

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Langston Brown Community Center, Room 109

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Heather Cocozza, Chair

Steve Severn

Doug Ross

Drew Murray

Patricia Trapanese

Reggie Kouba

Justin Wilt

David Tornquist

Shirley Brothwell

Sherry Kohan

Jessica Paska

Commission Members Absent:

County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison

Jennifer Fioretti, DPR Deputy Director

Aaron Wohler, Landscape Architect

Deb DeFranco, APS Liaison

Lisa Grandle, Parks Planning Division Chief

Guests Present:

Steven Finn, P&R Commission

Greg Patton

John Foti

John Bacon

Phil Juliano

Kevin Jones

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

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes- September 2016

[7:01-7:03pm]

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

New Business

Parks Planning and Development Division- Lisa Grandle, DPR

[7:04-7:34pm]

Lisa presented information regarding the Parks Planning and Development Division, background on her team, previous accomplishments, current projects, and master plans.

- Discussion regarding Park Maintenance Capital- used to fund renovation of outdoor elements (fields, lights, playgrounds, restrooms, etc.)
- When updating/renovating, DPR brings sites up to code (example: storm water, ADA regulations)
- Discussion regarding key accomplishments for FY15 and FY16 Park Maintenance Capital Program
- Update on FY17 approved projects
- Discussion on Synthetic Turf Program- current turf needs to be replaced every 8 years
 - Current inventory is 15
 - CIP program goal is to have 20 in the inventory
 - PSMP will help inform where 4 new TBD fields will be located
- Information regarding Park Land Acquisition and Open Space Program
- Information regarding Park Master Plans- used for either new facilities or major upgrades/renovations beyond the Parks Maintenance Capital program
- Questions regarding the process for evaluating current facility before renovating. Discussion regarding lifecycle process, usage, etc.
 - PDD reviews programmed/permitted use- pulls all reservation data whenever looking at this.
 - Staff look at inventory of locations, needs, and tries to accommodate based on that.
- Specific questions regarding Stratford and improvements as a baseball diamond when it's been used as a rectangular field recently.
- Questions on 4 synthetic fields- replacement or new?
 - Could be either, decision hasn't been made at this point
- Discussion on PSMP timeline

Community Facilities Study

[8:39pm-8:49pm]

- Discussion on the community facilities study- Steve Severn wrote a letter regarding this.
- Suggestions that information on new facilities needs to get out sooner than it has- public needs to have the ability to comment and influence.
- Sports Commission would like to be a part of the JFAC (Joint Facilities Advisory Commission)
- Include request that Sports Commission always be involved if discussion include anything relating to athletic field or sports facility.
- Discussion on being involved in the planning process- have more input at the beginning stages of park planning.
- Motion to send letter, seconded, approved.

Sports Commission Annual Report

[Skipped for time]

Sports Commission Finding Aid

[Skipped for time]

FY2016 Budget Close-Out Funding

[8:50pm-9pm]

- Commission and public were asked for input on how to handle \$18 million in closeout funds.
- Proposal put forward that SC recommend applying \$1 million to field maintenance.
- Discussion on second proposal of \$1.6 million and how to use.
 - Idea of feasibility studies that benefit sports community- study for prospective field house, decking over route 66.
 - Idea of study focused on ensuring underserved populations get more opportunities.
- Sports Commission voted in favor of writing letter to list considerations for reprogramming money for uses above.

Diamond Field Fund Committee

[8:34pm-8:39pm]

Steve discussed new Diamond Field Fund Committee and introduced members who attended the Sports Commission meeting.

- Was able to secure participants from all six diamond sports groups.
- Purpose of committee is to vet and send project ideas to Sports Commission.
- Operating on a very tight schedule- will be meeting shortly for more discussion.

Old Business

Gunston Turf Project- Aaron Wohler, DPR & Greg Patton, Arlington Sports Foundation

[8:00-8:34pm]

Presentation from Aaron regarding the Gunston Field renovation, as well as presentation from Greg Patton on idea of turfing the field.

- Discussion on the background of the field renovation project and opportunity to partner with the Arlington Sports Foundation
- Discussion on existing elements versus proposed elements in new project
- Information on stormwater requirements
- Questions on batting cage (why needed?)
 - If there's more use, looking at more amenities

Presentation from Greg Patton, Executive Director of Arlington Sports Foundation

- Background on ASF mission/vision
- Discussion on why they are interested in Gunston- location is good, field already has lights
- Discussion on proposal- contribute funding to turn the field into synthetic turf- would enable field to be used year round- additional use
- Discussion on funding- \$370,000 needed to make this happen. ASF has some contributions/donations- if there is willingness from youth leagues to work together.
 - Field Fund would be used for this project as well.
- Plan of official fundraising campaign.
- Commitment of funds needs to be confirmed by January 2017.

Follow Up Discussion

- Questions on turf field- is everything turf? Yes, entire surface would be turf.
- Cost effective to turf?
 - DPR sees value in synthetic, would allow more use. Unfortunately, DPR only had funding for capital maintenance of \$1.4 million- synthetic is additional \$370,000.
- Questions on initial thoughts of proposal?
 - SC seems fine with idea of turf; generally, seems like groups are in favor of idea. Main questions stem from funding- not sure if everyone is in agreement on funding.
 - Questions on funding/usage- if groups are contributing funding, how can they ensure usage? Is it realistic to think they'll be that many more hours of use?
 - They'll be more use, though you have to account for inclement weather during some of the open times. While field will primarily remain Adult Softball, there are times when it's not used (early afternoon, Fridays, weekends).
- Will have more discussion on this soon.

Bluemont Field #3- Lisa Grandle, DPR

[7:35pm-8pm]

Presentation from Lisa on the Bluemont project- update on project background, initial scope, process, and revised scope.

- Discussion on project background and goals. Information on public meetings, comments, feedback. Split between idea of fencing the field (advocacy for upgraded baseball diamond versus remaining open space).
- Revised Project Scope
 - Reduce fencing by 20%- remove some fencing on first and third baselines
 - Reduce outfield fence height by 50% (from 8' to 4')
 - All other elements of approved project scope remain
- Next steps- County Manager to update board on November 9.

- Discussion regarding current progress- construction had begun without the fence.
- Comments on public notification process- someone from civic association was in attendance at early meeting
- Questions on revised scope- is it possible to create a roll-able fence (could be put up during games, removed when not in use?)
 - No additional money in the budget for something like this at this time
- Questions of putting up signs to discourage bike riding, dogs, etc.
 - DPR can look at this

[9pm-9:18pm]

Discussion amongst Sports Commission regarding thoughts on the Bluemont revised scope and letter drafted about the project.

- Concerns raised about open access to the field allowing field conditions to worsen.
- Proposal to support with the caveat that more money be pulled into maintenance for the field.
- Sports Commission members generally supportive of compromise, however, would like monitoring/upkeep and timeline for revisiting.
- Discussion on budget issues relating to field maintenance.
- Motion to send letter, seconded, approved.

Temporary Fire Station 10/Wilson Site

[Skipped for time]

Themes & Projects

[Skipped for time]

Commission Position on Planning Processes for Development of Public Facilities

[Skipped for time]

Yorktown Restrooms

[Skipped for time]

Commission Member Reports

[Skipped for time]

[Meeting ends at 9:18pm]

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison