

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/17/15

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Langston CC

Attending:

Craig Esherick, Chair	Regina Kouba, Member
Josh Colman, DPR Liaison	Doug Ross, Member
Debbie DeFranco, APS Liaison	Steve Severn, Member
David Tornquist, Member	George C. Towner, Jr., Member
Heather Coccozza, Member	Stephen Finn, P&R Commission Member
Mauricio Coreas, Member	Justin Wilt, Guest

Agenda:

- I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes
- II. Commission Structure, Term Limits
- III. Vote on Skate Park Initiative (Appendix A)
- IV. Vote on Field Proposal (Appendix B)- John Foti Letter
- V. Decision on Support of Williamsburg Lights
- VI. Public Space Master Plan Update- Craig
- VII. Field Allocation Study Update- Josh
- VIII. Long Bridge Park Advisory Group- Doug
- IX. Projects and Themes Updates
- X. Ongoing county forums or other workgroups check-in

Agenda Item

I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes (November 2015)
7:12-7:19

Action Items

Discussion, Consensus & Action Items

Adjust Item VI to Williamsburg Lighting.
Review and motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, approved

Josh will post November minutes to the website.

II. Commission Structure,
Term Limits

7:20-7:26

Discussion about openings on sports commission (2 potential openings). If commission members know of potential interest, they can send information on how to apply online. Josh will add link to sports commission website for interested parties (information has been added as of 1/21- applications due by 2/12).

Craig- can we look at adding more members to the Sports Commission? Park and Recreation Commission gave him the idea to look at this. How can we ensure we have a quorum?

Conversation regarding sports commission and restructuring of charter- was this completed with other commissions/groups in 2013/2014? No, it does not appear we've completed that. Craig likes the idea of revisiting the charter and looking at adding 1-2 new members.

We will revisit term structure, charter at a future meeting.

Josh will bring copies of charter.

Action Items

III. Vote on Skate Park
Initiative

7:25-7:34

Commission reviewed skate park letter (Appendix A).

Craig- went and looked at the Skate Park and he believes it is definitely in need of a re-design/new look.

Steve- really likes to support any type of sports activity, but in this case is struggling because of the amount of money. He sees a lot of different areas that can also be improved. Reminded everyone of what Shirley had said- didn't trust her children over there with it being unsupervised.

Questions raised about what we spent previously.

Heather- varying costs on the different concepts- anywhere between \$500,000 to \$2,000,000.

Justin W (guest) - Several questions. Do we have estimates on the number of users? Is this worth the investment? If the work is completed, how long is it projected to last (what is the lifecycle of this project?)?

The park is 10 years old and improper concrete was used. Were there a significant number of injuries from that?

George- As a county facility, the county should be responding to this. County must have concluded that a skate park remedy was needed, but what additional data do we need? Should we defer until we have more information?

Action Items

Josh will try to get more information to several questions for a vote in January.

IV. Vote on Field Proposal
7:34-7:40pm

Craig- John Foti came to the last meeting to talk about this proposal. It involves all groups on the letter (Appendix B).

George- questions about whether GreenPlay (Field Allocation Study) was going to evaluate this topic? What was their perspective?

David and Regina- that study is based on how fields are allocated. This is different from the Field Allocation Study- this is asking for more field space.

Stephen F (P&R) - believes there is some overlap, because he's asking that some of the fields be made synthetic. Would this change field allocation or field availability?

Craig- one issue was that baseball didn't want synthetic fields. He asks if we can support this petition.

Justin W (guest)- Several suggestions- Suggestion to request a task force involving county entities to look at field issues. They should look at: 1) Evaluate when fields should be re-done. 2) What consideration of converting to synthetic fields? 3) Evaluate converting appropriately- can they be used for multiple sports? It's interesting to see all these groups together and cooperating. We've got to work collectively.

Motion made, seconded, voted and approved.

Action Items

Craig will write letter to the board.

V. Williamsburg Lights
7:39- 7:51

Craig- would like to see if anyone is in agreement. He wants to support the Williamsburg lights, but do it in a way that will actually help. In terms of timing, he doesn't know if it's a good idea to be too early or too late. Wants the sport commission to come out in support. He attended one meeting- didn't find it to be a representative group- most people like directly around the field/area. Wants to know if we'll do more harm than good if we show our support before the working group is finished?

Justin W (guest) - believes it's helpful to put support out before because the information is going to the board. Some thought that there may be public forums- within one of those public forums, it

might be a very opportune time to explain what the sports commission is and show support for the Williamsburg lights.

Questions- should this happen at the next meeting? Public forum is a good spot for this. There could be a vote today, but no rush.

Craig- County board will be talking about the budget in the next few months. Are we better off getting ahead of that process and submitting a letter for budget or are they going to wait until the working group makes a recommendation?

Stephen F (P&R)- Working group is separate from the budget process- county board wants to deal with this permit by September of this year. Working group needs to reply by June of 2016. There's nothing out there that currently includes a public meeting- once the working group has a recommendation, it's at that point the public meeting would kick in. Unless there's a public process announced, there's time (starting in June for public comments?). Wires and cables have been built for the lights, but not approved for the next step.

Discussion around the structure/membership of the working group- county board said this is who's on the working group. Can we provide comment "there's an interest in providing a different voice/perspective on this working group."?

Craig- better off waiting, rather than putting out a statement. Steve S considers this a test case. What happens here will carry on, so we can't say now we don't lights. Stephen F (visitor) believes the conditions in the permit are what matter if they have a structure of how to work with the lights.

Discussion about similarities in other facilities. O'Connell was mentioned but it is a different situation. We shouldn't base anything on what happened at O'Connell. Greenbrier is also different because lights were already at Greenbrier. Questions about the permit conditions at Greenbrier- information is on the website.
<http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2015/08/Greenbrier-Community-Agreement-11-10-05-2.pdf>

VI. Public Space Master Plan
7:51-7:56

Craig had a meeting with the group the other day. It's very important that every sports group attend a meeting on February 4, 5, or 6. Consultants will be in attendance as well as the county. We are trying to come up with a plan for public space. One of the options discussed- purchasing more land.

This is separate from the survey they are doing. Questions about who else received the survey.

Craig wants to emphasize that user groups need to show up. Craig will get the info out- there are three meetings to provide feedback. More people (a show of force) will help get more emphasis on the need for more public space devoted towards sports facilities/programs.

VII. Field Allocation Study Update
7:55-8:02

Josh updated group on current progress by GreenPlay.

- Conducted sports user focus groups summer 2015
- Developing findings from the focus groups, questionnaires, and field use data fall 2015
- Will be conducting a presentation of the findings and engage sport user groups in development of policy recommendations in early winter 2016
- Presentation tentatively scheduled evening time February 2nd/3rd.
- User groups should receive a “save the date” email next week with more information on this.

Craig- The Public Space Master Plan (and letters like the one submitted by John Foti) are about how we can increase the pie (space to play). The GreenPlay study is about how the pie is sliced up (how field space will be allocated).

Discussion of what would happen in the interim between the study and if a new group wants space. Will they be denied? They likely wouldn't get space- based on the current rules.

VIII. Long Bridge Update
8:03- 8:08

Doug- Group met on 11/30. There was discussion of several outreach efforts- haven't seen them yet. People had a chance to vote/indicate their top three choices for amenities (including the option of not doing it at all).

The next meeting will include an analysis of operating expense models for other facilities in Arlington County. Focus has been on flawed estimates. Cost recovery at other locations is very different. Outreach has been made to Fairfax County- may get a speaker to discuss cost recovery.

Additionally, there is a survey available for users of school pools until January 3. If you are a user, please give feedback.

IX. Projects/Themes Update
8:09- 8:20

Heather C- one of the sports commission's goals was to work the county to expand Barcroft one year earlier. Expansion was initially proposed for FY17. We have achieved this goal- county is now expanding starting this spring (March/April timeframe). Space is confirmed, 50% of basketball space will go to gymnastics on Friday

afternoons. Result of that is we are able to hold more gymnastics classes on Fridays. Jen Lainhart was instrumental in this happening.

Debbie- asked to provide updates regarding HB Woodlawn. HB will keep a lot of its historical perspective. Board has approved a budget- addition to that space will most likely be on the side where the Stratford program is. This process is still being worked through- and won't be voted on until mid-February. She's on the BLPC (constantly looking at space issues, what we need for space everyone touches [cafeteria, media centers, etc.]. Building won't have that much revision to it- try to keep things looking the same. Elevator will be put in. They are not at the concept of looking at fields. Waiting on approval for a road coming up the back.

Discussion about new school and whether design with field on top of the parking deck would be used. Concerns raised about rooftop fields. There are big expenses on parking garages and rooftop fields. Justin W (guest)- when cutting costs, rooftop fields are the first thing to go. The design stage always cuts fields when they need to cut costs.

Discussion of student growth and expansion. Projected 30,000 students by 2021 at the rate we're growing. Questions raised about where there is the most growth? Debbie would have to check, but there's been significant growth in Abingdon, Clarendon, and Pentagon City. Additionally, the fastest demographic growth may be Rosslyn in 1-5 years.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm.

J. Walter Tejada, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison