

Arlington County Sports Commission

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2015
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Room 104, Fairlington Community Center

Attending:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Craig Esherick, Chair | Regina Kouba, Member |
| Stacy Chouinard, Staff Liaison | Doug Ross, Member |
| Shirley Brothwell, Member | Steve Severn, Member |
| Heather Cocozza, Member | George C. Towner, Jr., Member |
| Mauricio Coreas, Member | John Blevins, DPR Staff |
| Ellen Killalea, Member | David Tornquist |

Doug Ross entered at 7:04, Mauricio Coreas entered at 7:08, and George Towner entered at 7:15.

Members Absent: Asha Patton, Debbie DeFranco.

Agenda:

- I. Approval of last meeting minutes.

- II. Gymnastics/Aquatics TEAM Work Group Update

- III. Aquatics Work Group Update

- IV. TJ Work Group Update

- V. Wilson School Update

- VI. Letter in Sun Gazette about 13 and under baseball

- VII. Themes & Projects work

| <u>Agenda Item</u> | <u>Discussion, Consensus & Action Items</u> |
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| I. Approval of last meeting minutes. (7:04-7:06pm) | Meeting minutes provided were incorrect. Will move this agenda item to next month. |

II. Gymnastics/Aquatics
Team Work Group Update
(7:07-7:31)

Update provided from Heather and Shirley. Final recommendation is 60 pages and has been sent to the County Manager. Includes 2 findings and 2 recommendations. DPR charged a higher participant fee than the cost recovery model allowed. Swimming 123% and Gymnastics 118% in FY14. Recommend complying with the model. DPR used minimums to calculate expected cost recover not the actuals. The non-resident surcharge is not tied to a cost, what is the fee for? Convenience of space perhaps. Benchmarked with 3 gyms and 1 swim program, they charged much less. Recommend reduce non-resident surcharge fee to 15% and cap at 5% of the most expensive participant fee in each team per year. Teams have been a revenue stream for the general fund which may lessen. Possibility to present at a Board meeting or may fold into recommendations for the budget. FY15 revenue will exceed cost recovery again, will people want refunds? If fees are adjusted this FY may not need refunds, may be a RecTrac credit. Surcharge was going to go to 50% and push back caused work group to form. Recommend looking at cost recovery in classes and other programs. Craig said DPR director guaranteed him they will look at other DPR programs, not rental rates. They will still work with the cost recovery pyramid but the work is about how you calculate costs. Work group reported to the County Manager, the group negotiated with DPR staff, they did not vote. DPR staff involved were Laura Lazour, Michael Peter, and Megan Carney. Facility Rental fee has gone up in the past years, Gunston bubble in 2003 was \$12/hour in 2011 it was \$100/hour how did they come at that? Michael peter is open to attend Sports Commission meetings and could be a future agenda item.

III. Aquatics Work Group
Update.
(7:32-7:44)

Long Bridge was put on the shelf about a year ago. Asked to examine options and report back by next bond sale which should be late spring. Long Branch Advisory group met. Boston is IOC choice not DC so money still is an issue. A Sun Gazette article was about this today. Arlington Now also had an opinion column that recommended canceling the project. Now and 2016 CIP look for possibilities. The Boston Mayor is calling for a referendum, if Boston does not get approval for Olympics DC may be in the running again. There has been consideration to build it within budget. The building was to be energy efficient, it is now known that all 4 bidders used the same subcontractor for the energy efficiency piece. Possibly could rebid the project. Other options include partnerships with other area universities but none have reached out to us. The bond money can be used for other recreation/park purposes. Needs assessment is 10 years old and will be done as a part of the Public Spaces Master Plan. The fourth field is a part of the CIP still.

IV. TJ Work Group Update
(7:45-7:56)

Final recommendations were decided on and are online. Half of the group wants no school, half does. Guidelines include; no field space touched on the east side. Lay down area for construction and geo-thermal may affect field space. School may redevelop Patrick Henry and Career Center to a STEM high school, nothing solid but some talk

of this. Time is an issue, need a school soon. 1 person is speaking Saturday, 5 or 6 are planning to attend but 1 person will speak. DPR was asked about affects and responded; the synthetic field is one of only three synthetic drop in fields located in Arlington County and only the second one that has goals installed and open year round. It is used by drop in during the day which we need to push to keep it that way. TJ does receive a permit to use the field for their girls and boys soccer games that take place during the fall season from 3:30-5 p.m. The upper rectangular field and diamond field is not scheduled during the day and are both permit only fields so those would not be impacted from a user standpoint but an additional school would most definitely increase the amount of use causing increase in maintenance dollars for upkeep and turf management.

V. Wilson School Update
(7:57-8:05)

No update. Meets will be on January 28 and February 4 at 7pm, APS working group part of WRAPS. Need at least 1 multi-use field. School kids need open space and there is no open space at Roslyn. BH has ultimate Frisbee, HB will become a middle school, 1000 seat capacity, and neighborhood school.

VI. Letter in Sun Gazette
about 13 and under
baseball
(8:05-8:16)

The letter says we need to solve a problem between baseball groups. Letter is from January 15, 2015 Sun Gazette, editorial. 2 leagues serve 12 and under ages, 1 league serves 13 and older. Little League changed rules to allow 13 year olds to register. ALL has tried to test a transition program, youngest play 40-60, high schools play 60-90, and transition is 50-70. ALL talked about creating 50-70 and allowing 13 year olds. SBR is concerned. Both organizations talked, open registration is up to 12 year olds and ALL believes there is an underserved group of 13 year olds. Field issue is where they will play. SBR would like to address a way to serve the 13 year olds needs. Groups are continuing to talk, Steve Finn had tried to register a 13 year old for ALL but was denied. ALL does not hold his opinion. Could be a join assessment of players 13 years of age to figure out what is best. LL age is changing eligibility to end of calendar year. SBR has an only 13 year old fall league with the idea that it gives kids the chance with like skills/ability to play together. Main issue may be the diluting of players if two leagues alloww13 year olds. Overall the transition is always hard on youth.

VII. Themes & Projects
work
(8:17-8:56)

Appendix A. Look at the list with the condition that something can be done. Consider Jane's response to the field fund proposal. The timeline is the next year.
4 batting cages
Bluemont – reach out to county manager with funding needs, also need to address the master planning.
Indoor soccer facility – pretty far down the road, invite ken Bass to a meeting to find out what is going on.

Partnerships & Sponsorships – the County will have a policy, ask for regular updates, and make a deadline December 31st.

2 & 3 could be one theme.

1 & 9 tie into the consultants work.

12, 9 & 5 can combine.

In relation to soccer – different areas have different demand. Need to know more about that. Board directed DPR to look into issue of underserved populations and scholarships. Out of that Arlington Soccer set up tables at schools in South Arlington. Try to achieve by December 31 an analysis of how we serve underserved groups. Ask Laura L. what happened with DPR initiative.

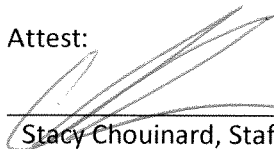
1 & 2 can be combined projects.

Need to address the various processes involved in each project because they overlap.

VII. Meeting Adjourned
(8:57)

J. Walter Tejada, County Board Liaison

Attest:



Stacy Chouinard, Staff Liaison

Appendix A

Themes

- 1 Use county and school facilities more creatively to facilitate more practice and game time for county residents that play sports
- 2 Use partnerships more creatively to facilitate the building of new facilities, the maintenance of current facilities and the purchase of more land to build more facilities
- 3 Develop new ideas for partnerships with chamber of commerce, local businesses, local universities, local professional sports franchises, etc
- 4 Encourage the building of lights for more sports fields to give county teams and individuals more opportunity to participate in recreation and sports
- 5 Work more closely with other commissions to accomplish our goals
- 6 Get involved in the public spaces master planning process
- 7 Get a seat at the table with developers when they are planning new projects in the county
- 8 Lobby for purchase of new land by the County to build athletic fields
- 9 Work better and smarter with DPR, County Board and School Board
- 10 Solicit new ideas from adult sports participants and adult team coaches
- 11 Establish a commission presence on all new committees that may impact the business of the ASC
- 12 Develop the latest information about artificial surfaces and their safety
- 13 Encourage participation in the ASC by groups not yet involved

Projects

- ① Find an alternative location for indoor hockey, indoor soccer and the basketball group that all use space at Barcroft Recreation Center
- ② Expand the gymnastics facility one year earlier than proposed on the most recent CIP
- ③ New batting cages at four locations in the county
- ④ Refurbish infields at Bluemont with artificial surfaces
- ⑤ Boat house on Arlington County side of the Potomac River to be used by all of the APS rowing teams and recreational rowers
- ⑥ Build a new pool somewhere in the county soon
- ⑦ Build a new indoor soccer facility in the county soon
- ⑧ Build a state of the art school with state of the art indoor and outdoor athletic fields and courts, making use of this valuable piece of property for those at the school, DPR and taxpayers who live nearby in Rosslyn
- ⑨ Aggressively participate in the process that DPR will initiate with the help of a consultant to allocate field use for county teams