

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Langston-Brown CC, MPR

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair (Call-in)
David Tornquist
Patricia Trapanese

Drew Murray
Justin Wilt
Steve Severn

Commission Members Absent:

Sherry Kohan
Jessica Paska

Janet Eichers
John Bacon

County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison

Deb DeFranco, APS

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

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

[N/A]

Approval of October meeting minutes deferred as quorum was not physically present.

Commission Member Reports

[7:08-7:45pm]

- **AYBA**- no update
- **4MRV**
 - Working group will meet again in December to start looking at park plans
 - 1st draft of joint-letter from Sports Commission/Park and Recreation Commission. Hoping for agreement in the next week or two. Shirley will circulate.
- **Diamond Field Fund Committee**
 - Another meeting scheduled for December.
 - Greenbrier Batting Cage- Steve will meet with Jeff (from DPR) to see if any options exist.
 - Greenbrier Storage Building- scheduled to be installed next week.
- **Out of School Time Commission**

- Group wants to kick off a new access group- focusing on access to sports for all. Commission is looking to work with DPR, YMCA, Sports Commission on access- similar to Sports Commission stated goals.
- **JFAC**
 - Remains in a holding pattern right now on whether it's the right time to send a letter or not. Shirley will reach out to chair of JFAC to discuss in more detail.
 - Continue to discuss timing of letter.
- **POPS**
 - Series of December meetings upcoming- need good sports representation at those meetings. Critical to have sports- past survey respondents have skewed older.
 - 1st Meeting- Land Acquisition. Current goal is 3 acres a year. While commitment exists to acquiring land, the use can be very different (gardens, dog parks, etc.). If new land could have sports uses, it's a good idea to know and understand the process.
 - 2nd Meeting- Synthetic Turf and Lights. Important aspects to consider- how demand is forecasted. Unmet demand that isn't dealt with in the level of service (example of soccer not currently receiving appropriate allocation). This is an example of unmet need that can be helped by turfing and lighting. Voices needed for this.
 - 3rd Meeting- Natural resources (trees, tree preservation) and casual use space. Casual use space is often listed as an "either/or" for casual use or programmed use, while it could be an "and"- casual use and programmed use. Examples like Quincy, TJ, VA Highlands. Casual space can be complementary to programmed space. Fields don't always have to be non-casual space.
 - Ramifications of fields being used as casual space should also be discussed and tied in (turf decisions, maintenance dollars, etc.).
 - Typically more unique to diamond sports, as they are often locked/secured compared to rectangular, which are typically open.
 - Discussion on attendance at December meetings and coverage at all meetings.
 - Final draft report of POPS will make its way through the commissions, including Sports Commission. Final vote in June/July for the County Board.
- **South Park Master Plan**
 - No real sports amenities at South Park. It's a very steep location.
 - Patricia thinks we do not need to continue to track this project as the location does not make sense for sports.
 - Could potentially revisit when Alexandria begins to discuss upgrades to their side.
 - Will remove South Park from commission member reports moving forward.

Old Business

Annual Report/Annual Plan Discussion

[7:45-8:43pm]

- Discussion on Annual Plan topics/ideas.
 - Non-Infill Synthetic Turf- install, monitor, check out. Sports Commission would like the County to pilot it and test. Group is on-board with this.
 - Discussion on putting all field related projects/ideas into a single “bag”- so fields isn’t the only point of emphasis.
 - Multi-use Athletic Center (MAC)- if the conversation doesn’t continue with this, it will go away completely.
 - Underserved Youth
- Discussion on themes and tracking themes moving forward.
 - Focus on education moving forward (a lot of advocating in 2017), more educating needed.
 - Try to integrate themes with specific projects. Annual plan should reflect the themes.
 - Discussion on trimming down themes/objectives and make sure to complete a smaller list versus casting a wide net?
 - Discussion on whether we’re missing things in the themes that we know we need to work on- JFAC, POPS, etc.
 - Agreement to streamline/trim down themes- make more realistic and current. Narrow down list, make achievable and measurable. Group would like to move in that direction.
 - Theme ideas:
 - Fields (Advocacy)
 - Advise, Education, Research
 - Underserved Populations
 - Mix advocacy with opportunities to provide input/education. Need to be thoughtful in which things are important to advocate for versus which things are important to educate on.
 - Shirley will adjust priorities- update themes and send out after a conversation with Justin.
 - Underserved Populations
 - More attention needed here.
 - Underserved can mean multiple things- participants, as well as sports (example of rifle programs).
 - Different models for different communities/groups.
 - Williamsburg Lights- was it a valuable exercise to spend so much time on Williamsburg? Frustration with time spent and resolution.
 - Tough, but capacity problem is now a front and center issue.
 - Sports Commission effective in putting forward its communication on the issue.
 - Discussion on putting out more position statements.
 - Why is Sports Commission taking this position?
 - What’s the background on it?
 - Stay involved in current issues/trends. Be realistic in what the committee can do in terms of the voice it has. Think about things with the biggest impact.
 - Idea discussed of working with other commissions or alternative sports (bicycle advisory group, running clubs, etc.).

Field Advocacy Groups

[8:45-8:45pm]

- Will roll into theme/annual plan discussions moving forward.

New Business

Aquatics Committee Statement

[8:45-8:56pm]

- Review of statement from Aquatics Committee.
- Discussion/overview of Aquatics Committee structure, tie in with Sports Commission, reporting mechanisms, etc.
- Sports Commission has had only minimal work with the Aquatics Committee.
- Statement may be a good idea, but also may not be realistic at all.
- Sports Commission would like to work more closely with Aquatics Committee.

Gunston Community Field

[8:56-9:13pm]

- Review draft of letter to APS/DPR- how to handle questions from the letter.
 - Discussion of moving forward with a two-step approach- ask questions of DPR/APS, get answers, then draft and send letter to County Board.
 - Discussion on tone of the letter- can it be done in a friendlier way? Can we understand field maintenance program better?
 - How does DPR/APS approach maintenance of fields more generally?
 - This could be a larger issue of how maintenance is done across the board. Could ask County Board for something to be looked at more broadly.
 - Discussion on lights vs. lack of maintenance. Maintenance being cut eventually blocks playing time.
- Overview of Gunston Community Field
 - Previously told that no one wants to spend money on something that may turn into a school in the future. Same paralysis that has happened previously at Kenmore happens at Gunston.
 - There's no formal sports group to speak about this. It's a community use field that doesn't get programmed. Similar to Westover- lighting on a field with unplayable dirt.
- Decision to email DPR/APS directly with questions, then discuss again.
- Idea mentioned of doing a pilot/test of non-infill synthetic turf on this field.
- Guest- Has previously met with DPR on the state of the field. Grass is not a huge investment, but didn't have \$100,000 to get field redone. Asking a number of questions about this- shouldn't let a long-term school decision impact this- it's a safety hazard.
 - Discussion on state of field and type of field.

- Continued discussion of turf installation.
 - Concern that turf may make it more attractive and lose community use designation.
 - Agreements could be worked out to ensure that doesn't happen.
- Sports Commission will send questions to DPR/APS regarding the field and plans.

Meeting Ends- 9:13pm

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison