



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



March 30, 2023

The Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

I am pleased to provide the 2022 annual report on the activities of the Sports Commission. If you or the other Board members have any feedback or questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Mingus".

John Mingus, Chair
Sports Commission

Summary

2022 was a year of change for the Sports Commission. As noted below, we had several resignations and other significant turnover in our membership. Despite these changes, however, the Commission still had a productive year.

The Commission met 12 times. 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. We made progress in each area and adapted our agendas to discuss pressing issues.

Structure, Operations, and Membership

The Commission, which is authorized to have 15 members was not fully staffed throughout most of 2022. Commission members included: John Bacon (term expired April 2022), Jason Despain, Greg Gimenez, Sherry Kohan (term expired November 2022), David Lansing (Appointed June 2022), John Mingus, Khaleen Monaro (Appointed December 2022), Andrew Murray (term expired November 2022), Jessica Paska (term expired May 2022), Kristi Sawert, Nancy Sharkey, Megan Sheckles (resigned January 2022), Elizabeth Stell (Appointed December 2022), George Thompson, David Tornquist (term expired April 2022), Frank Tranfa (term expired November 2022), Texas Williams (resigned May 2022), Justin Wilt (term expired December 2022). John Mingus served as Chair for 2022. Justin Wilt was the Vice Chair.

In 2019, the Commission 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 2022 agenda.

The Commission was an official member of 2 County workgroups: the Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC);¹ and the Greenbrier Park Operations Committee.² The activities of the first two are addressed in this report.

Issues Addressed in 2022

The Commission's 2022 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 –We were pleased with the FY22 budget which increased staffing at the Luber Run Community Center, hired field maintenance staff and included salary increases for staff. In addition, it incorporated the findings of the Field Fund Working Group to modestly increase field user fees.
- Fiscal Years 2023 - 2032 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)—We eagerly supported the CIP. We were glad to see the Emerging Uses Funding for pickleball, planning dollars for the Boathouse and continuing to fund the Synthetic Turf Program. Lastly, we are excited by the

¹ This group provides input and feedback to the county on the implementation of the PSMP. Focus areas include the Integrated Forestry & Natural Resources Master Plan; field utilization/lighting/turf; Zoning Regulation review; and casual use spaces.

² The Committee facilitates dialogue among Greenbrier Park users and the surrounding neighborhood.

coming transformation of the fields at Kenmore and were glad that the final CIP moved this project up to it can begin sooner.

- PSMP IAC – In 2022 the Commission continued to be a member of the PSMP IAC.

Underserved Groups and Communities

In June of 2022, the Commission received the initial report of the Combating Hate in Sports Working Group (CHWG). This report listed the efforts the CHWG had undertaken and proposed next steps. The Commission has started the process of implementing the proposals by starting to reaching out to DPR's partners program leagues to share the findings of the group and to begin the process of implementing the working group's framework.

Improving Commission Networks

The Commission improved its networks in 2022 through:

- continued investment in its relationship with the PRC;
- participation in official groups like the PSMP IAC and other informal groups that allow us to meet and interact with representatives from other advisory bodies and parts of the community.

In 2022, the Commission's Communications Working Group developed a framework aimed at helping sports league share their stories 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.

Continued expansion of its networks in 2023 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

Other Topics

- Pickleball and Tennis – We received briefings from both pickleball and tennis groups to increase the Commission's understanding of the issues arising from the growth of pickleball.

2023 Annual Plan

Topics the Commission plans to address in 2023 include:

- PSMP implementation
- Increased interaction with all sports groups in Arlington and improved representation of their interests in Commission business.
- Implementation of the recommendation of our Combatting Hate in Sports Working Group
- Progress on various sports and recreation facility projects.
- Increasing our understanding of the issues around building a boathouse in Arlington
- Working to understand the background Marymount University's field proposals and facilitating discussions about them
- Continuing to work on the issues around the growth of pickleball
- Now that Jennie Dean has been open for some time, work with DPR to see what usage looks like and how the new field has worked
- Get involved in the Kenmore planning process
- Work with other commissions to push for the zoning changes envisioned in the PSMP
- Work with sports groups in Arlington to understand their issue and to be their voice
- Other issues that may arise that are consistent with the Commission's role and charter