

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 22nd, 2023

In Person

Lubber Run Community Center

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of May 25th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Other

- Arlington Boat House Presentation – Paul Holland

New Business

- Welcome new Sports Commission Members
 - Bryan Eckle
 - Deb Ryan
- Sports Commission Liaison Roles
- Marymount Field Proposal – Sports Commission Letter

Commission Member Reports

- Chair Updates
- PSMP-IAC Update
- Communications Working Group
- PROMISE Working Group

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- August 24th, 2023 (Gunston Bubble Field Trip)
- September 28th, 2023
- October 26th, 2023
- November 16th, 2023
- December 21st, 2023

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 25th, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Microsoft Teams meeting

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Commission Members Present:

John Mingus, Chair

Jason Despain, Vice Chair

David Lansing

Khal Monaro

Nancy Sharkey

Lizzy Stell

George Thompson

Commission Members Absent:

Greg Gimenez

County/APS Staff

Tyler Remerow, DPR

Guests:

Melissa Reimer, Arlington Soccer

Aaron Sacks, Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball

Beth Jones, Arlington Babe Ruth Baseball

Adam Balutis, Arlington Little League

Shirley Brothwell, Arlington Little League

Start:

7:04pm

Public Comment

- None

Approval of Minutes

- April 27th, 2023 Meeting Minutes Approved
 - o Motion – George Thompson
 - o Second – Jason Despain

New Business

- **Arlington Soccer Community Ball Box**

- Arlington Soccer plans to build community ball boxes to install at neighborhood parks. To encourage community to play and recreate more often due to having access to playing balls.
- **Arlington Babe Ruth Southeast Regional Tournament**
 - Arlington Babe Ruth is planning to host the 12U Southeast Regional. Expecting 300-500 people/guests in Arlington. Event starts July 18 at Barcroft #6 with a skills competition. Games begin the 19th through to the 24th. Expecting food trucks and vendors.
- **Arlington Little League Intermediate State Tournament**
 - Tournament runs from July 6th to the 10th at the Gunston Park.
- **Liaison to Parks and Recreation Commission**
 - Lizzy Stell volunteers to be liaison to Parks and Rec Commission.
- **Constituent Group Liaisons**
 - Commission members encouraged to view liaison list to volunteer to serve as liaisons.
- **Pickleball Update**
 - Arlington County hosted pickleball open house for feedback at Walter Reed Community Center. Over 150+ people in attendance. Community had two options to choose between regarding turning Walter Reed into a permeant pickleball site. Plan to hold another open house later in summer.
- **Marymount Letter (Draft)**
 - Edits made regarding proposed fields, turf, lighting and parking in letter. To be finalized during June Sports Commission meeting.

Commission Member Reports

- Chair Updates
 - Jason Despain's term has been extended for two more years.
 - New members expected to join Sports Commission in June
- PSMP-IAC Update
 - None
- Communications Working Group Update
 - Working Group to work with ALL and ABR regarding the promotion of upcoming tournaments.
- PROMISE Working Group Update
 - None

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

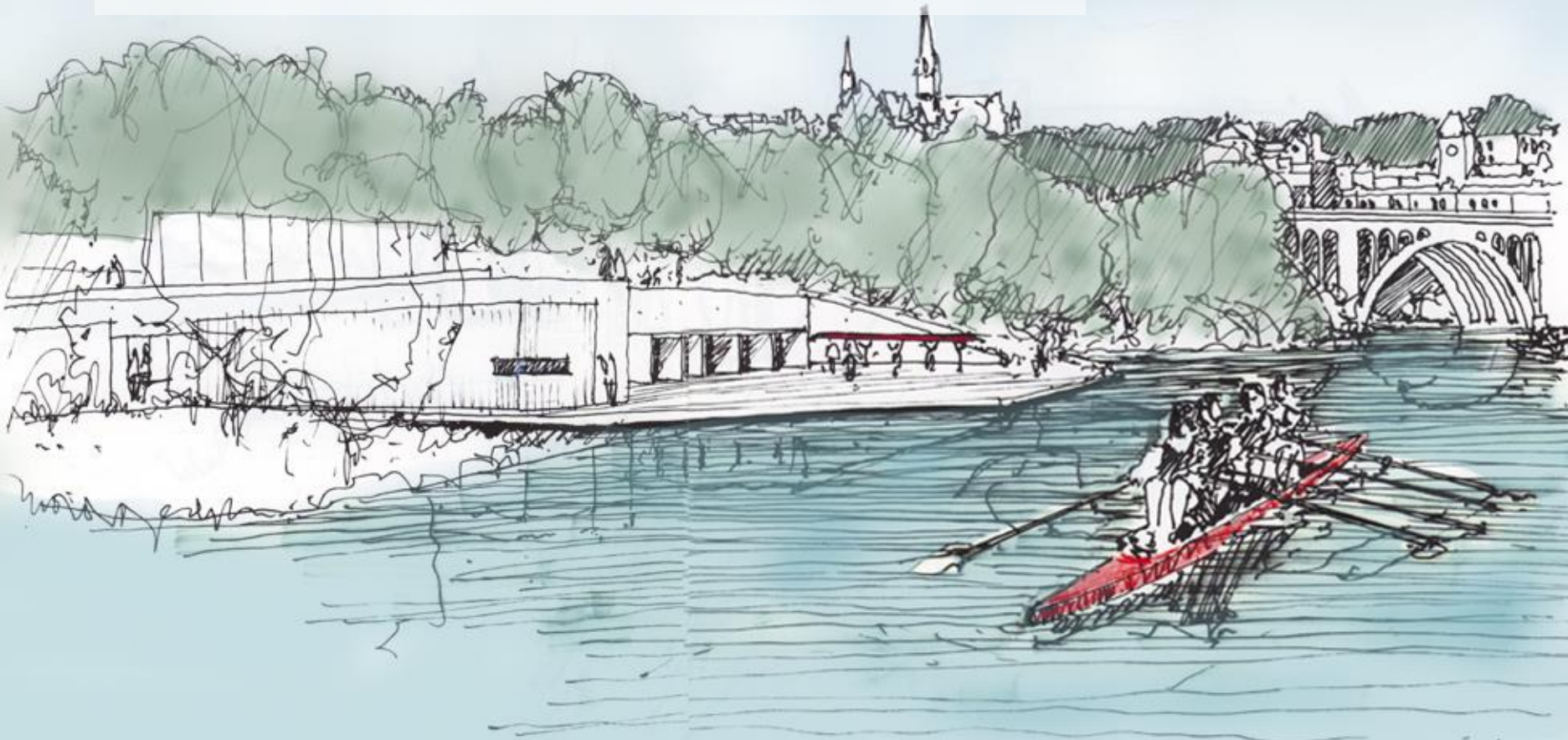
- June 22nd, 2023
- August 24th, 2023
- September 28th, 2023
- October 26th, 2023
- November 16th, 2023
- December 21st, 2023

Adjourn

8:06pm

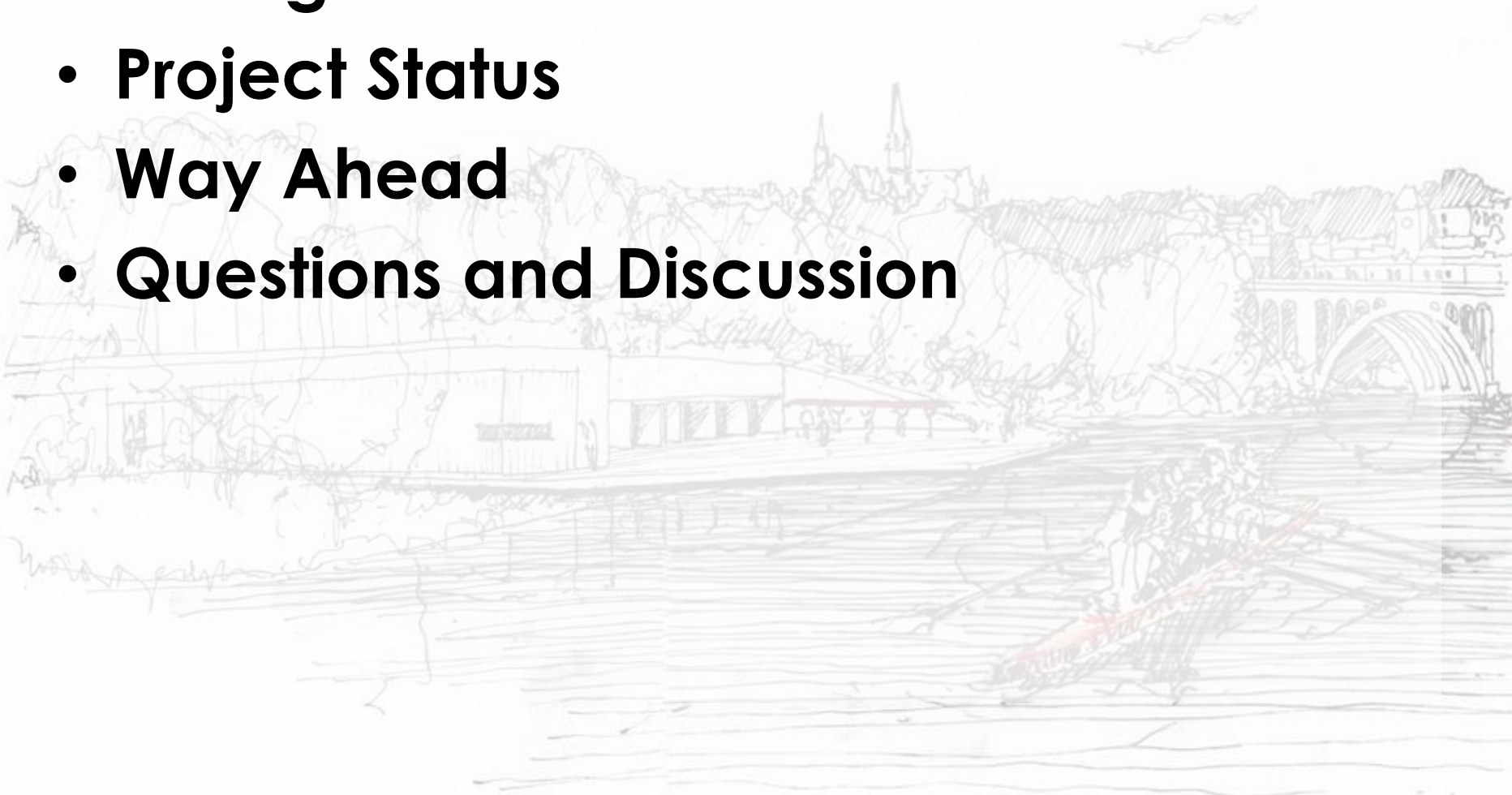
Arlington Community Boathouse Foundation

Reviving Access to the Potomac



Overview

- **Background**
- **Project Status**
- **Way Ahead**
- **Questions and Discussion**

