

# Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 27, 2017  
Langston-Brown CC, Room 109  
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

## **Commission Members Present:**

Shirley Brothwell, Chair  
Jessica Paska  
John Bacon  
David Tornquist

Drew Murray  
Justin Wilt  
Steve Severn  
Patricia Trapanese

## **Commission Members Absent:**

Sherry Kohan  
Janet Eichers

Larry Robertson

## **County/APS Staff:**

Josh Colman, SC Liaison  
Robin Leonard, DPR

Deb DeFranco, APS

Please note: Agenda items may not be in chronological order.

## **Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

[7:04-7:09pm]

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

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

## ***New Business***

## **Approval of Sports Commission Public Comment Process**

[7:09-7:14pm]

Background and information on public comment procedures. Will be enacted for this and future SC meetings.

Motion to adopt, seconded, and approved.

## Williamsburg Lights

[7:14-9:08pm]

Presentation of County Manager Recommendation relating to Williamsburg Lights

- Introduction of different county staff in attendance.
- Overview of site.
- Background on WFWG – two views for consideration.
  - Opposed to lighting
  - Open to lighting
- PSMP/POPS Background- current policy and ongoing process to update.
- Discussion on synthetic turf benefits.
- Overview of lighting impact and Musco recommendations. Review distance of lights across the county.
- Background on public health impact. Discussion of three categories of health effects. Assessment was for two categories- users (players, coaches, spectators) and neighbors.
- Overview of transportation impact and increase in traffic.
- Overview of tree impacts.
- Discussion on benefits of lights and field demand/density.
- Review of mitigation strategies, including background on MOA between County and Rock Spring Civic Association.
  - Measures mentioned include standing committee, scheduling, limitations on events, rovers, etc.
- County Manager Recommendation:
  - Light the two synthetic fields at Williamsburg.

Sports Commission Members Questions/Comments

- Discussion/question on POPS criteria- how many synthetic fields are being converted.
- Question on average hours/year and how 2,100 hours were calculated?
  - Robin will provide data on how hours were calculated. 7 days a week. Winter not included.
- Discussion on lights and dimming options. Dimming option is included and could be a part of the remote programming. Could dim lights for activities like soccer, not for lacrosse.
- Traffic Volume/counts
  - Traffic data assumed lights on until 11pm.
- Density/Field Demand- discussion of participant locations. Significant growth from rectangular sports.
- Questions on recommendation of 9:30pm end time? How will that affect adult use? Likely to be for more youth use during weekdays based on 9:30pm end time.

- Questions on cost of lights. Robin will provide data.
- Discussion of County's relationship with Musco. Sole-Source contractor- County has a desire to have all lighting systems on the same control system. No other vendors have been able to provide the control system on Musco lights. Most Northern Virginia jurisdictions use lights.
- Discussion on DPR experience with MOA's. DPR uses MOA's with a variety of organizations (APS, private schools, community organizations, etc.).
- Discussion on protocol for determining membership of standing committee. Overview of Greenbrier committee makeup. Could be different for each group- important to bring the right mix of people to the groups.
- Discussion on APS growth and field use. School growth, team growth- APS has more need as well.
- Discussion on noise spillage- whistles from referees, spectator issues, etc.
- Field lighting intensity questions- if contractor is not meeting agreed upon standard, what happens? Contractor would be legally obligated to meet the contract- they'd have to fix it.

#### Public Comment Period

Speakers signed up by 7:30pm and were granted a maximum of 3 minutes to speak.

- Larry Suiters- discussion on Musco as sole source and health implications of lights. Group not told about 5700k vs. 4500k.
- Nedim Kirimca- physical safety of poles is an issue. Musco refused to provide information and standards were written by Musco- a problem.
- Kay Luzius- support lighting the field. Not enough lights in the growing county.
- Daniel Lopez- many ways to reduce lighting intensity and still meet requirements for sports. Wants to work with community to make this happen.
- Roy Gamse- discussion on health concerns and light impact. Had to use light data from Musco- based on assumptions of now spill or glare.
- Gail Harrison- discussion on children in need of greatest field space and idea that those in more denser areas need more, rather than in north Arlington.
  - Comment/Discussion- on reaching underserved populations, scholarships, etc. How to get more access for those populations.
- Judy Hadden- worries about programming all this space- need open space without requiring registration for every activity.
- Chuck Hadden- discussion on noise from fields. Consideration needed of bed times vs. noise.
- Chris Smith- supports recommendation- understands that it may be tough, but resources available from lighting is better than any inconvenience.
- Liz Kirby- consideration of neighborhood character is needed. Fields are in a quiet residential neighborhood.
- Reg Leichty- commends comprehensive process. Discussion on population density and field locations- growth needs to be accounted for.
- Ginger Ackerman- original goals of working group were to determine whether environmental concerns could be mitigated and provide reasonable quality of life- it hasn't been.

- Mary Margaret Pipkin- against the lights, wants the character of the neighborhood to remain.

#### Additional Questions/Comments

- Public Health Office asked about difference in opinion relating to health effects. Public health impact and analysis is based on assumption that engineering can work to shield and reduce spillage- accepting that assumption mean excess light shouldn't be there.
- Reconcile distances between houses/fields- numbers mostly provided from 2011, distance from edge of the field to the nearest residential structure. GIS staff worked on in June- to do a few more.
- Discussion on whether the field was or was not designed for lights. BLPC process initially meant to be grass fields. After the fact, it was approved to be synthetic, and lights were to be studied. Conduit was installed on the field as part of this so fields could be lit.
- Discussion on financial cost of lights.
- Discussion on value or added use of fields with lights. Most added value comes with lights on a synthetic.

#### Vice-Chair Discussion

[9:09-9:13pm]

Discussion on idea of the Sports Commission appointing a vice-chair. Workload for chair is substantial- there is a need to ensure there is coverage at meetings, additional work, etc.

If interested, members will email Shirley. Depending on interest, we'll look at the best way to proceed.

#### *Old Business*

#### County Board Seeking Input on Legislative Priorities

[9:13-9:15pm]

Overview of previously discussed items- synthetic turf, indoor sports facility, concussion, lights.

*Commission Member Reports*

JFAC

[9:15-9:17pm]

Suggested letter to look at drafting- idea of decking.

POPS

[9:17-9:21pm]

POPS public comment is currently online and available. Josh will send link.

SC needs new representative for the POPS Advisory Committee.

Meeting ends at 9:21pm

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Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

*Josh Colman*

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Josh Colman, Staff Liaison