds Update (8:33-8:35)

Provided chart of funds from youth groups since 2011. Attachment A.

George asked about adult funds entering into this account.

Action Items: Jennifer Lainhart will get back with group on the adult funds thinks is \$100 per team per season.

VIII. Update on Capital Projects-information from Lisa Grandle (8:35-8:38)

Shared with group update on 2016 projects. Attachment B.

Action Items:

IX. Long Bridge Update (8:38-8:40pm)

Long Bridge Advisory Group selected including Doug Ross from Sports commission. Next meeting is 5/11 and Doug should have an update for the group at sports commission meeting.

Action Items: Doug will report back on this advisory group to the commission.

Steve sent a letter to John Chadwick and would like his letter and response to be entered into the minutes. Attachment C. Jennifer Lainhart read

IX. Wakefield Softball Field Update (8:40-8:45) response from Deb DeFranco who could not be at the meeting "The contractor/company is currently working on the punch list. I have not had a visual of this work being done only emails stating that the work is happening. Sorry I don't have a more positive confirmation. Steve Severn can contact me if he has questions.

IX. Sports commission involved in workgroups or committees (8:35-8:43pm) David brought up the BLPC for HB Woodlawn and that there were some concerns over cutting field space at that location. Mentioned discussion around building more seats and discounting field space. Doug and Craig mentioned the PFRC (Public facilities review committee) as a place to build advocacy for issues and attending school board meetings or appealing to the Community Facilities Study group to advocate.

Action Items: Sports Commission would want more information on this project when available. Address how to gain more access to school plans.

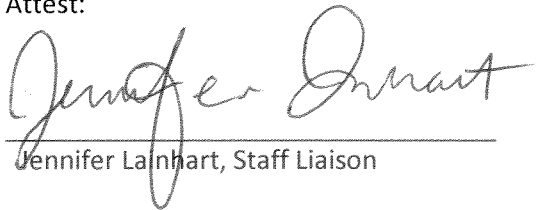
XI. Discussion of steps towards themes/projects Create guidelines around project goals and maybe have members act as a chair for a project or goal to ensure success but possibly use outside support from community members as well. How to allocate track and check in on progress needs to be discussed.

Meeting Adjourned

(9:00pm)

J. Walter Tejada, County Board Liaison

Attest:



Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison

Attachment A

Field Fund Balances as of 4/20/2015(Youth Affiliated Programs)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
Arlington Cal Ripken Babe Ruth - Fall	\$ 2,384.00	\$ 1,186.00	\$ 2,796.00	\$ 3,272.00	\$ 3,420.00
Arlington Cal Ripken Babe Ruth - Spring	\$ 8,076.00	\$ 10,432.00	\$ 11,060.00	\$ 10,044.00	
Arlington Senior Babe Ruth - Fall	\$ 1,072.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,044.00	\$ 1,144.00	\$ 1,128.00
Arlington Senior Babe Ruth - Spring	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,916.00	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 2,116.00	
Arlington Little League - Fall	\$ 1,228.00	\$ 1,840.00	\$ 2,860.00	\$ 3,576.00	\$ 4,544.00
Arlington Little League - Spring	\$ 6,528.00	\$ 7,768.00	\$ 8,688.00	\$ 9,824.00	
Arlington Girls Softball Association - Fall	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,772.00	\$ 3,000.00
Arlington Girls Softball Association - Spring	\$ 2,752.00	\$ 2,936.00	\$ 3,596.00	\$ 4,280.00	
Arlington Soccer Association - Fall	\$ 46,968.00	\$ 49,220.00	\$ 52,660.00	\$ 58,928.00	\$ 63,312.00
Arlington Soccer Association - Spring	\$ 45,228.00	\$ 45,120.00	\$ 51,556.00	\$ 56,016.00	
Arlington Youth Football Club - Fall	\$ 1,384.00	\$ 1,552.00	\$ 1,496.00	\$ 1,656.00	\$ 784.00
Arlington Flag Football - Fall	\$ -	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,696.00	\$ 5,720.00	\$ 6,424.00
Arlington Youth Lacrosse Club	\$ 2,976.00	\$ 2,888.00	\$ 2,684.00	\$ 3,772.00	
Arlington Travel Baseball - Fall	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 512.00	\$ 384.00	\$ 556.00
Arlington Travel Baseball - Spring				\$ 736.00	
YULA				\$ 1,592.00	\$ 1,720.00
Misc - no Roster	\$ -	\$ 595.00	\$ -		
Blessed Sacrament - Tennis - Fall	\$ 240.00	\$ -	\$ -		
St. Ann Tennis - Fall	\$ 112.00	\$ -	\$ -		
Arlington Field Hockey	\$ 64.00	\$ -	\$ -		
Arlington Travel Basketball	\$ 1,432.00	\$ -	\$ -		
Total	\$ 124,784.00	\$ 132,213.00	\$ 147,728.00	\$ 164,832.00	\$ 84,888.00

Attachment B

Parks Maintenance Capital Program

FY 2016 Project List



Parks Maintenance Capital

Parks Maintenance Capital Program FY 2016 Project List		
Project Name - Description	PAYG (P) Bond (B)	Total Cost Estimate
1. Dawson Terrace Park - design and construction for demolition, site work, playground, basketball and volleyball courts, picnic area, lighting, site furnishings, walkways, fencing, and landscaping.	\$273,000 P \$1,786,000 B	\$2,059,000
2. Virginia Highlands Park - design only for demolition, site work, playground, four petanque courts, two softball fields, picnic shelter, picnic area, gazebo, restroom, walkways, lighting, site furnishings, fencing, irrigation, and landscaping.	\$592,000 P	\$592,000
3. Park Multi-Purpose Trail Program - design only for renovation of park multi-purpose trails. A program balance of \$71,000 will be used to fund construction for the remainder of the \$100,000 project cost.	\$29,000 P	\$100,000
4. Fairlington Park - construction for demolition, site work, playground, exercise equipment, circuit trail, picnic area, walkways, site furnishings, fencing, and landscaping. Design was funded in FY2015.	\$1,953,000 B	\$1,953,000
5. Gunston Park - design and construction for demolition, site work, softball field, lighting, fencing, irrigation, site furnishings, and landscaping.	\$1,433,00 B	\$1,433,000
6. Synthetic Turf Program - design and construction at Greenbrier Park for replacement of synthetic turf field, new underlayment pad, sub base repair, and site furnishings. A program balance of \$420,000 will be used to fund the remainder of the County's share (*assumes APS cost sharing of \$650,000 for total project cost of \$1.625 million).	\$555,000 P	\$1,625,000
7. Field Fund Program - The fees assessed for rectangular fields are directed to support replacement and construction of synthetic turf fields in the County (annual estimate of \$130,000). The fees assessed on diamond fields (annual estimate of \$60,000) are to be used each year for specific diamond field enhancements, such as improved irrigation, batting cages, or accelerated sod replacement.	\$190,000 P	\$190,000
	PAYG * Bonds	\$1,639,000 \$5,172,000

* Bonds are from the approved 2014 referenda.

Attachment C.

Steve Severn's Letter to John Chadwick, with response.

Steve Severn

From: Chadwick, John <john.chadwick@apsva.us>
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2015 4:06 PM
To: Steve Severn
Cc: Prisco, Scott; Herring, Bill
Subject: RE: Wakefield High School Softball Field

Flag Status: Flagged

Mr. Severn:

I apologize for taking so long to reply to your email, and for the difficulties the delay in completing the field at Wakefield is causing the softball teams.

Since you are an engineer and deal with contractors you will no doubt understand the problems associated with getting them to complete punch list items on schedule and to do any additional work that may be necessary, even when, as here, payments are being withheld pending completion of the work. My staff is struggling mightily with this contractor and juggling many, many competing priorities, not least of which is making sure that every one of the thousand or so new students we are expecting to enter the system in September has somewhere to sit and learn.

My team assures me that the work will be completed within six weeks.

Given the contractor's performance to date we are unwilling to offer any guarantees.

Please be patient with us as we work through this and other issues.

