

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2016
Langston Brown Community Center, Room 109
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Heather Cocozza, Chair	Justin Wilt
Steve Severn	David Tornquist
Doug Ross	Shirley Brothwell
Drew Murray	Sherry Kohan
Patricia Trapanese	Reggie Kouba

Commission Members Absent:

Jessica Paska

County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison	Deb DeFranco, APS Liaison
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Guests Present:

Christian Dorsey, County Board Member	Elizabeth Day
Jerry Spitz	Peter Marsh
Larry Robertson	

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

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes- October 2016

[7:02-7:04pm]

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

New Business

Christian Dorsey Visit- Christian Dorsey, County Board Member

[7:04-8:05pm]

Christian Dorsey visited and spoke to the Sports Commission. Included background on commissions, expectations of county board, presentation on advisory groups, as well as discussion on ongoing issues.

- Discussion on role of the commissions and role of citizen engagement. Board is looking for a deeper analysis and thought process on issues- want to make sure they cover all perspectives useful for decision making.
- Discussion on the Arlington Way- the County Board may make the final decision and some people may not like that decision, but everyone should want the Board to make decisions while being informed and having an understanding of all perspectives. The Commissions play a direct role in that.
- Expectations for advisory groups- Board wants a relationship. They do review and read the letters that are sent. They do have conversations based on these letters. Board expects advisory groups to be ambassadors to the community- speaking to citizens, engaging them on issues, etc.
- Discussion on open meetings- ensure that no Sports Commission issues are discussed with three or more members present at the same time (no side meetings). Email responses- as long as members are not rapidly replying to the same conversation, should be okay (when everyone is replying or chiming in in succession, that's where there are problems).
- Ongoing conversations about operating norms and whether Board should look at commission as one entity (more standardization for charges, term length, etc.)
- FOIA Discussion- commission members are responsible for maintaining records on commission communication. May be required to turn over email on related subjects.
- Conflict of Interest- the key is to disclose any conflicts you may have- if there's a gray area the county attorney can advise on the issue.
- Public Participation/Engagement (IAP2)- people are often asked to engage without a clear understanding and at the end of the project if their recommendation is not considered, then there are concerns.
 - Arguments about process devalues the role of public engagement. Sometimes public engagement may just be notifications or providing information. Usually public will have a more substantive way of engaging. The most common desire is for consultation (both early and back end considerations).
 - Collaboration- where commissions can fall- this is a true partner in the decision making process, where we're trying to make a decision that reflects what the body has come up with. It's not full decision making, but has more impact.
 - Most commission work is done in the involve/collaborate sphere.
 - An important reminder- there are 34 commissions. No one commission is the "collaborator". Sometimes different issues/perspectives cause a decision you may not like as much.
- Discussion on county notification process to commissions- how can commissions be assured they are contact about current issues (Bluemont example). Discussion on what staff sees as routine versus what citizens may see as extraordinary.
 - Similar conversations occurring at Board level regarding the consent agenda- Board finding out afterwards there are problems.

- Discussion on finding ways for sports commission to provide more input. Ensuring sports commission is notified on any information involving a sport.
- Area for Sports Commission to consider- figuring out the joint-use of our facilities and what is the best way to do it?

Field Allocation Study

[7:59pm-8:05pm]

- Heather and Reggie discussed the field allocation study and upcoming work for the Sports Commission.
- Overview of the tiered system.
- Sports Commission will be engaged to review residency requirements & new sport process.

Sports Commission Annual Report

[8:05-8:09]

- Review Draft of Sports Commission Annual Report that will be sent to County Board.
- Draft will be sent to commission members for review after updates.

Sports Commission Finding Aid

[8:09-8:13pm]

- Review of updates to Sports Commission website- additions of Resources page, Positions & Issues page.
- Commission should be able to get more information on ongoing issues- find links to other county pages, etc.
- Requests for additions should be sent to Josh.

Old Business

Gunston Turf Project

[8:13-8:19pm]

- Discussion on being approached by Arlington Sports foundation to use field fund money for Gunston Turf project.
- Coalition of diamond sports is trying to see if they can gather enough money to make this happen. A one-time deal that will try to encourage turf fields in the future.
- Official proposal was being sent to Diamond Field Fund Committee.
- No objections from community- though questions about lack of neighborhood involvement.

FY2016 Budget Close-Out Funding

[8:19pm-8:32pm]

- Communication with Christian on this issue. Discussion on what is the desired outcome for the requested feasibility studies? A conceptual plan for a field house with location/cost options (same thing for study of field decks).
- Questions on CIP (DPR has \$350,000) listed for feasibility studies. More information needed on this.
- There's some information available about decking 66. Bottom line- can we afford it? You could if it was developed similar to Rosslyn- much tougher if just for public space.
- Discussion on consultants reviewing scholarship policies and outreach to disadvantaged youth.
- Discussion on FY2016 process. While suggestions from Sports Commission were not adopted, feedback was heard and recommendation made to continue pushing for this in ongoing and upcoming budget discussions.
- Additional discussions on Jeannie Dean, field maintenance, Long Bridge park.

Bluemont Field #3

[8:33pm-8:36pm]

- Discussion on letter submitted to County Board. Letter had an impact- went over pretty well with the Board.
- Maintenance discussion- Board also wanted to know that monitoring and evaluation of maintenance issues was addressed. If there are issues/conflict- need to be ready to deal with that as it occurs.
- Diamond groups got unified on this project in a way they haven't been before.

Community Facilities Study

[8:36pm-8:37pm]

- A lot of feedback from other groups similar to letter that was written by Sports Commission.

Temporary Fire Station #10/Wilson Site

[8:37pm-8:42pm]

- Discussion on fire station vote- Board voted to put fire station on the field. County Board did not know about the letter sent from Sports Commission.
- Discussion as a representative of Sports Commission- you can speak in front of the Board and be recognized as a "key body."

Commission Position on Planning Process for Development of Public Facilities

[8:42pm-8:43pm]

- Statement has been very useful in outside meetings, groups, etc. Commission is behind this.

Yorktown Restrooms

[8:43pm-8:44pm]

- ASA is splitting the cost with DPR to keep the Yorktown restrooms open for this winter.
- Topic should continue to be discussed- keeping restrooms open from now on.
- Other locations need to be considered.

Projects & Themes

[8:44pm-9:03pm]

- Discussion on projects for Sports Commission to focus on.
- Projects for commission to focus on include:
 - Work with Arlington sports programs to look at field / facility use issues, particularly regarding density of use issues to determine if we get more use out of existing / limited fields / facilities without serious degrading the quality of experience
 - Work with the County Board, the County Manager, and DPR to support the conversion of Gunston field to a synthetic turf diamond field and look for more creative ways to finance the additional costs
 - Advocate the positive aspects of lighting the turf fields
 - Work to get more synthetic fields in the county
- Other items can be addressed or added as agenda items for discussion.
- Commission members will take the lead on certain projects.

Commission Member Reports

4 Mile Run Valley

[9:03pm-9:07pm]

- December 2-6 visioning workshops that will be influential towards process. Concepts will be put on the table. Community is invited and expected to come. A lot of people without sports interest will; be there. Important that sports representation come as well.
- Will be very important to have Sports Commission voice in these meetings. Civic associations and community groups want their plans to be adopted as soon as possible.

Williamsburg Working Group

[9:07-9:08pm]

- Group will be presenting at next Sports Commission meeting in December.

[Meeting ends at 9:08pm]

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison