

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/21/16

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Langston-Brown Community Center

Attending:

Craig Esherick, Chair	Heather Coccozza, Member
Josh Colman, Staff Liaison	David Tornquist, Member
Shirley Brothwell, Member	Steve Severn, Member
Jessica Paska, Member	Doug Ross, Member
Regina Kouba, Member	Greg Patton, Guest

Agenda:

- I. **Approve Past Meeting Minutes**

- II. **TJ Elementary School- Craig**

- III. **Long Bridge- Doug**

- IV. **CIP and Impact (moved from item 5)**

- V. **Skate Park Vote (moved from item 4)**

- VI. **Gunston Project**

- VII. **General Updates- Projects & Priorities**

Agenda Item	Discussion, Consensus & Action Items
I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes	Review and motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, approved.
7:09-7:16pm	

II. TJ Elementary School-

Craig

7:16-7:28pm

Craig- Big discussion regarding parking at the last meeting. Meeting added to this Thursday night- primary agenda item is to discuss parking.

Discussion involves the design of the school and design of the parking garage- information needs to be submitted by July 1. Currently discussing gym- parking will not be a big problem if you provide enough. Should have more to update after upcoming meeting.

There are two different plans- one has the gym on the ground floor, while the other has the gym on the third floor. Gym would be accessible to the public on the weekends.

This is the third committee involved in the TJ project. The first said no school, the second decided on TJ as new school, this group is coming up with the building plan.

III. Long Bridge- Doug

7:29- 7:45pm

The hearing tomorrow night on the CIP is important to this group. CIP reports on prior bonds and projects that are pending- hoping they'll adopt recommendations of the County Manager to move forward. Some additional options with sponsorship may create greater space.

The 4th field is tough to envision- currently estimated at over \$20 million (it's over a parking lot which would make it much more expensive).

Craig- do they need a parking garage for the pool? Is there enough parking for the pool?

Doug- the MAC plan was that it would go into an underground garage (more parking needed with MAC). This is separate from the pool parking.

Craig- were there any estimates on how expensive it is to extend the trail? The footbridge across the GW parkway? Doug- the bigger hurdle has been the Park Service- getting them to agree to this idea.

Discussion regarding type of field to advocate for. Craig was putting together a letter regarding the advocacy of a field- discussion regarding whether to use "multi-use field" or "field" as terminology. Letter did not say "multi-use" but Craig will advocate for that. Shirley- believes it might be more effective to lobby for a multi-use field (rather than soccer field only) as it would serve the most people.

Doug- the real goal is to get a CIP item on the plan. It will not get there unless there's a lobbying effort. Encourages people to attend meeting and talk- discussion regarding speaking at upcoming meeting.

IV. CIP and Impact-Josh
7:45pm-7:56pm

Josh discussed the upcoming CIP and presented relevant information for DPR projects/breakdown. All relevant information is posted online and can be found at <https://budget.arlingtonva.us/proposed-fy-2017-fy-2026-capital-improvement-plan/>

Of particular note was the General Government section (pages C-9 through C-56): https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2016/05/C-GENERAL-GOVERNMENT_revised-web-1.pdf

Additional discussion regarding Synthetic Turf Program.

Question from Greg Patton (guest)- Why are bond funds not used for field replacement? Why use PayG funding? When was this decision made? **Answer:** Bond funds are generally used for projects that have a total project cost in excess of \$100,000 and a minimum useful life of 10 years. Field replacement is done on an 8 year cycle, which is shorter than the 10 year requirement. For that reason, the County has funded field replacements through PAYG rather than bonds.

Discussion regarding field fund money and distribution of funds. What are the plans moving forward for soccer versus diamond fields.

V. Skate Park
7:56pm- 8:27pm

Discussion regarding any consensus or thoughts on supporting the skate park. Questions and discussion regarding advocacy for skate park, as well as how the budget/CIP process works. How can sports commission better influence the process?

Discussion of how to respond- if supporting the skate park, what should be considered: alternative funding, renovation rather than razing, recommend lower cost facility, etc.

Discussion regarding accessibility of facilities- distinctions between baseball diamonds and other facilities. Can't fully utilize baseball diamonds due to county rules/permitting, etc.

Discussion regarding lobbying and process to influence county board decisions. Questions regarding budget briefings, how to find out more information, etc. How can Sports Commission find out what's coming?

Several of these items are being worked on- central place to discover calendars, board meetings, commission updates, etc. Josh will update with more information when available.

Craig will draft a letter on the Skate Park and send out.

VI. Gunston Project
8:27pm- 8:50pm

Shirley- conversation with John Foti regarding the Gunston project. He has proposed a few different ideas of how to get the money for

this project (increasing fees, levying additional fees on diamond users, take and use all diamond field fund money).

Discussion regarding cost projections- why would cost be \$1.8 million? User groups are being asked to contribute \$500,000. Takeaway from user groups- most aren't willing to use all field fund money to get it turfed.

Issue is funding- who will contribute to project. Discussion regarding use of field fund versus advocacy to county to pay the \$500,000. Funding questions- county paying vs. field fund- discussion regarding grants, foundation, sponsorship, etc.

Craig- whole process for Gunston was a win for field groups- the process was put on hold to allow for discussion/investigation of changing to turf field.

Questions/discussion regarding previous precedent of diamond leagues offering field fund money for other projects. What has changed? Issue is trying to make the most of \$120,000 when the field costs \$1.8 million. This project has urgency- money has to be given today.

Group discussion regarding project, process, and how to move forward- is everyone being treated fairly? It's difficult in the middle of a project to make this type of change and move forward. Can the field fund be used over time rather than all upfront? Discussion regarding precedent that would set- is that the new normal? Field fund/diamond groups could not consistently raise enough money to do that. That was not the intent of the field fund to begin with.

Group would like more information on Gunston project. Josh will get more information (deadline, where the project is going) for next meeting.

VII. General Updates-
Projects & Priorities

8:50pm-9:13pm

Craig was recognized for his outstanding service as Chair of the Sports Commission. DPR and the Sports Commission are extremely appreciate and thankful for all his years of service. He is welcome to continue coming.

Heather- gymnastics is indebted to Craig for helping with the process for Barcroft. Appreciative of Craig leading the group and going in front of the county board. Thank you.

Steve- Impressed that basketball courts were never discussed by Craig- shows impartiality as Chair.

Discussion regarding transition in Sports Commission- Heather Coccozza has been named the new Chair of the Sports Commission.

Heather- can't attend the CIP meeting tomorrow night, but she has sent letters- encourages others to attend.

Heather- discussion regarding commission representation- looking for new reps in several subgroups/committees. If you are not in a group, please consider taking one of these positions. Let Heather know by July 15.

Discussion regarding coordination with Park & Recreation Commission and Sports User Group Study.

Shirley- AYBA- discussion regarding history/purpose and feelings of members. Efforts to force a merger have fallen flat so far. It's a body that reports to Sports Commission- SC should be more aware of what's going on with it.

Craig- Discussion regarding property across from Washington-Lee HS- county has put a down payment on the property- deciding whether to buy or not. Property is currently an industrial area.

Discussion regarding themes/projects for the next year- send ideas to Heather to update the projects/themes the commission will work on.
Next meeting is Thursday, September 22 at Langston-Brown CC.

Adjournment at 9:13pm.

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison