

Arlington County Board

June 10, 2016

2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300

Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Garvey (Chair), Mr. Fisette (Vice-Chair), Mr. Vihstadt, Ms. Cristol and Mr. Dorsey,

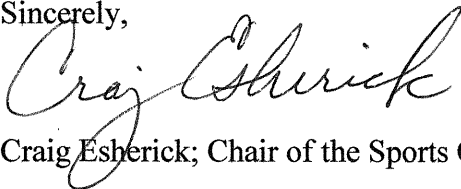
The Sports Commission would like to offer its unanimous support for the construction of the Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Facility, as proposed by the Long Bridge Advisory Committee Report and the County Manager at your April 12, 2016 work session. We would also like the Board and the County Manager to determine whether significant savings could be gained by decoupling this facility from the future multi-program activity center (MAC) which is planned for a later building phase of Long Bridge Park but not included in the 10-year CIP. Designing the 2012 project to mesh with the proposed future addition increased the building's complexities and cost. Eliminating this requirement could provide more flexibility in redesigning the aquatics and fitness center as a stand-alone structure in the park. Furthermore, the indoor sports and recreation needs to be served by a MAC might be met more economically, and sooner, at another location. We would suggest that the County Board direct staff to explore these possibilities.

We support joining with the National Park Service to build the connection between Long Bridge Park and the Mount Vernon Trail for bicycle and pedestrian access. Our County has many active residents and visitors, both young and old, who enjoy walking, running and biking along the Potomac River.

Our Commission also notes that the Long Bridge Advisory Committee is in support of the completion of an additional phase of the Long Bridge Park Plan; the parking structure with the artificial field on top of this facility. We would support this idea wholeheartedly. The need for new artificial fields has been the Sports Commission's number one issue for the past four years.

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on behalf of our Commission and the groups we represent. Long Bridge Park is a first class facility and these new additions will make it even better while providing more recreation opportunities for our residents.

Sincerely,



Craig Escherick; Chair of the Sports Commission

cc: County Manager and Director of DPR