

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 28, 2017

Langston-Brown CC, MPR

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Jessica Paska
John Bacon
David Tornquist
Sherry Kohan

Drew Murray
Justin Wilt
Steve Severn
Larry Robertson

Commission Members Absent:

Patricia Trapanese
Reggie Kouba

Janet Eichers

County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison

Deb DeFranco, APS

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

Former Chair Heather Coccozza was welcomed back for a brief thank you and plaque presentation recognizing all her efforts with the Sports Commission.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

[7:12-7:16pm]

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

New Business

Arlington High School Rifle Program

[7:16-7:50pm]

Background and information on the Arlington High School Rifle Program. Parent Steven Tinter visited the Sports Commission to provide information on the program, history, needs, and more.

- History of Rifle Programs
 - High school teams since 1958 in Arlington
 - Now use Precision Air Rifle (an Olympic Sport)
 - Teams compete in Potomac High School Rifle League
- Facilities
 - Currently utilizes two facilities- VFW post (contract) and Masonic Lodge (donation).
- Why Air Rifle?
 - Cross gender direct competition
 - Safety
 - Emphasis on self-control, concentration
 - Opportunity for those not as fast/muscular- can still succeed.
- Safety Information
 - All members go through safety training
 - Rifle programs have a minor injury rate compared to other sports
 - Not legally/technically classified as firearms
 - Not enough sound impulse to cause hearing damage.

What is the Rifle Program looking for?

- Facility Space
 - Current program is outgrowing facility space
 - Waitlists for program that cannot be accommodated
 - No room for spectators/parents
 - Facilities are not ideal for participation
 - Limited practice time- setup and breakdown takes entirely too long
 - Transportation of equipment- has to be transported for each practice, match, etc.
- Need a “home” space in Arlington County.
 - Have worked previously with APS, school board, private citizens- wants to be on people’s radar for space needs.

Questions/Discussion on Rifle Program

- Consideration of Crystal City Business Improvement District- space available?
- In-depth discussion on specific space needs
- APS Support? Athletic directors support, but it’s always offsite.
- Discussion on fundraising vs. budget- APS pays \$3,000 for facility space.

FY18 Budget and Process

[Removed from Agenda]

General Commission Reminders

[7:50-7:57pm]

Overview and reminder of legal requirements as a member of the commission.

Topics covered:

- Communication guidelines
- Open meeting requirements
- FOIA rules/requirements

General Discussion on Commission

[7:57-8:30pm]

Open discussion on the Sports Commission, influence, organization, etc.

- Sports Commission struggles to be taken as seriously as other commissions
- Making progress in moving in the right direction- better organization, objectives/priorities, etc.
- Commission Member Reports- more of a focus needed on that. SC needs to dedicate more time to member reports.
 - Idea discussed- reporting before-hand on commission member reports.
- Discussion on agenda- commission should take over the agenda, rather than being as reactive to lobbying, groups, others, etc.
- Idea discussed of a member attending the Park and Recreation Commission meetings
- Board Discussion- Board is looking for balanced, thorough, neutral advice on topics.
- Discussion on advocacy versus awareness- difficulty in balancing. Should look to increase awareness role.
- Work with other commissions- team up in more situations.
- Letters- write more letters and work with other commissions/groups to put together letters.
- Look at idea of taking field trips to see facilities- worked well with Wakefield Lights Tour, other commissions have done this.
- Create or discuss ideas of outside advocacy groups- potential for a group around Diamond Fields, another around Rectangular Fields. Create a mechanism for these groups to work towards goals, issues, etc.
- Discussion on education component of Sports Commission- what more can be done.

Old Business

Vice Chair Appointment

[8:30-8:33pm]

Justin Wilt's name will be put forward for Vice-Chair. Shirley will discuss with Christian.

Futsal Court

[8:34-8:36pm]

Discussions ongoing with Sports Foundation relating to Quincy Parking Deck and potential project. Met with prospective vendor- questions on how the company can potentially move forward on project.

Commission Member Reports

[8:37-9:10pm]

Madison Manor

- Recent presentation on plans for Madison Manor.
- Scope: fields, basketball courts, picnic shelter, parking area, playground. Tennis courts/restrooms not included.
- 3 options for the fields discussed. Field will be re-oriented to account for drainage issues. Seating added for spectators. Field re-orientation may affect programming- currently double programming (softball and soccer simultaneously)- if re-oriented, may be an issue.
- No plans for an overall working group.
- SC should keep tracking project.

POPS

- Justin will be POPS rep. This creates need for backup on 4MRV and POPS.

JFAC

- Discussion on JFAC presentation in June- Buck scenarios. Space for police/emergency facilities being discussed- hard to say no to adding.
- Jessica will tweak letter to include most up to date information.

Diamond Field Fund

- \$10,000 added back to the Diamond Field fund.
- Meeting in October to come up with new projects.

4MRV

- Art and Dog Park Subcommittees have been working. Art wants to build west of Nelson St.
- Dog Park plan presented- discussion of expanding footprint of the dog park to go towards the police building.
- Art District Discussion- what does art district mean? Could be galleries, art spaces, performance spaces, etc. Conflict with existing arts centers (Crystal City, Wilson Blvd)?

Meeting ends at 9:10pm

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison