

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Langston Brown Community Center, Room 109

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Heather Cocozza, Chair
Steve Severn
Drew Murray
Larry Robertson
Janet Eichers

Justin Wilt
David Tornquist
Shirley Brothwell
John Bacon
Patricia Trapanese

Commission Members Absent:

Jessica Paska
Sherry Kohan

Reggie Kouba

County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison
Megan Carney, DPR

John Blevins, DPR
Ryan Amato, DPR

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

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes- February 2016

[7:01-7:04pm]

Change to discussion on open space.

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

New Business

Sport User Group Presentation

[7:04-7:46pm]

- Discussion on field allocation and presentation from DPR staff.
- Overview of timeline of project.
- Review of fall pilot and information gathered.
- Review of pilot allocation and goals. Discussion on primary versus secondary seasons.

- Discussion of initial user concerns and how they might be addressed.
- Discussion of DPR concerns and how they are being addressed.
- Review of league growth over the last three years.
- Overview of fall pilot lessons and spring pilot plans, as well as ongoing policy work.
- Questions on travel baseball and how it is included in the allocation.
- Discussion on the variables involved (formula), actual allocation of permits, and variables relating to the number of teams.

Williamsburg Lights Letter to Board

[7:46-8:19pm]

Discussion on Williamsburg lights and letter to the Board.

- Discussion on neutrality. Ensure that the letter is striving to not be inflammatory.
- The letter should include a sports commission statement of support and why - in general we believe we should have lights due to the community benefit.
- Tie this discussion to our mission (we are here to advocate for more capacity - lights give us more capacity).
- This is a race that we're losing. It's important and helpful to advocate for this.

Discussion on POPS work and criteria relating to lights.

- POP's plan confirmed that criteria will be included for lights and synthetic turf. Draft will be released with this criteria within the next two weeks.
- Leaning is to wait and see what DPR says.
- The Board needs criteria on lights - when are lights needed? This came about because the Board asked the workgroup for this.
- Group thinks it may make sense to wait for the POPS criteria.
- If POPS is delayed, can still make reference to it, just refer to it as upcoming criteria.

Discussion on criteria and benefits of lights.

- Criteria for lights are important but they may not be as valuable in the future as things change over time.
- Discussion on looking long-term versus short-term for lights decision. Williamsburg may be an issue now, but long-term this is going to keep happening.
- As a group, the Sports Commission generally supports lighting fields wherever possible.
- At this juncture, it may be better to adopt a broad policy, and the need to face the fact that we live in an urban County.
- Discussion on current field space. If there's a deficit of field space right now from the County's own goals, lights would help the county come closer to meeting its own goals.

Discussion on the work the county has done and whether the commission feels like the county has done due diligence on this.

- The commission generally feels County did a pretty good job trying to mitigate and answer any issues from neighbor groups.
- Belief that neighbors were against lights from the beginning and did not have give and take in workgroup.
- Discussion that neighbors' concerns were taken seriously, and mitigation measures were offered.
- Discussion on MOU moving forward. Sports Commission would like to create a MOU that would be more robust. In addition, suggest establishing a watchdog group to make sure the MOU is followed.

Letter will be drafted for the next meeting for review.

JFAC Buck & Shirlington Land Swap- Comments/Feedback

[8:19-8:37pm]

Discussion on the Buck and Shirlington land swap.

- Leaning is that we be neutral on the land swap - does anyone in the group feel like we need to make an official statement on the swap?
- Discussion on benefits of the Shirlington land. Could be a potential spot for a recreational facility. That would be something positive the group could advocate for.
- Discussion on what might happen with the swap - how does APS play into this? Where is the high school going to go? How does field space for 1200 kids play into this?
- Could potentially make comment on what should be done with the Buck space. If APS is asking for field space, sports commission can say that they support APS.
- Decision to not comment at this time - too much up in the air, may need more information in the future as things play out.

Feasibility Studies

[8:37-8:39pm]

Discussion on feasibility studies previously requested.

Decking can be taken care of in Buck/JFAC discussions. The other study was analysis of an indoor sports facility.

Discussion on asking for indoor feasibility study for 4MRV or keeping it broad. Keep discussion broad, but can reference 4MRV.

Budget Meeting with County Board

[8:39-8:57pm]

Discussion on budget meeting with the County Board.

- Things the Sports Commission is advocating for- restrooms, increases for field maintenance, and feasibility studies.
- Discussion on field maintenance and current funding issues.
- Discussion on whether to ask if APS should be contributing more money. APS is already asking the county for more money to accommodate for growth. Discussion on whether asking a APS for more money is just trading money between the county and APS. Sports Commission can just advocate for more money rather than where it comes from.
- Discussion on additional opportunities for collaboration, consolidation, retooling, etc. If there is time, Commission is supportive towards APS request relating to the Buck property. They also mention the sports scheduling system - APS system versus DPR system and idea of everyone scheduling using a single system.

Sports Commission Annual Workplan

[8:57-8:59pm]

Brief discussion on Annual workplan- how should Sports Commission advocate and what should be advocated for?

4MRV Concerns on Concept Drawings

[8:59-9:02pm]

Concerns with different plans for 4MRV- three plans had the sports facility under the WETA building- not land currently owned.

4MRV group should be presented other designs based on feedback. Next set of drawings could really be the set that is getting closer. Next public meetings are likely in May.

Old Business

Stratford Use Permit

[9:02-9:04pm]

Amend permit to do a feasibility study to determine possibility of making field larger, how that would impact parking, and would that impact parking decisions. Heather to meet with APS board member.

May have future discussions with transportation staff.

Committee Reports

[9:04-9:08pm]

Out of School Time Commission

- Yorktown HS formed group- Reuse and Replay.
- Could play into one of the Sports Commission initiatives about supporting underserved youth.
- Patricia is coordinating with Out of School Time Commission on these ideas.

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison