

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 5/26/16

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Place:** Langston-Brown Community Center

**Attending:**

Craig Esherick, Chair	Deb DeFranco, APS Liaison
Josh Colman, Staff Liaison	Ellen Killalea, Member
Shirley Brothwell, Member	Steve Severn, Member
Jessica Paska, Member	Heather Coccozza, Member
Regina Kouba, Member	Doug Ross, Member
George Towner, Member	David Tornquist, Member

**Agenda:**

- I. **DPR Project Update**
- II. **Approve Past Meeting Minutes**
- III. **Gymnastics/Barcroft Presentation**
- IV. **TJ Elementary School- Craig**
- V. **Long Bridge- Doug**
- VI. **Gunston Facility & Artificial Surface- Steve**
- VII. **Williamsburg Lights- Steve**
- VIII. **Status of Diamond Field Fund Discussions**
- IX. **Commission Update- New Members**
- X. **General Updates- Projects & Priorities, Casino Night Event Update**
- XI. **George Towner Presentation**

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**Agenda Item**

I. DPR Project Update-  
Peter Lusk & Joshua Scherk

7:03-7:33pm

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**Discussion, Consensus & Action Items**

Peter Lusk presented regarding ongoing DPR projects, including Barcroft Sport and Fitness expansion, Aurora Hills Community Center Refurbishment, Lubber Run Community Center Project, Arlington Mill Community Center additions to gymnasium and program shift.

Joshua Scherk presented information on the current status of the Tuckahoe Park Field Renovations, with an estimated finish date during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016.

Presentation can be found online here:

<https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2013/11/Sports-Commission-Presentation-May-24th.pdf>

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II. Approve Past Meeting Minutes (March & April 2016)

7:33-7:38pm

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March meeting minutes additions- Steve will lead field fund group.

April meeting minutes- Josh will add information from Doug regarding the MAC.

Review and motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, approved.

Action Items

Josh will post minutes on the website.

Discussion regarding changing June meeting date due to conflicts.

**Next Meeting officially moved to June 21.**

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III. Gymnastics/Barcroft Presentation

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Removed from agenda- covered during presentation by Peter Lusk

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IV. TJ Elementary School

7:39pm-7:50pm

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Note: Reggie will take Craig's place at June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Craig- Discussion regarding placement of elementary school on the back end of the parking lot or building a bigger building and using the entire parking lot space. Building potentially 3-4 stories tall- trying to add a youth soccer field with parking underneath. Discussion regarding potential movement of Patrick Henry students to TJ.

Group discussion on parking garage and soccer field- ground level entrance with soccer field on top with a basketball court at parking level.

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	<p>Craig- thinks it likely we'll lose a field during construction- field to be used as staging ground.</p> <p>Questions regarding date of completion.</p>
<p>V. Long Bridge- Doug</p> <p>7:50pm-7:56pm</p>	<p>Update provided by Doug regarding Long Bridge. At this point it's a go or no go situation with the board voting on CIP in July. The group is looking for a large number of supporter to speak on June 22<sup>nd</sup>- you can sign up online or by calling in on June 15. They are trying to get someone to sign up in the first hour who will stand in support of the project. Doug is asking for support from the Sports Commission- hopes we will write a letter of support for the project.</p> <p>Questions regarding what it is exactly the commission would be supporting. Doug- the report and its recommendations- this is a reduced version of the very initial proposal- they came back, stayed within budget with this recommendation. Mark Schwartz supported this.</p> <p>Discussion regarding fields and MAC. Heather- had questions about the MAC- okay with language stating the MAC could be done sooner and to recommend looking at other locations.</p> <p>Discussion regarding support of commission for a letter. Craig will craft and send a letter to individual members for review.</p>
<p>VI. Gunston Facility &amp; Artificial Surface- Steve</p> <p>7:56pm-8:04pm</p>	<p>Discussion regarding petition started by John Foti- turning fields into artificial turf- any new fields that are done or remodeled should be considered for turf fields.</p> <p>This was in support of diamond fields – making diamond field artificial and multi-purpose. Good model of this is in Falls Church- all artificial and lined for every sport they have.</p> <p>Shirley- a lot of people are necessarily in favor of the idea of artificial for diamond fields, however, the constant rain outs and work from volunteers just to keep fields playable has been taxing. With a few artificial fields, we can get more games in.</p> <p>Steve- good article recently on how many games have been preserved from artificial turf. Haven't lost any games because of artificial turf, while baseball and softball have been devastated.</p> <p>Steve- in light of this, DPR had discussion with John and others about Gunston and potentially creating synthetic field – cost would be about a half million more. John is looking into how he can raise the money.</p> <p>Jessica- questions about the lifespan of grass versus synthetic- what is the standard for replacement?</p>

	<p>Shirley- questions about why John Foti is being asked to raise a half million dollars for a synthetic field? Is soccer required to raise funds or use field fund dollars for a synthetic?</p> <p>Craig- it's the option to do that or potentially not have a synthetic field. It's a new policy that relates to everyone. Doesn't just relate to diamond fields as much as it relates to the budget situation. There's not enough interest (based on study) to get more tax money.</p> <p>Craig- this is DPR responding to our requests for more synthetic fields. If you can raise the money, we'll consider what you want to do (making it synthetic).</p> <p>George- questions regarding the idea of public/private partnerships.</p>
<p>VII. Williamsburg Lights- Steve</p> <p>8:04pm-8:05pm</p>	<p>No update at this time- group is off until September.</p>
<p>VIII. Status of Diamond Field Fund Discussions</p> <p>8:06pm-8:13pm</p>	<p>Steve- No information to provide on Barcroft batting cages- hasn't heard anything on that proposal.</p> <p>Steve- John Foti wanted to use field fund money for Gunston project (from agenda item VI.). Discussion regarding equitable share of field fund money. Part of John's proposal is finding different ways to get to the half million.</p> <p>Field fund process is not formal yet- discussions so far have been about specific projects- like Gunston.</p> <p>Steve- important to discuss benefit and equitable contribution for any projects like this. Affected users should be willing to contribute.</p>
<p>IX. Commission Update</p> <p>8:13pm-8:15pm</p>	<p>Craig introduced new member Jessica Paska. Also mentioned new member Justin Wilt (started in April)- couldn't be here this evening.</p>
<p>X. George Towner Presentation</p> <p>8:16pm-8:26pm</p>	<p>Craig presented plaque to George Towner for his outstanding years of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George has a 40+ year history of volunteerism and leadership. He earned the Bill Thomas Park Service Award in 2008, the highest honor given to Park and Recreation volunteers.</li> <li>• He served as a member, then as chair of the Parks &amp; Recreation Commission in the 1970's.</li> </ul>

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- From 1970 to 2008, he was one of the founders of the Arlington Soccer Association, and served as an officer and member of the board.
  - From 1979 to 1997 he represented Arlington in the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Since 1997, he has served on the Arlington County Sports Commission.
  - From 1969-2008, he founded Potomac Kiwanis Soccer Club; served as Treasurer since founding; also served as coach of recreational and travel teams and served as club manager
  - George is a member of the Arlington Soccer Association Hall of Fame and two-time winner of "Soccer Person of the Year" with ASA.
  - From 1982-1985, he was elected President of the Virginia Youth Soccer Association- during this time players registered by VYSA increased from 6,000 to 31,000.
  - From 1986 – 1989, he served as Director of Region I United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA); Region I includes 15 youth soccer associations from Maine to Virginia; as regional Director served as a member of Board of Directors of United States Soccer Federation (USSF) the National Governing Body for professional, amateur and youth soccer in the United States.
  - From 1990-1992, he was a member of the National Appeals Committee for USYSA, then chairman of the National Appeals Committee for USYSA from 1995-1997.
  - George has served on the Sports Commission since his appointment in 1997.

George- It's been an interesting thing serving on this commission for a while.

One of the best things that happened when he was working with DPR was a small park fund- if it didn't cost \$5,000, then the Park and Recreation Commission could approve cheaper projects.

He'd like to come back whenever Doug leaves.

George- can't believe that they haven't gotten one new basketball court with Craig as chairman.

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XI. General Updates-  
Projects & Priorities, Casino  
Night Event Update

8:26pm-8:33pm

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Adjournment at 8:33pm

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Shirley provided an update on the casino night- a lot of Sports  
commission folks were able to attend. It was a great event- access to  
casino (fake money), open bar, food stations- proceeds were divided  
three ways- including to Sports groups. She hopes it happens again in  
the future.

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Next meeting is **Tuesday**, June 21 at Langston-Brown CC.

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Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

*Josh Colman*

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Josh Colman, Staff Liaison