

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 25, 2017
Langston-Brown CC, Room 109
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Heather Cocozza, Chair	Larry Robertson
Patricia Trapanese	Justin Wilt
John Bacon	Reggie Kouba
Drew Murray	Shirley Brothwell
Steve Severn	Sherry Kohan
David Tornquist	Janet Eichers

Commission Members Absent:

Jessica Paska

County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison	Anthony Fusarelli, CPHD
Pete Lusk, DPR	

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

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes- April 2017

[7:01-7:04pm]

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

New Business

Washington/Kirkwood GLUP Project

[7:05-7:34pm]

Overview and presentation of the ongoing study with the Long Range Planning Commission.

- Working with committee of planning commission to evaluate appropriateness of land use plan.
- Overview of study area- impetus began with development group (11th Street Development)- that submitted an application to change land use for their site. After that, the YMCA submitted,

followed by American Legion. Three parcels with three applications- because of that, the study area was expanded to include the rest of the commercially zoned properties.

What are the three applicants looking to do?

- They want to change land use plan.
- 11th street- medium office apartment.
- American legion- affordable housing.
- YMCA- didn't have a clear picture of what they would like to do. They know the buildings they have don't work for them currently. They've requested to redevelop/renovate their facility up to 100,000 sq. feet in size. Also want to renovate to add residential units. Would partner with developer partner- to help with economics of building new facility.
 - YMCA existing property is 70-80,000 sq. feet.
 - Discussion/questions of what YMCA is hoping to do with their facility? Several possibilities but no specifics- ideas that have been discussed include pools, gym, running tracks, etc.

What's the outcome of the study?

- They will generate a study document at the conclusion. It will include planning principles, concept maps (building heights, land use, etc.).
- Question about how forecasts lead to schools? From county and APS, made some recent improvements. With any site plan development, county planning staff will confer with APS planning staff- and give them the specifications of prospective buildings/properties. APS staff will generate estimates based on looking at specs.

Current Scenarios/Updates

- Currently getting feedback and input from LRPC, unclear of support for development at this point.
- YMCA site- discussion on the idea of vertically mixing the uses. Could situate 2-3 story ymca building – height might not overwhelm. Might be able to put additional residential floors above.
- Overview of different scenarios (5 different scenarios). Scenario 2- highest level of density being requested.
 - Challenges in scenario 2- (with bonus)- amount of development on these sites might be greater than development on side closer to metro. Trying to determine what the upper most level of development could/should be.
- From Open House- There is a fair amount of support for YMCA project in the immediate neighborhood—but also a fair amount of opposition. Idea of creating some type of neighborhood park and mix in townhouses- starts to be a bit more support from neighborhood.
- Concern about YMCA- looking for a commitment that the YMCA will stay on site after any GLUP changes.

GW Baseball Clubhouse

[7:34-7:46pm]

Overview of agreement between GW and Arlington County relating to GW Baseball Clubhouse at Barcroft Field #6.

- Background information on initial 20-year agreement between GW and Arlington County.
- Project Scope- 6,200 sq ft. clubhouse building, as well as a 3,240 sq ft. enclosure for outdoor batting cages.
- GW is responsible for costs associated with this project.
- Diamond Field User Groups will be able to schedule up to 275 hours of use through DPR. GW extends their lease for 10 years.
- Projected timeline overview- construction slated for Fall of 2017, completion by Fall of 2018.
- Minimal parking affected by construction, field will still be in use during construction.
- Discussion on architecture and look of the facilities- contractor is taking another look at the designs- more ideas to be shared soon.

ACTA (Arlington County Tennis Association)

[7:47-8:11pm]

Representatives from ACTA came to speak to the commission on advocacy for tennis.

- Overview of tennis situation nationally and regionally- increased tennis play and use. Primarily drop-in play.
- ACTA believes County has underinvested in tennis facilities and ongoing maintenance. A number of courts are significantly cracked and have unsafe playing conditions. There's also been a decrease in the number of available courts over the years despite population increases.

Discussion on advocacy for tennis, ACTA's role, and path forward

- There has been a lack of advocacy for tennis- there's not a single tennis organization or community advocating for tennis. It's difficult to organize the players (primarily a drop-in sport). ACTA has decided to take a more active/visible role in advocating for tennis courts.
- Looking to work with the County to do three things:
 - Better maintain courts that we have
 - More extensively upgrade/update tennis venues
 - Add courts when space is available
- ACTA looking to engage earlier in CIP process- hoping to work with DPR. Plan to request the County to look at accelerating the upgrade of some of the major tennis venues (examples: Bluemont Park, Quincy, Marcy Road, TJ).
- ACTA looking for upgraded lighting at facilities. Lighting has fallen below modern standards.
- Understands adding courts is a tough issue- has to be realistic. Idea of adding a single court to Jeannie Dean Park.

- Advocating for reducing waiting time between maintenance of courts. Tennis industry recommends resurfacing courts every five years. Arlington County tries to follow this, but hasn't done it. Looking for more funding for resurfacing.

What is ACTA looking for from the Sports Commission?

- Support. As ACTA comments on CIP/budget, would appreciate Sports Commission's backing on these issues.

Questions/Discussion

- Idea of indoor tennis facilities. Overview of Arlington YMCA Tennis and Squash Center. Additional discussion on indoor capacity- private sector has had some movement.
- Discussion on tennis participation nationally over the last ten years.
- Idea of tennis courts on top of buildings/parking lots.
- Idea of ACTA raising funds/money.

POPS Analysis to Recommend Sports Amenities

[8:12-9pm]

Review and discussion of population based standards for POPS.

- Discussion of current POPS process – overview of level of service charts.
- Discussion of each sports amenity and whether commission agreed with recommended standard or not.
- Conversation around recommended standards- how were they arrived at? How does POPS view current standards vs. peer standards vs. survey priorities? How are standards being determined?
- Discussion on whether Arlington County is different from national trends/areas. If sports are continuing to grow in Arlington, but not nationally, why should national trends be influencing recommended standards?
- Questions on who unprogrammed spaces are included as an amenity? The POPS committee wanted the concept of there- they haven't figured out the final details yet.
- If sports needs aren't currently met (not enough practices/space/etc.), how is that taken into account in standards?
- Overview and discussion of Arlington sports growth.
- Amenity by amenity discussions on whether commissioners are comfortable with recommended standard.

4MRV Discussion on Fields

[9-9:10pm]

Updates on 4MRV working group and current progress.

- Discussion on the softball fields- issues from working group members about the fields being closed off and unavailable to the public.
- What are thoughts on sharing of amenities/space? Two ideas: unlock the gates and add field money or share fields amongst other sports-more flexibility.
- Does the commission support taking spaces and using them in multiple ways? Questions as to whether this is effective, as it's only been done at Bluemont.
- Original charge was redoing the two fields- not removing anything. Should the seasonal fence idea be revisited? Potential to have open space during the "off-season"?
- Discussion on working with Parks and Rec commission on this. Reach out and share Sports Commission position.

Diamond Field Fund Update

[9:10-9:15pm]

- Update/overview of diamond field fund projects.
- Shed was re-bid and should be sent to County Board for approval in July, followed by immediate work in mid-summer/late-summer.
- Issue with batting cage concrete pad- costs are coming in way over initial projection. In order for that project to move forward, we would need new authorization from Sports Commission (would recommend SC have a "not to exceed" value to authorize).
 - Commission not ready to consider doing that without more information, but unlikely the Diamond Field Committee would sign off at the cost.

Old Business

Williamsburg Lights

[9:15-9:17pm]

- Update on timeline for decision.
- July meeting will be held for Sports Commission to be briefed and provide feedback.
- Sports Commission will submit letter soon.

Meeting Ends at 9:17pm

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison