

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday June 25, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Room 104, Fairlington Community Center

Attending:

Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison	Craig Esherick, Chair
George C. Towner, Jr., Member	Ellen Killalea, Member
Heather Cocozza, Member	GreenPlay-Art Thatcher
David Tornquist, Member	GreenPlay-Pat O'Toole
Mauricio Coreas, Member	Megan Carney-DPR Project Liason
Doug Ross, Member	James Meikle-APS Urban Forestry Commission
Steve Severn, Member	Alonzie Scott-Park and Recreation Commission

Members Absent: Regina Kouba, Member, Shirley Brothwell, Member, Asha Patton, Member, Debbie DeFranco, APS Liaison

Agenda: (UPDATED FROM ORIGINAL POST BASED ON ACTUAL MEETING ORDER)

- I. Sport User Group Briefing –Green Play
- II. Approve Past Meeting Minutes
- III. Williamsburg Light Update
- IV. Wilson school update/Old HB-Woodlawn Stratford School
- V. Long Bridge Park Advisory Group/Aquatics Update– Doug
- VI. 2016 Legislative Priorities check-in (if time allows) briefly covered
- VII. Ongoing county forums or workgroups check-in (if time allows) No time allotted
- VIII. Discussion of next steps towards project goals (continued from last meeting) No time allotted
- IX. Sports Commission members involvement or interest in ongoing county forums or workgroups
no time allotted

Agenda Item**Discussion, Consensus & Action Items**

I. Sport User Group Field Allocation Study Briefing-GreenPlay
(7:00-8:30pm)

Megan Introduced the topic, to develop a field allocation policy for Arlington's sport user groups. Over the past 2 days GreenPlay has held focus groups with these groups and today's meeting is to discuss the things they have learned through this process. Introduction of Art Thatcher, project manager and Pat O'Toole project supervisor. The focus groups included all major field users in Arlington, all the affiliates, large rental groups and internal leagues.

Art Thatcher is a CPRP and has a parks and recreation background with many years of experience. Pat O'Toole has 30 years of management in planning in parks and recreation. Introduction of attending members, including guests, James Mickle APS Urban Forestry Commission and Alonzie Scott from Park and Recreation Commission.

GreenPlay has done several of these types of studies across the country, including Stafford County, Denver, Oklahoma, South Dakota, what they have found is public engagement is important and want to present what they have learned from the past 2 days focus groups.

Will discuss the process, schedule and the focus group results. 5 focus groups, 36 participants, invited 50, asked some questions and allowed group input. Will provide highlights in today's presentation.

Reminder of the scope: Field Allocation Policy for all diamond and rectangular fields only, not in scope: maintenance, equipment, staffing, fees) County if undergoing RFP process for Public Spaces Master Plan and this is not related but the two might have some overlap, but this project will not address the need for more fields. Just the allocation of current diamond and rectangular fields in existence.

<http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2015/07/GreenPlay-Focus-Group-Input-Summary.pdf>

Comments during presentation:

Discussion of GRASP Inventory –looks at the level of service done in GIS. Craig posed a question about what counts as a field. For instance small extra grass space at Reed School which is scheduled often for soccer would that count as a soccer field? Most likely would not qualify as a full rectangular field but it's a part of our current inventory and it's being scheduled it would be considered in this process as part of allocation. Craig also wanted to clarify if they would be measuring and releasing dimensions of all the fields/spaces used. That is part of the work. Also how many teams are using fields for practice at different levels? Pat

clarified that each allocated field will have a description that would include much of this information.

George wanted to clarify if there is a current allocation policy that exists today. There is a policy that has an allocation priority but nothing specific, all historical. George wanted to know what it was for comparison at the end.

Q: Alonzie Scott asked about policy piece. Need county board to adopt policy? If so, need to make sure they are on board through the process so that you can get it adopted quickly after recommendations are made.

Q: What about school facilities and their compliance with the policy once it's implemented and is this in the scope of the project? The complaint was that school facilities don't consider the other entities that get scheduled on DPR/School fields. Would this work address cancellation policies, and alerts and come up with an acceptable time frame and/or internal communication system for this process. One of the barriers is the scheduling platforms do not connect, suggest the use of social media.

Q: Discussion around the "equitable" criteria, what does that mean and does it plan for future growth of programs? GreenPlay mentioned it will be data-driven, members asked to see data, mentioned also Proragis data from NRPA could be obtained (for sport growth numbers nationwide).

There is no ideal/perfect example of this type of process. The standards for practices/games are often league driven and can vary widely amongst sports and areas.

Q: What's better about turf VS natural grass? This is not in scope also fees and lights are not in scope.

Q: Why did GreenPlay include questions about fees and budgets on survey? Many groups voice apprehension and did not fill these areas out. Pat explained that GreenPlay uses this as a data set and fees and budgets can help validate total participation and overall strength over time of the groups being analyzed.

Discussion with David about Ultimate Frisbee, doesn't have a "home field" that is built for the sport. Need time on appropriate sized field. The model is different than soccer. Pat clarified that they will use the standards and the knowledge they have gained, but the priority will not be based on national standards since our situation is unique.

Action Item:

Once the plan is reached, need to review on a specified basis to determine if it's working. Scope will include affiliate and non-affiliate rules and possibly a further look at that process.

Jennifer Lainhart will provide presentation and link to the Project site on the county website when available.

II. Approve Past Meeting Minutes (8:30-8:32pm) In section II. Move to approve with minor typographical edits, motion approved.

Action Items: Jennifer Lainhart will finalize and post to website.

III. Williamsburg Light Update (8:32-8:45pm) Discussion of pushback to July. Discussion of membership on the work group and which houses are effected. Jennifer will send group charge to commission. Intended for trees to be between fields to cut down on lights. Craig reminded to try to use similar methodology as the work with Greenbrier community. Engage and tell them we getting smarter about types of lighting that will cut down on illumination on their properties. Determine county's position on lights. Provide research and resources top support lights to public.

Noted that the community is changing and maybe less adverse to this.

Action Items: Jennifer to send the work group charge to the commission. ** Updated

IV. Wilson School Update: (8:45-8:50pm) Decided not to work with county to combine park/school, decided yesterday when they presented all designs. Agreement to swap Rosslyn-Highlands park fell through. Final design is still in question.

V. Long Bridge Advisory Group Update (8:50-8:53) Doug discussed the staff outreach project planned for the July meeting. 7/23 7pm at 3700 S. Four Mile Run Dr. Also invited aquatic committee members to meeting. The advisory group reviewed the activity and provided feedback in advance of public outreach efforts. The meeting will allow members of the 2 commissions to participate in the outreach project.

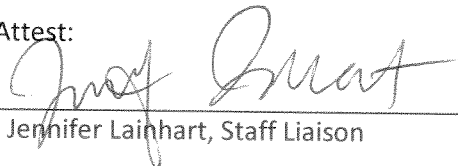
VI. New Business (8:53-9:00) Sports Commission wishes to recognize John McLaughlin who passed away. He dedicated 30 years to the Arlington Soccer Association as the executive director and was responsible for large growth in the program during that time.

Meeting Adjourned

(9:00pm)

J. Walter Tejada, County Board Liaison

Attest:



Jennifer Lainhart, Staff Liaison