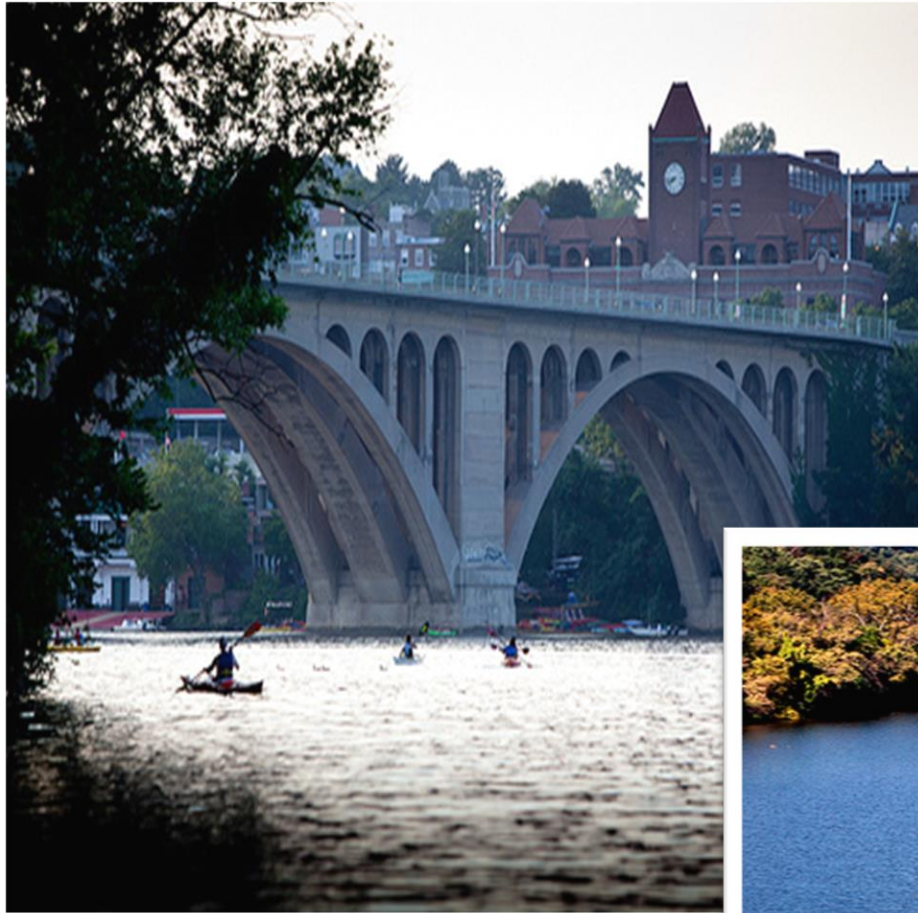


Potomac River in Rosslyn

Today - No access



Portal on Potomac Again?

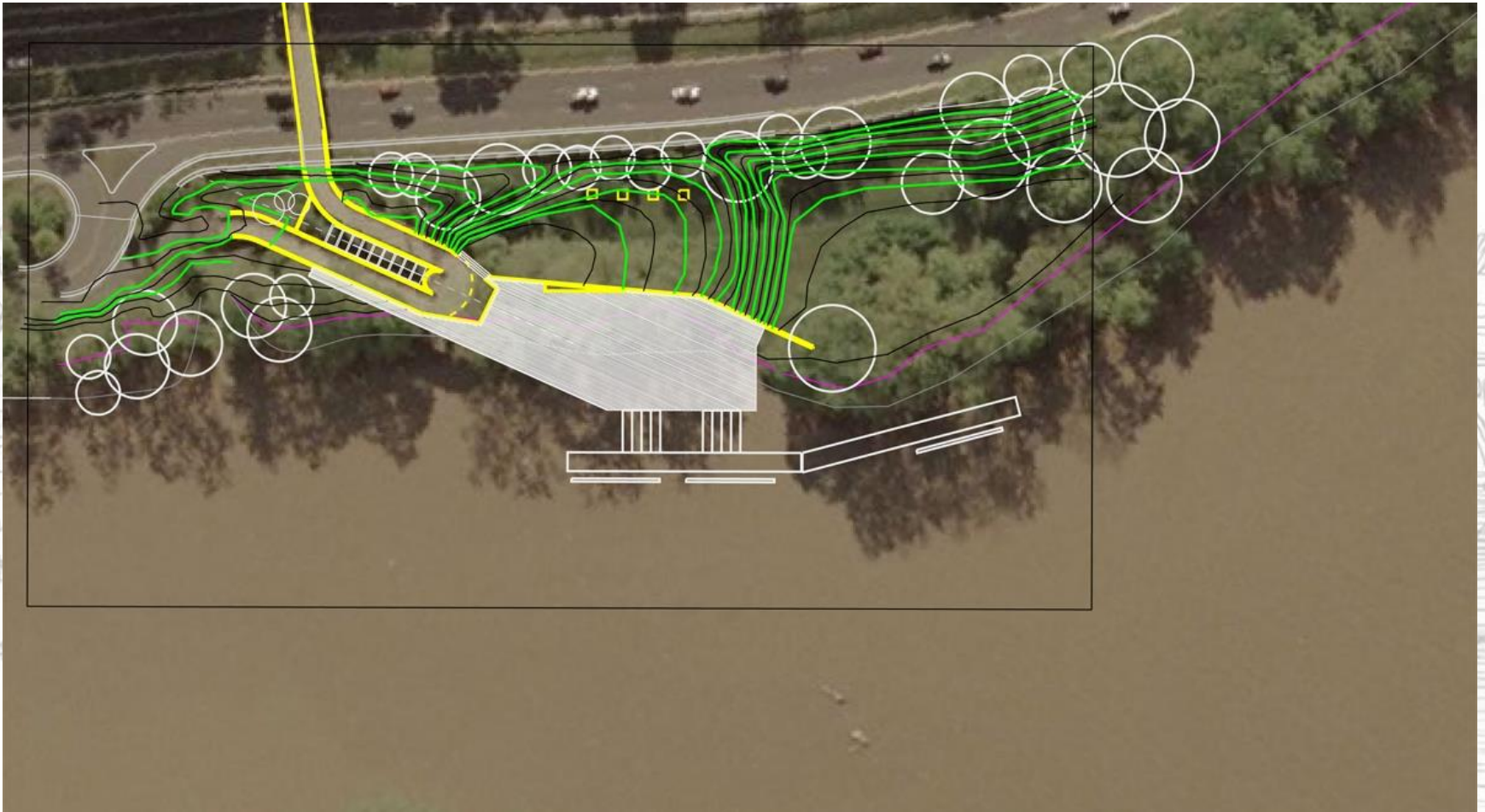


Preferred Alternative: Combination of Upper and Lower Sites



FIGURE 9. ALTERNATIVE C: COMBINATION OF UPPER AND LOWER ROSSLYN SITES

Accessible Rosslyn Shoreline Location



Rowing and paddling=recreation for all ages, abilities and backgrounds



Opportunities for Nature Study and Historical Interpretation

- **Space and location ideal for new outdoor education focused on Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay**
- **Space and location ideal for new historical park interpretative exhibits**
- **Possible collaboration with the National Park Service units and NOVA Parks**

Rosslyn Shoreline Location –Regionally Accessible



Project Status

- **Included in the County Board-adopted FY 2023- 32 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**
 - **\$2.925 Million (design development); FY 2024**
 - **\$15.77 Million (construction); FY 2027**
 - **Previously secured \$0.8 Million for park master planning**

ABF Priorities

- **In ongoing discussions with the Arlington Community Foundation to support future fundraising efforts**
 - Anticipate agreement by the end of Summer 2023
 - Accept and target non-local funding
- **Recently updated our website**
(<https://arlingtonboathouse.org/>)
- **Held a stewardship event with partners**
 - Parks and Rec
 - NVCT
 - Rosslyn BID

Enjoy the Potomac



Arlington Boathouse Foundation

www.arlingtonboathouse.org





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



June 27, 2023

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

The Arlington County Sports Commission recently heard presentations from Marymount University regarding their proposed plan for the creation of a new synthetic turf field on 26th St N, renovation of the Washington-Liberty High School softball field and the Quincy Park baseball diamond, as well as overall improvements to Quincy park.

During the January 2023 meeting, the Commission was presented with an overview of a proposal that would build new diamond fields for shared use by Marymount University, W-L High School, and Arlington County's numerous baseball and softball teams. Marymount University representatives walked members of the Commission through the improvement plan, covering everything from reorienting the Quincy Park diamond field, lighting and facilities upgrades to both fields—improving multi-use access, and overall concepts for maximizing use of these fields for all manner of sports and recreational activities. Commissioners also heard details about the university's proposed rectangular sports field and enhancements to the 26th Street North property which would also include a track, walking trails, a children's playground, and improvements to maintenance facilities for Arlington County.

The impetus for the Quincy Park proposal is that the university is seeking a “win-win” partnership between the County (which owns the land), APS (which has a pressing need to improve these facilities), the University (which needs a field space that is not a 20+ minute drive) and the community which regards the park as the “Central Park of Arlington.”

Context

In short, the Quincy Park baseball field and facilities are in shambles. The field, despite hours of maintenance, is often unplayable due to poor drainage and overuse. The fencing is rusted and damaged in many places. The press box suffers from rotted wood that is covered by many layers of paint and the dugouts and batting cages are in disrepair.

Commissioners who are familiar with the field underscored the poor conditions at Quincy Field and cited concerns about the orientation of the pitcher's mound where home plate (and the batter) are backdropped by the setting sun during the high school season.

While renovated within the last decade, the W-L softball fields are showing signs of age and use.

There are obvious signs of drainage issues along the first base dugout that if left unaddressed, will only deepen the trench that carries away layers of the dirt infield following heavy rains.

Marymount University's field challenges were likewise compelling. Among these:

- Athletes travel more than 20 minutes each way at least daily in order to attend team practices, workouts and games.
- Recruitment of student athletes is hindered by the absence of nearby fields, putting the university's programs in a less competitive position for talent.

Commissioners asked the university if they could quantify the impact of hours spent in transit to/from its current fields, as well as the estimated savings in fuel and time with a closer field option that this project would provide.

Commissioners also asked about how Quincy Park would continue to support casual use activities both on and adjacent to the diamond fields.

While the Commission supports the 26th Street project because it would increase the inventory of the county's heavily used rectangular fields, we recognize the challenging issues this project faces because of earlier decisions about the salt dome site.

Next Steps

The Sports Commission welcomes further discussion with all stakeholders who have an interest in the 26th St project and the Quincy Park and W-L softball diamond renovations. The Commission is also wary of the pressures on every patch of open space that comes with unabated population growth in Arlington County. Per the most recent Census, Arlington County is projected to top 250,000 residents by 2025, many of whom will seek places to play and enjoy outdoor activities.

Among the bigger issues that warrant further discussion:

- Funding – This project would require a significant investment. Who would cover the cost and what funding sources would be tapped for construction and long-term maintenance?
- Field Surfaces – What surfaces would be used for each field? Artificial turf has upsides in terms of playing time, field availability and cost, but what other alternatives could come into play?
- Lighting – Given that Quincy Park and the W-L softball diamond are already equipped with lighting, what is the plan for new lighting and how will modern lighting technology benefit nearby residents and reduce light pollution? Updated lighting technology would be an improvement and a positive for the Quincy Park and W-L fields for all manner of sports, particularly in the fall when the sun sets earlier. Discussion is also needed with respect to lighting plans for the 26th Street fields.
- Best Practices – Tucker Field (a.k.a., Barcroft #6) is an excellent proxy from which to extract best practices and learnings. The partnership between George Washington University and Arlington County can be counted as a success, giving sports leagues access to a Division 1 field while providing the university's baseball program with a nearby facility.
- Parking – The 26th Street plans included a parking plan, but parking improvements are much

needed at Quincy Park.

There are many topics that need to be ironed out before any of this proposal becomes real, but the rationale for this project has the ability to achieve a win-win (call it a “home run”) for the community, schools and park users. The end result (if and when that can be achieved) would be three world-class sports facilities, multi-use fields and open green space, and a more usable park for Arlington County. The Commission looks forward to exploring the possibilities to make this work for all parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Mingus". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

John Mingus, Chair
Sports Commission