John C. Chadwick, AIA
Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Arlington Public Schools
Office 703.228.6601
Cell 571.238.0672
john.chadwick@apsva.us

If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the email from your inbox, send items and deleted items. The receipt by an unauthorized person does not constitute a waiver of any applicable protections. Thank you.

From: Steve Severn [mailto:ssevern@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 12:20 AM
To: Chadwick, John
Subject: Wakefield High School Softball Field
Importance: High

John Chadwick
Assistant Superintendent Facilities and Operations
Arlington Public Schools

Hello John,

I am writing to you this evening in an effort to engage your office in an open dialogue concerning the completion of the new softball field at Wakefield High School.

I am the current President of the Arlington Girls Softball Association (AGSA) and approaching my 15th year in that position. AGSA is a volunteer organization that represents over 500 families in Arlington that have daughters ranging in age from 5-16 years of age, playing on our 44 softball teams this spring. I am also a current member of the Arlington Sports Commission, and so by default, represent all sports in Arlington. It is in this capacity that I am coming to ask for your assistance.

The opening of the new softball field at Wakefield has been anxiously anticipated since the closure of the old field in 2011. The impact of losing this field is not isolated to the softball teams at Wakefield High School, it in fact has a ripple effect that extends to all levels of our youth sports organization. We need to schedule over 300 games and practices in the short 7 week spring season alone. This is the bare minimum in order for us to offer a quality youth softball program.

As AGSA is an Arlington County affiliate organization, DPR issues us permits for the use of 5 primary diamond field facilities.

They are the 3 Arlington High School fields, whenever they are not used by the varsity and JV softball teams and also the fields at the Arlington Traditional School and a single field at Barcroft Park. Those 5 facilities represent 95% of our total field space allotment. Losing Wakefield 3 years ago was a major blow to our program and created a situation whereby we had to dramatically reduce the total number of practices and games.

It was a twofold loss, since the Wakefield teams had no field, they were forced to use Barcroft as their home field and practice facility and thus restricting AGSA usage of that field as well.

This season, AGSA has experienced significant growth and in fact, the final numbers represent the largest enrollment of girls in the organization since its inception 30 some years ago. Needless to say, the scheduled spring 2015 opening of the new field was viewed as a godsend.

Going back to early last summer we have been given unwavering assurances that the field completion was on schedule and would be available for the coming spring season, which starts in late February.

These assurances were transmitted to us through our liaisons in DPR, who were being briefed by APS staff.

I have to emphasize that these "informal" updates never once indicated anything other than the schedule was on track. In fact, DPR, anticipating the opening, reallocated a portion of our field space to other sports this spring.

The bad news reached us on the day before it was scheduled to open, that the field had failed to pass final inspection the day before and was not released to DPR for issuing permits.

I am an engineer by trade and I have been to the field and observed firsthand one of the major issues being the drain placement and grate design. I can only conclude that the design team was sorely deficient in their knowledge of the sport. It is even more concerning that the problem was not discovered until the day of final inspection and without the contractor, in attendance.

My subsequent reasoning led me to believe that this would be viewed as such an embarrassment by APS, that remedial action would have the highest priority and the opening would be delayed by only a few weeks.

I also believed that APS would very shortly issue a statement explaining the delayed opening to the user groups while also providing a fast track plan to salvage the season.

Sadly, to our knowledge, none of this has occurred and in fact there seems to be absolutely no urgency whatsoever in getting back on track.

Perhaps we are wrong and it is just a lack of communication that is driving our perceptions.


For that reason, I would like to request that your office provide AGSA with the list of deficiencies that are being addressed, along with a timeline for scheduled completion of each item. This would include

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both severe items that must be corrected before opening the field and also less critical items that could be handled on a lower priority basis. We also request weekly updates on the progress of the remediation effort. I will share this information with our AGSA Board and Association members.

I simply cannot express to you strongly enough how important the immediate opening of this field is to my organization specifically and to Arlington girls softball in general.

Sincerely,


Steve Severn
President, Arlington Girls Softball Association
Tiger Travel Teams Commissioner
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571-216-1227 (C)
agbasoftpitch.com
steve.severn@rocket.com (work)