

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday May 28, 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	Shirley Brothwell, Member
David Tornquist, Member	Ellen Killalea, Member
Regina Kouba, Member	Debbie DeFranco, APS Liaison
Doug Ross, Member	John Blevins and Megan Carney

Members Absent: Heather Coccozza, Member, Mauricio Coreas, Member

Agenda:

- I. **Approve Past Meeting Minutes**
- II. **Sports User Group Briefing- John Blevins and Megan Carney**
- III. **2016 Legislative Priorities project for commissions- Discuss sports commission response**
- IV. **School updates- Deb DeFranco**
 - a. **Wilson School Field**
 - b. **HB Woodlawn**
 - c. **Wakefield Softball**
- V. **Tuckahoe Project Update/Discussion –Craig**
- VI. **Lubber Run Discussion**
- VII. **Long Bridge Park Update if available– DPR/Doug**
- VIII. **Discussion of next steps towards project goals (continued from last meeting)**

IX. 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. Move to approve, no edits, motion approved.

Action Items:

Jennifer Lainhart will finalize and post to website.

II. Sport User Group Field Allocation Study Briefing
(7:03-7:50pm)

John Blevins of the Sports and Recreation Division introduced the topic. Took close to 9 months to get to this point, strategic kick-off in May with staff. The plan is to move to a more objective policy of allocation for diamond and rectangular fields and develop standards that fit our model. The first step will be focus groups and each chair of groups that use our fields got an email from GreenPlay (contractor). Presentation by Megan Carney was passed out to all members. She clarified that the project looks at leagues and groups that use diamond and rectangular fields ONLY. Attachment A.

Sports Commission will be involved. Agenda Item on 6/25 meeting. Focus groups will have a sign-up and 1 (one) representative from each group will be able to register for 1 (one) focus group meeting.

George Towner voice his issue with only one person allocated for ASA, when they have two programs rec and travel and they have the largest program (most participants/fields) in county. He is worried that they will change the standard to limit # of practices etc.

John Blevins and Megan Carney indicated that GreenPlay will look objectively at best practices throughout nation and comparable areas, current allocation processes to try to make a clear, fair and equitable plan. Every may not be happy but the process will be more objective and transparent. All groups will have a chance at focus groups to state their case and will also look at affiliation process (what it means to be an affiliate and how to become one).

Shirley Brothwell offered that there will be a large discrepancy for each group on how much time they want, how much time they should have and how much time we can afford to give. She would like to know up front what criteria they are considering. We need to push GreenPlay to be transparent.

Megan clarified that this is the purpose of these focus group meetings is to determine what the groups that are using the fields care about and then determine what the criteria should be. There are no clear standards throughout the industry but GreenPlay has worked with a number of agencies on this topic and has considerable experience and are coming in as expert mediators. Currently we don't have specific enough criteria and

we have multiple conflicting criteria. GreenPlay will have a dedicated webpage which we will share when it is available.

Action Item:

Megan and John indicated that this would be a collaborative process and that GreenPlay will make recommendations to the county and the county will ultimately decide to adopt a final plan. Throughout the process there will be chances to provide input and feedback. The whole process should take 1 (one) year and planned to roll out by Spring 2016. John Blevins is the Project Manager with help from Megan Carney and Art Thatcher from Green Play and Pat O'Toole of GreenPlay will provide Project oversight.

George Towner has requested that the RFP/Contract be shared with him and commission. Megan Carney will provide Jennifer Lainhart with a list of those who received this email to distribute to the commission. Jennifer Lainhart will share project website with commission when available.

III. 2016 Legislative Priorities project for Commissions (7:50-7:56pm)

This topic is in reference to a letter received from Mary Hynes which asks commissions to answer a few questions in regards to top legislative priorities for Arlington.

Craig mentioned an idea about how ODU was able to get state funding to build a football field. In the same way could Arlington try to get funding to build a pool if it was in conjunction with local universities? Is their legislature that would support or allow private sponsorship of public facilities like Long Bridge. Does the state government has any policies prohibiting or allowing private entities monetary support in sports facilities at the local level?

Shirley mentioned with all of the discussion around the need for space in Arlington that maybe the state should look at the federal use of land in Arlington, to include Pentagon parking lots, federal park land etc as places that may be able to help Arlington with land space. Also she was curious about the county program to reduce Used Car Lots and why it was discontinued and if there was legislature that supported or prohibited the authority of county to reclaim that land.

Action Item:

Jennifer will share brainstormed ideas with group and allow them some more time to review before next meeting. Due to County by 7/17.

