

# **Sports Commission Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, May 27, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

## *Presentation*

- CIP Presentations
- PSMP IAC Field Utilization
- Long Bridge Aquatics Facilities

## *Commission Member Reports*

- Career Center Update
- Aquatics Committee
- Park and Recreation Committee
- Chair Updates

## *Discussions*

- New Working Groups with Draft Charters
  - Sport Field Messaging and Communication Workgroup
  - Racial Equity Workgroup

## *Public Comment*

## *Upcoming Meetings:*

- June 24, 2021

## **Charter for Combatting Hate in Sports Working Group**

### **Background**

In March 2021, athletes from Wakefield High School were spat upon and subjected to racial slurs while playing a football game at Marshall High School. Despite complaining to their coaches and the referees, action was not taken to stop the offensive behavior. The incident caused notable harm to the players, their teammates, the entire Wakefield community, and to Arlington as a whole. Whereas sportsmanlike conduct is a sacred value among sports participants, coaches, and supporters, and the arena of play is treasured as a place of fair and noble competition, therefore racist or hateful speech and behavior have no place in sports. Given the role that sports play in teaching young people important life skills and lessons, is it especially important for youth sports to be free from hate.

As part of its charter, the Sports Commission advises the County Board on the rules and policies governing participation in and the conduct of County sponsored or supported athletic activities' allocation of facilities, and the efficiency, fairness, and transparency with which these rules and policies are administered. The Commission also plays an important role in reaching out to and supporting sports leagues that provide a significant portion of Arlington's sports programming. Consistent with Arlington's focus on challenging racism, the Commission has a strong interest in ensuring that all sports in Arlington are conducted in a safe, fair, and respectful manner that is free from racist and hateful conditions.

### **Charge**

The Sports Commission establishes a Combatting Hate in Sports Working Group (CHSWG) to better understand the prevalence of racist and hateful conditions in Arlington sports and support youth sports leagues' efforts to protect their participants from such conditions. The Working Group is directed to:

- Collect information about the nature and extent of racist and hateful behavior in Arlington County youth sports activities;
- Conduct research to identify best practices for deterring and addressing racist and hateful behavior in youth sports;
- Develop a framework for youth sports leagues to consider in establishing league protocols for detecting, deterring, and addressing racist and hateful behavior in youth sports; and
- Identify and share information with youth sports leagues about resources for training their coaches, officials, and volunteers about unconscious biases and other relevant topics.

### **Proposed Timeline**

The CHSWG will meet from xxxx 2021 through xxxx 2022. A staff liaison from the Department of Parks and Recreation will work with the Working Group Chair to establish meeting schedules, locations, and agendas. All meetings of the CWG are open to the public. A staff liaison from Arlington Public Schools will work with the Working Group to share information about training, protocols, and any other information that would support the Working Group's charge. A final report should be provided to the Commission by xxxx 2022.

## **Membership**

(Options for membership)

- Sports Commission Chair
- Sports Commission Member
- Arlington Partnership for Children Youth and Families Member
- Park and Recreation Commission Member (?)
- Youth Sports League Representative
- Adult Sports League Representative (?)
- Sports Representative At Large

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## **Charter for Communication Working Group**

### **Introduction**

In carrying out its mission to advise the County Board on sports-related programming, facilities, utilization, and budgetary considerations, the Sports Commission has become aware that the Arlington community lacks a full understanding and appreciation of the nature of sports participation and facility utilization in Arlington. This deficit, combined with intense competition for Arlington's public land, creates significant challenges for the continued support of a healthy and sports-oriented community. The Sports Commission operates at the intersection of County government, County processes, and sports practitioners and sees the need for better messaging and communication about sports needs and activities across these platforms. The Commission believes there is a need for a more unified approach for sharing stories about (1) the positive impact of sports on participants, (2) how sports facilities are currently used, and (3) the need for additional facilities.

### **Charge**

The Sports Commission sets up a Communication Working Group (CWG) to seek and identify ways to share positive stories about sports in Arlington, with the overarching goal of improving the community's understanding and appreciation of the role of sports in Arlington and the needs of the community members who play them. The Working Group is directed to:

- Identify sports stakeholders who have or have access to positive stories to share;
- Develop communication strategies for the Sports Commission and other stakeholders to help foster a positive image of sports in Arlington;
- Provide stakeholders with tools and advice for sharing their stories; and
- Make recommendations to the Commission on other ways to improve messaging about the use of and need for sports facilities.

### **Proposed Timeline**

The CWG will meet from June 2020 through June 2022. The Department of Parks and Recreation staff liaison will work with the Working Group Chair to establish meeting schedules, locations, and agendas. All meetings of the CWG are open to the public. A final report should be provided to the Commission by June 30, 2022.

### **Membership**

The working group should include 3 members of the Sports Commission and 2 users of sports facilities.