



**ARLINGTON COUNTY
SPORTS COMMISSION**
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201



October 28, 2016

Mark J. Schwartz
Arlington County Manager
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 302
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Community Facilities Study and the formation of the Joint Facilities Advisory Commission

Dear Mark J. Schwartz,

The Arlington Sports Commission (SC) would like to thank you for the invitation to comment on the Community Facilities Study (CFS) and the proposed formation of a Joint Facilities Advisory Commission.

Community Facility Study Findings and Staff Responses

While there is no specific reference to sports facilities in the CFS, there is the presumption that these are included under the facilities “umbrella” and why the Sports Commission should be included in this dialogue.

The main concern of the Sports Commission is the perceived lack of information being disseminated in a timely fashion in order for the Community at-large to substantively impact the planning, design and implementation of projects. Perhaps most notably are athletic field projects, but recent APS facility activities (i.e. Discovery Elementary) have also been heavily criticized for inadequate public disclosure.

The Sports Commission applauds the steps being taken by County Staff (Reference Recommendation #19) to improve communications with the public, but it also needs to be emphasized that it has to come in time for feedback to be incorporated in the needs assessment and priority setting process. It appears to SC members that public awareness is all too often awakened at project roll-out when changes are either impractical from a schedule standpoint or too expensive to incorporate due to the maturity of the project. A notable example would be the recent Bluemont Field #3 baseball field renovation where neighborhood concerns were raised almost literally as the shovel was entering the ground.

Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC)

The Sports Commission fully supports the formation of the proposed JFAC. The Sports Commission respectfully requests to be incorporated into JFAC Committee Membership to provide input on sports facilities and amenities, or alternatively be specifically included for receiving periodic reports by the JFAC in areas relating to athletic fields or other sports facilities.

Sincerely,
Heather Cocozza
Chair, Arlington Sports Commission

REF: Staff Response Matrix on CFS Recommendations
Draft Charter- Joint Facilities Advisory Commission