IV. School Updates (Wilson, HB, Wakefield, ATS) (7:56-8:30pm)

Wilson school is the new HB/Woodlawn and Stratford program. Design will follow instructional protocol, will house 700+ kids. Design is not completed and nothing has been decided. Meetings are still being held and a lot of vocal groups. Everything still in flux. Field space available will be a rectangular field, size not determined. Site is owned by county/APS. County negotiating with Penzance for new fire station. Deb reminded commission that the building needs to address function for instructional purposes first but there are designs that appear to meet all needs and include a full size field on 18th st. side which will be turf with lights. David

brought up the letter from Mary Hynes to James Lander in regards to this project.

David and others stressed that the recreational needs are important as well to design. There was a BPLC vote but it was delayed. David and others worried that APS views seats as more important than recreational value of open space and that it's clear that county and APS both say they are willing to collaborate and so they should. Also some noting Rosslyn community needs this space also. Comment made about ownership and no one wants to give up their space which makes it harder to work together.

HB-Woodlawn will now be Stratford Middle School, they are getting new wing and library. Supposed to be 100% walking school. But they are getting a 3 million dollar ramp that will come from Lee Hwy (29) down to school to reduce community effect on pick/drop off and traffic off Lorcom Lane.

Wakefield Softball Field: Hired architect for W-L Softball and contracted them. Ball netting needs to go up on 3rd base side adjacent to Claremont. End of June install temporary construction area if approved by safety manager to allow access and specifically allow AGSA to play there in summer. Steve's concern was that tradition would have Wakefield HS playing on the field first so that would delay their ability to use it. But pending safety officer's approval they should be able to play.

ATS batting cages: Deb met with Holly, PE teacher and Asst baseball coach at W-L who all work at ATS. There is limited space for free play but they posed a few options and walked the grounds together. There is a space available there for a batting cage at the end of black top where there is currently a non-used shed. Steve will continue to keep us updated as it's a Diamond Field-Fund project.

Craig posed the question is Deb could not attend is there someone who can act as a designee and she said there really is not. But that county can continue to keep her updated on topics that require representation from schools and she will attend as needed to provide input.

Steve brought up the issue of signage at the schools. Specifically ATS is an issue since their other two fields at county fields and the county is allowing the signage. The school sites citizens calling to complain about it. Steve notes that there are some sponsors that are local businesses that play in the league who really rely on the signage. What is the official policy of county and APS?

Action Items:	<p>Follow up on county/APS policies in regards to advertising on property.</p> <p>Follow up on ATS batting cage updates as needed from Diamond Field Fund Working Group.</p>
V. Tuckahoe Project Update (8:30-8:43pm)	<p>Craig reminded them that John Foti proposed to turf the fields. Mixed discussion around the need to have lights for turf? And not 100% sure that his plan was cost effective. The estimate John gave was not official also there was not community process. But having turf guarantees more games/practice no matter other factors.</p> <p>Commission was in agreement that turf creates more time: If it is cost effective to turf then why not. If not cost effective then need to pursue community process.</p> <p>Jennifer Lainhart reminded them of the following from last meeting:</p> <p>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."</p>
Consensus:	<p>Should not pursue further at this time. Turf process for 2017 will determine best value of next turf location.</p>
VI. Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee (8:43-8:50)	<p>Doug provided brief update of their first meeting. Playground will begin work after July 4th celebration. Groups work through January will be looking at NOT re-designing but re-scoping work and re-validating the Phase II plan. Over summer there will be an effort to get feedback from commissions. Doug has asked that we consider keeping the July 23rd meeting date because we will need a quorum possibly to make decisions as a group. Also considering added some questions in a survey that is intended to aid in the Public Spaces Master Plan as well. Late summer early fall.</p>
Action Items:	<p>Jennifer Lainhart will amend the summer schedule to include a July meeting on 7/23 7-9pm at Fairlington CC.</p>
VII. Lubber Run Discussion (8:50-8:53)	<p>There is a website for the new Lubber Run Visioning: http://parks.arlingtonva.us/2015/04/lubber-run-center-visioning-session/</p>
VIII. NEW Business (8:53-8:58)	<p>Question about vacant lot near Shirlington and Jennie Dean near dog park.</p>

Spawned a question about How does DPR engage citizens. Discussion of different ways and ideas about continued communication needs.

Craig mentioned Public Open House opportunity for the Arlington Community Facilities Study 6/2 at CHP 2100 Clarendon Blvd. 12-3pm, 3-6pm and 6-9pm.

Also next Community Facility meeting is June 10 7:30-10pm June 24th is a resident forum at Wakefield HS 7-10pm

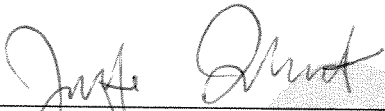
<http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/>

Meeting Adjourned

(9:00pm)

J. Walter Tejada, County Board Liaison

Attest:



Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison