

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Approval of Minutes

- December 17, 2020

New Business

- Annual Report
- Annual Work Plan
 - Commissioner Roles and Representation
- VA Highlands Park Letter
- Field Fund Working Group Update and Discussion
- Geospatial Data/Parks/Fields

Commission Member Reports

- PSMP Post Implementation Update
- Parks and Recreation Commission Update
- Aquatics Committee Update

Public Comment

Upcoming Meetings:

- February 25, 2021

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 2020

Microsoft TEAMS Virtual Meeting

Time: 7:00PM-9:00PM

Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Justin Wilt, Vice-Chair
Steve Severn
Jessica Paska
George Thompson
Megan Sheckles
Nancy Sharkey

John Mingus
David Tornquist
John Bacon
Drew Murray
Sherry Kohan
Kristi Sawert

Commission Members Absent:

County/APS Staff:

Greg Anselene, DPR
Debbie DeFranco, APS

Guests

Mark Lincoln, PRC Commission
Steve Finn, PRC Commission
Frank Tranfa,
Jason Despain

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

{7:00pm-7:05pm}

- Motion to approve November 19 meeting minutes. Motion was discussed, seconded, and approved unanimously

New Business

{7:05pm-9:05pm}

- VA Highlands Park Discussion, Peter Lusk, Division Chief- DPR
 - Discussion about VA Highlands Park, the Aurora Highlands Winter Wonderland Display that was put up by the Aurora Highlands Civic Association, what has happened since that display was put up.
 - DPR shared what has happened at VA Highlands Park over the last 6 months. After parks reopened and with limited scheduling activities at VA Highlands the

Civic Association was approved to hold activities at the fields when not being used.

- In December parks staff found a lights display had been put up by the Aurora Highlands Civic Association without approval. Since that time DPR has met with the association and the civic association has completed a Special Events Application and it was approved to have the lights display through December 31.
 - Commission feels that the civic association continues to try and mark its space and that its their sole province/domain and that someone needs to say that it is a county facility and it belongs to everyone and serves everyone in the county.
 - Question was about why, if the civic association knew they have had to get permits before, why they would put this display up if they knew the process.
 - Discussion about writing a letter to the county board to address the Commission's concerns with the Aurora Highland's Civic Association actions. The Commission
- Sports Commission Review of the Field Fund Working Group
 - **Some do not believe that travel fees make sense and the extra cost charged to teams do not reflect the amount of time that travel teams actually get.**
 - Leagues were in more favor for capital assessment.
 - Originally was sold that it wouldn't be used for regular and everyday maintenance.
 - If going to charge users for maintenance, could it be for adding touches/ enhancements to the fields?
 - Concern about the length of time on projects. It is hard to sell the field fund when the field fund takes 9 years to fund a project such as a turf conversion. Users do not see the benefit if it takes so long to fund a project.
 - Discussion about what are the commissions thoughts about whether the money should be spent on capital vs maintenance
 - Commissioners shared that they were advocates for both maintenance and capital, believe that the key is how do you use the money and how do you determine what maintenance is done.
 - Believes that the sports leagues should provide feedback.
 - PSMP IAC Update
 - Forestry Natural Resources Plan that kicked off in November. More opportunities and public engagement opportunities coming up heavy in Fall 2021.
 - How are amenities cataloged, question includes on how to define permit takes priority. It would be helpful to define it so the public makes sense that it makes sense that it is a sports field foremost.
 - Kickoff on field utilization will be upcoming. Will need to get everyone involved
 - Park and Recreation Commission Update
 - DPR Presentation about COVID and DPR's response
 - Review and Discussion of the Civic Federation White Paper on open spaces. Concern about the legitimacy of their calculations to determine the outcome.

Concern on what spaces were or were not considered open space and how that helped determine into their calculations.

- Aquatics Committee Update
 - Swimming Pools continue to be very popular, having issues with the APS cancellation policy that was developed by Helena Machada, APS.

Public Comment

- None

Adjorn

(9:18pm)

Matt de Ferranti County Board Liaison

Attest:

Greg Anselene

Greg Anselene, Staff Liaison



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



Date, 2021

The Honorable Matt de Ferranti
Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. de Ferranti,

I am pleased to provide the 2020 annual reports on the activities of the Sports Commission and the Aquatics Committee.

If you or the other Board members have any feedback or questions about the content of these reports, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Sports Commission and Aquatics Committee
Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Sports Commission

Cc: County Board Members
Bill Ross, Park and Recreation Commission Chair
Jennifer Connor, Aquatics Committee Chair

Arlington Sports Commission 2020 Annual Report & 2021 Annual Plan

Summary

The 2020 annual report is a testament to continuity and dedication in difficult times. The Covid-19 pandemic led to unprecedented and ever-changing restrictions on the use of sports facilities, constrained the ability to carry out traditional sports activities, and disrupted the Sports Commission's plans for its 2020 agenda. Despite these many challenges, however, the Commission still had a productive year.

The Commission met 8 times, twice before Commission activities were suspended in March 2020 and 6 times after such activities resumed. Our activities have been guided for several years by four priorities: (1) examining the capacity and use of recreational facilities; (2) understanding and supporting underserved groups and communities; (3) increasing our engagement with advisory Commissions and key stakeholders; and (4) participating in County projects and processes as warranted.

In 2020, we made some progress in each area, though perhaps not as much as we initially planned. We also adapted our agendas to discuss pressing issues that arose because of the pandemic.

Structure, Operations, and Membership

In December 2020, the County Board approved an updated charter which better reflects the Commission's role; relationship with the County Board, DPR, sports leagues, and other stakeholders; and its areas of focus. The Commission, which has 15 members, was fully staffed throughout most of 2020. Commission members included: John Bacon, Shirley Brothwell, Jessica Deegan-Paska, Sherry Kohan, Dave Maher (left November 2020), John Mingus, Drew Murray, Kristi Sawert, Ryan Schaefer (left November 2020), Steve Severn, Nancy Sharkey, Megan Sheckles, George Thompson, David Tornquist, Frank Tranfa (joined December 2020) and Justin Wilt. Shirley Brothwell served as the Commission Chair in 2020. Justin Wilt was the Vice Chair.

Commented [SB1]: Add link to charter once website is updated

In 2019, the Commission embarked on an effort to ensure full and fair coverage of all Arlington sports activities and groups by assigning outreach responsibilities to each Commissioner. We identified over 40 sports, constituent groups, and advisory bodies that the Commission does or should represent. Our plan for commencing the learning process from this approach was disrupted by the pandemic, and we are working to resume outreach to inform our 2021 agenda.

The Commission has sole authority over two subsidiary bodies --the Arlington Youth Baseball Authority (AYBA) and the Diamond Field Fund Committee.¹ In addition, the Aquatics Committee is a joint committee of the Sports Commission and Arlington Public Schools (APS) that reports independently to the School Board and through the Sports Commission to the County Board on

¹ The Arlington Youth Baseball Authority is charged with improving the baseball experience for ballplayers ages 12 & under, focusing specifically on making progress toward the consolidation of two league-run youth baseball programs. The Diamond Field Fund Committee consults with diamond field users to identify projects that should be funded using diamond field user fees.

issues related to the adequacy and efficiency of aquatic-related programs and facilities.

Issues Addressed in 2020

The Commission's 2020 deliberations and discussions addressed many of its four priority areas as well as several new issues, covered below under "Other Topics."

Examining the Capacity and Use of Recreational Facilities

- **Budget** - The Commission was pleased and excited by the County Manager's 2021 budget as originally presented to the County Board. The budget provided for many positive developments for recreational facilities, including funding to complete construction on and open Lubber Run Community Center and Long Bridge Park Aquatics and Fitness Center and begin implementation of the Jennie Dean Park Master Plan. The CIP also envisioned robust near- and longer-term investments in synthetic turf replacement and conversion, which are essential for maintaining Arlington's heavily-used athletic fields and increasing playable time on natural grass fields. In our remarks to the County Board during the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) initial working session, we expressed appreciation for the budgetary and CIP support for Arlington's athletic facilities infrastructure.

Owing to lower revenue projects because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the revised budget provided for continued construction on Lubber Run and Long Bridge but delayed their openings to not earlier than summer 2022. Work also proceeded, to the extent possible, on Jennie Dean Park.

The Commission appreciates that even in difficult financial times, Arlington leaders maintained an appropriate and prudent level of commitment to recreational facilities investment. Outdoor facilities in particular proved to be of tremendous value throughout 2020 as alternatives to shuttered indoor spaces, giving residents spaces to safely recreate and engage in both organized and casual athletic activities.

- **PSMP IAC** – Asked Nancy for input.....
- **Field Fund Working Group** – The Commission and DPR co-chaired efforts by the FFWG to examine and make recommendations about the level and implementation of fees collected from permitted users of Arlington's rectangular and diamond fields. Members of the working group represented the Sports Commission, the Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission, and the Arlington Partnership for Children Youth and Families. Information about the group's charge and its activities can be found on its website.² During 2020, the group met 5 times and held an information and feedback session with youth sports leagues. The group will present the results of its work in early 2021.
- **Aquatics Safety** – The Aquatics Committee representative presented to the Commission on water safety and the APS Elementary School Water Safety Program.
- **DPR Updates** – County staff provided updates to the Commission on a range of facilities projects, including Jennie Dean Park, Gunston field, Gunston bubble, delays to the TJ Upper

Commented [SB2]: Kristi – I couldn't find the details of your presentation. Could you add a few more sentences to this?

Commented [SB3]: Can we be more precise here?

² [https:// Commission.commissions.arlingtonva.us/field-fund-working-group/](https://Commission.commissions.arlingtonva.us/field-fund-working-group/)

Field conversion from natural grass to synthetic turf, and delays to the opening of Lubber Run Community Center and the Long Bridge Park facility. The Commission also took a tour of the Lubber Run facility, examining both indoor and outdoor spaces.

- Synthetic Turf – The Commission wrote a [letter to the Arlington County Public Health Director, Dr. Varghese](#) to request his input on issues related to synthetic turf safety. Owing to his responsibilities for addressing the pandemic, Dr. Varghese has not responded.

Commented [SB4]: Dr. Varghese is not going to respond. Should we drop this from the report?

Underserved Groups and Communities

During a February joint meeting of the Sports Commission and Park and Recreation Commission, the two groups engaged in a discussion about equity. Both Commissions received briefings in 2019 from members of the Destination 2027 Steering Committee, outlining their April 2019 report's findings that health disparities exist in Arlington along racial and economic lines.³ The report recommended that Arlington County adopt a Health Equity Policy and apply equity considerations in decision making across all sectors. In response, the Commissions discussed equity and what they can do to advance the equity conversation. We focused in part on how to define and think about equity in ways that consider racial/ethnic, socioeconomic, gender, and geographic/location differences.

Through its focus on underserved groups, the Sports Commission knows that large portions of Arlington's school age community do not engage in recreational sports activity.⁴ League data shows that student populations at more disadvantaged schools uniformly opt out of organized sports activity. We further know that barriers to participation include financial resources, language, transportation, and family circumstances.

Efforts have been made by the Commission and by individual leagues to engage these student populations. Examples include an after-school soccer and tutoring program by the professional soccer team, Real Madrid; a pilot program fostered by the Commission and the APS Extended Day program at Randolph Elementary School to promote futsal; and efforts by Arlington Babe Ruth and Arlington Little League to bring baseball activities to various elementary schools.

From these programs, the following observations can be made:

- Early introduction to sports is important for longer term skill development. Achieving skill equity and the opportunities this presents for disadvantaged youth suggests it is important to reach out to underserved youth early, like in preschool/kindergarten.
- Fee reductions are important to address the equity issue but these reductions only benefit the individuals that manage to overcome all other barriers and "come in the door." Work needs to be done to reach those that don't get that far.
- It is important to meet individuals where they are by bringing programs to the schools and communities/community centers. Doing so helps bypass transportation, language, and cultural/comfort barriers.
- Access to facilities needs to be part of the conversation. Some communities have less or more limited access to certain facilities, particularly pools. Equity could mean ensuring even distribution of facilities throughout Arlington.

³ Arlington's Plan for Achieving Health Equity by 2027, A Report of the Destination 2027 Steering Committee, April 2019.

⁴ Youth sports leagues tend to see lower participation rates from schools where higher portions of the student population qualify for Free and Reduced School Meals.

- For community and cultural reasons, access to drop-in facilities and activities is important, but so much of Arlington’s athletic space is accessible only by permit. Equity could mean increasing access to drop-in, unprogrammed spaces.
- Data shows that there is a huge racial/ethnic/socioeconomic disparity between children who possess life-saving aquatic skills and those susceptible to drowning. Equity could mean improving access to these life-saving skills.

The two Commissions committed to continue talking to each other about equity and what can be done to improve equity in their respective areas.

Improving Commission Networks

The Commission improved its networks in 2020 through:

- continued investment in its relationship with the PRC;
- receiving presentations from new (to us) groups including Arlington Field Hockey, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, and the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists; and
- participation in official groups like the PSMP IAC and the Field Fund Working Group that allow us to meet and interact with representatives from other advisory bodies and parts of the community.

Continued expansion of its networks in 2021 will help the Commission build and leverage partnerships to improve its advisory and advocacy activities.

Participate in County Projects and Processes

The Commission’s participation in County projects and processes was limited to the PSMP IAC and the FFWG. The Commission was a signatory on a multi-commission letter in June 2020 asking the County Board to lift restrictions imposed in March 2020 on Advisory Commission activities, noting that such restrictions were antithetical to the Arlington Way and deprived the Board of valuable constituent advice and perspectives.

Other Topics

- COVID-related Topics – We received multiple briefings from DPR about facilities restrictions, closures, and openings it had implemented in response to the Governor’s state-wide pandemic guidelines. DPR also briefed the Commission on steps it was taking to adjust its programming to be outdoors instead of indoors or virtual instead of in-person. Our August meeting was dedicated to hearing from youth sports leagues about their plans for and experiences with hosting recreational and travel sports activities during the summer. We summarized these experiences in a [letter to the County Board](#).
- Aquatics Committee – The Aquatics Committee also took steps in 2020 to revise its charter. The Commission forwarded to the County Board [a letter from the Committee](#) along with its proposed charter, and our comments on their proposal. The Committee proposed dropping the requirement that it report to the County Board through the Sports Commission, but rather allow it to report directly to both the County and School Boards. It also proposed that its jurisdiction be expanded to cover pools in both County and APS facilities (i.e., adding the pool at Long Bridge Park to its jurisdiction). A majority of the Commission did not support the proposal.

The Committee's rationale for its proposal is explained in its annual report.

- **Camp Contracts** – The Commission heard a presentation from DPR's summer camp contractor who were concerned about changes that DPR made to camp registration procedures and revenue sharing arrangements. DPR made the changes to provide improved customer service to camp registrants and to ensure consistency in camp refund and credit policies. Contractors felt the changes were made without their input, announced with limited warning, and created financial challenges for them.
- **Youth Sport Participant Safety** – DPR presented information about its policies to ensure that all DPR program participants are protected from inappropriate or abusive behavior. Following an event in 2019, DPR reviewed and tightened its policies. DPR also discussed its expectations that youth sports leagues have and implement similar policies.

2021 Annual Plan

Topics the Commission plans to address in 2021 include:

- PSMP implementation, which is expected to focus on improving the definition and understanding of available field hours in 2020.
- Review of recommendations from the FFWG concerning field fee levels and use of the collected funds.
- Increased interaction with all sports groups in Arlington and improved representation of their interests in Commission business.
- Actions taken by DPR and sports leagues to implement consistent and robust practices for ensuring the safety of youth sports participants in DPR and partner programs.
- Developments in recreation and travel sports in Arlington, including access and impact on users and facilities.
- Progress on various sports and recreation facility projects.
- Other issues that may arise that are consistent with the Commission's role and charter.

January xx, 2021

The Honorable Matt de Ferranti
Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. de Ferranti,

Pursuant to its mission to advise the County Board on the adequacy, accessibility, and equitable and efficient use of sports facilities, the Sports Commission offers its perspective on the softball fields at Virginia Highlands Park. The Commission has long been aware of efforts by the Aurora Highlands Civic Association (AHCA), Friends of Aurora Highlands Park (FAHP), and other associated groups to convert these fields to other uses. These efforts, which reflect the fervent desires of a small but vocal group, are self-serving, unwarranted, and disrespectful of Arlington County planning processes. These efforts reached an apex in December 2020 when AHCA set up an unauthorized light display that violated multiple County requirements and constrained non-AHCA use of the fields.

The AHCA/FAHP battle against the softball fields is long-standing and ever-shifting. In 2016, AHCA proposed eliminating the softball fields in favor of open green space. Its rationale for this change included the fields' "limited functionality" (closed during inclement weather and from November to March), "inaccessibility" (fenced and locked to prevent non-permitted use), and "underutilization" (only used for softball in the evenings and on weekends). AHCA also noted the "need to rethink the way our limited parkland is used so that it benefits all Arlington residents."

In recognition of the increasing pressure on public spaces, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) adopted a significant change to how it manages permitted fields. In 20xx, DPR removed 600 feet of baseline fencing from the Virginia Highlands softball fields and also unlocked xx% of the County's diamond fields, converting them from permit-only to permit-takes-priority. These fields are now open to the public for the vast majority of the day throughout the year, without request, for specific uses: groups of 10 or fewer can use the fields to "throw a Frisbee, kick [a] ball around, fly a kite, and [for] passive activities." Organized activities, including games, practices, and special events, still require a permit. (Note: Dogs are not allowed on these or any other Arlington fields.)

With this change, DPR addressed AHCA's assertions about the fields' limited functionality, inaccessibility, and underutilization. The fields are now fully accessible and are used more than

they were before for a range of activities, including for multiple special events organized by AHCA. While fields are closed for permitted use during inclement weather and from mid-November to mid-March, community users continue to have access even at these times.¹ Moreover, the fields now meet the PSMP's definition of casual use space.² While the Commission continues to have concerns about how these changes have affected field condition, we view this outcome as a good compromise that created a functional multi-use space.³

However, it is now clear that a functional, shared, multi-use space is not what the AHCA wants.

Under the auspices of Livability 22202, the AHCA and the Arlington Ridge and Crystal City Civic Associations launched an independent planning process (not run or sanctioned by Arlington County) for the 22202 zip-code area. As part of this effort, they invited 22202 residents to re-envision the entirety of Virginia Highlands Park. A December 2020 report from this process includes a concept drawing that proposes eliminating both softball fields and a rectangular field from the park, replacing them with a single community casual use space. Such a development would effectively remove permitted field-based sports activities from the park. Multiple sources, including DPR and field users, have told AHCA that the fields are important parts of the County's field inventory which, if eliminated, would disenfranchise current users and further exacerbate existing field shortages. Unconcerned about those users, the AHCA, through Livability 22202, continues to push for its ultimate goal.

Simultaneous with the release of the December report, the AHCA made its boldest move yet: ignoring the well-established County permit process -- a process that it has followed for other AHCA events hosted on the softball fields -- it appropriated a sizable portion of one softball field to set up a holiday light display. It advertised the event far and wide and encouraged others to act similarly in their neighborhoods. It bypassed County health and safety requirements during a global pandemic and treated a public, community space as one that belongs to the AHCA. This flagrant disregard of the County's permit process is deeply insulting to sports enthusiasts who strive to comply with the rules and spend their money and time taking care of these same public spaces.

Meanwhile, positive developments continue to occur in and around Virginia Highlands Park that help address AHCA's stated need for more open space and parkland. The County spent \$1.1 million to add .26 acres of parkland a few blocks to the south of Virginia Highlands. There has been extensive community involvement during the County-run planning process for Metropolitan Park just one block to the east of Virginia Highlands. (Has the County added parkland anywhere else in Arlington in the last 3-5 years?) Third, the County has agreed to

¹ Although the weather and season closures apply equally to permitted and non-permitted users, in reality DPR does not have the resources to prevent community members from entering unlocked, unfenced spaces.

² According to the PSMP, casual use space includes, among other things, fields with community use but does not include permit-only fields. (PSMP, page 62.)

³ Field users report many instances of field damage and unauthorized usage resulting from this change. The most frequent unauthorized use is by dog owners using the fields as de facto dog parks.

install a temporary dog park – ironically, a single-use, fenced amenity – at Virginia Highlands Park.

(Feels like more is needed here before we transition to our bullets....and we might need to say something about respecting County process that are systematically addressing these issues...)

As the Commission reflects on these multiple developments, we offer the following advisory:

- A central and essential tenet in our small county is that public spaces are community assets. The Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) states that “all of Arlington’s parks are open and available to all residents, workers, and visitors.”
- Placeholder for bullet on public spaces as a system, residents needs are met by that system, there is no right to expect everything that you need will be right at your doorstep
- Public spaces can and should be updated and improved over time. However, any updates and improvements should not disadvantage current users of existing assets or diminish the number, size, or quality of such assets.
- Arlington public spaces planning process must be run by the County, which has a responsibility to hear from and balance the needs of a cross-section of community voices. As we stated in our 2016 position statement on such planning processes, the entire Arlington community has primary “ownership” of public facilities, and while the inputs of immediate neighbors need to be considered, planning processes need to represent the interests of all County residents.⁴
- Bullet about respecting defined processes
 - Increased density in the 22202 area increases demand for all manner of recreational activity, not just those that occur in unprogrammed, casual use space. As Amazon’s HQ2 takes shape and more people move into the area, demand for sports facilities will certainly grow.
 - Bullet that reflects that multi-use spaces are the way of the future.

In summary, the Sports Commission advises that County Board continue embracing multi-use fields that maximize Arlington County’s valued parklands, fields and open spaces. It is time to end the battle against sports fields and particularly against the Virginia Highlands Park softball fields.

⁴ [Sports Commission Position Statement on Planning Processes](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Brothwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Sports Commission

Cc: Arlington County Board
Mark Schwartz, County Manager
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

FIELD FUND WORKING GROUP

SPORTS COMMISSION UPDATE

JANUARY 28, 2021

1

FIELD FUND WORKING GROUP GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- It is reasonable to assess a fee for the dedicated use of a public asset (field/facility).
- The amount of the fee should be anchored to an underlying rationale (i.e., we should be able to explain why the fee is set at any given level).
- The amount of the fee should be reasonable and should not create a barrier to participation.
- It is appropriate for the fee structure and amount to reflect differences in field access among users (i.e., it is reasonable for more frequent users to pay more).

2

FIELD FUND WORKING GROUP GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Fee levels should not be raised solely for the purpose of collecting more money, and the County should have a plan for how to spend current and new revenue.
- Fields are a County asset; the Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for determining how to best maintain and manage these assets.
- Field users should reasonably expect a clearly defined standard of care in exchange for their contributions; this standard should be transparent and measurable.

3

PLAYER ASSESSMENT – FLAT RATE

Fee Type	Current Fee	Fee Proposal
Resident Youth Player	\$8	\$10 per season
Non-Resident Youth Player	\$20	\$25 per season
Per Player Travel Fee (Exempt from Rec Fee)	N/A	\$40 annually
Adult Team Fee	\$100	\$200

Player Assessment Flat Rate Projected Revenue - **\$390,000**

FY'19 Revenue - **\$222,000**

4

PLAYER ASSESSMENT – SLIDING SCALE

Fee Type	Current Fee	Fee Proposal
Resident Recreation Youth Player 8u	\$8	\$10 per season
Non-Resident Recreation Youth Player 8u	\$20	\$25 per season
Resident Recreation Youth 9+	\$8	\$15 per season
Non-Resident Recreation Youth 9+	\$20	\$30 per season
Travel Player Fee (Exempt From Rec Fee)	N/A	\$40 annually
Adult Team	\$100	\$200

Player Assessment Sliding Scale Projected Revenue - **\$460,000**

FY'19 Revenue - **\$222,000**

5

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

Implementation	Cost	Flat Rate - Capital Investment	Sliding Scale Capital Investment	Notes
Field Maintenance Staff	\$130,000 – Two (2) FTE	\$260,000 – Capital Savings	\$330,000 – Capital Savings	Includes 2 permanent field maintenance FTE.
Priority I Field Conversions	\$130,000 – Two (2) FTE	\$260,000 – Priority I Conversions	\$330,000 Priority I Conversions	Includes 2 permanent field maintenance FTE due to increasing priority I fields.
Contracted Field Maintenance	\$225,000	\$165,000 – Capital Savings	\$235,000 – Capital Savings	Includes 1 contract compliance FTE and additional contract maintenance dollars.
Minor Capital Improvements	\$130,000 – Two (2) FTE	\$260,000 – Projects under \$150,000	\$330,000 – Projects under \$150,000	Projects may include infield replacements, Bermuda grass replacements.
Major Capital Improvements	\$1,200,000 (Projected Conversion Cost)	\$1,560,000 – 4 year period	\$1,840,000 – 4 year period	

6

FFWG FEE RECOMMENDATION

- Sliding Scale Fee Option
 - Travel Fee for full calendar year of play
 - Reflects field usage by age of player
 - Follows current DPR Field Allocation Guidelines

Fee Type	Current Fee	Fee Proposal
Resident Recreation Youth Player 8u	\$8	\$10 per season
Non-Resident Recreation Youth Player 8u	\$20	\$25 per season
Resident Recreation Youth 9+	\$8	\$15 per season
Non-Resident Recreation Youth 9+	\$20	\$30 per season
Travel Player Fee (Exempt From Rec Fee)	N/A	\$40 annually
Adult Team	\$100	\$200

7

FFWG – IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION

- Option #1 – Field Maintenance Staff
- Option #5 – Capital Investment (Synthetic Turf Conversion)
- Disband existing Diamond Field Fund Committee
- Use Capital funding as one fund (i.e. No Longer Separate Funds)
- Use the PSMP-Synthetic Conversion list as basis for decisions.

8

NEXT STEPS

- Youth League Check-Ins
 - February/March 2021
- Sports Commission Vote
 - Final Recommendations – March 2021
- Implementation – Fall 2022

Review of Civic Federation White Paper

1

Purpose

- Develop an understanding of how the data analysis in the paper was developed
- Independently test findings and conclusions to enable the Sports Commission to advise the County Board

2

Process

- Review of Methodology including sharing with others with geospatial expertise.
- Email conversation/Zoom call with lead data analyst about methods and assumptions
- Replicate analysis but with several small changes
 - Did not take out parks currently under construction/renovation
 - Did not remove estimated area for athletic fields

3

Background– Arlington County Parkland



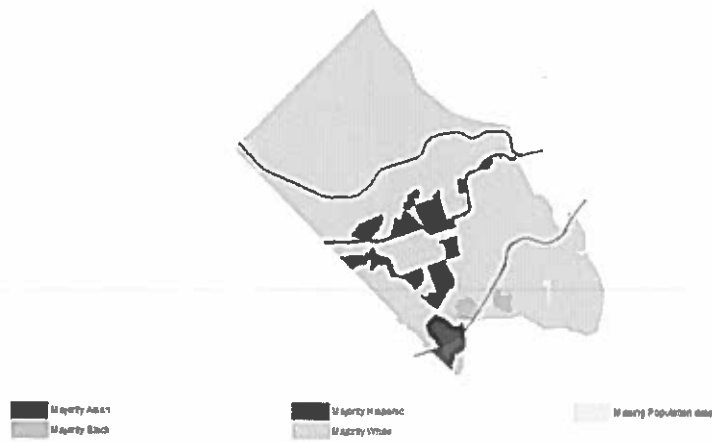
4

Income Distribution



5

Race/Ethnicity



6

Findings

- Consistent with Civic Federation White Paper
 - Higher income= greater access
 - Racial differences are harder to discern

7

Summary and Next Steps

- Analysis is equity analysis of parkland and it is inappropriate to use it in discussions about open space vs. athletic facilities
- Next steps
 - Adding APS properties/facilities to analysis
 - Adding regional/federal parkland
 - equity analysis of locations of athletic facilities

8