

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 16th, 2023

In-Person Meeting

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of October, 26th 2023 Meeting Minutes

Other

- Arlington Little League Summer Tournament Recap

Old Business

- Zoning Letter (Draft)
- PROMISE Letter (Draft)
- PROMISE Discussion

New Business

- Liaison Role Discussion

Commission Member Reports

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

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- December 21st, 2023 (Virtual)

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 26th, 2023

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Microsoft Teams

Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Commission Members Present

John Mingus, Chair

Jason Despain, Vice Chair

George Thompson

Khal Monaro

Lizzy Stell

Nancy Sharkey

Deb Ryan

Commission Members Absent:

Bryan Eckle

Greg Gimenez

David Lansing

County/APS Staff:

Deb DeFranco, APS

Walter Gonzalez, DPR

Irena Lazic, DPR

Nick Rogers, DPR

Greg Anselene, DPR

Jennifer Fioretti, DPR

Tyler Remerow, DPR

Guests:

Beth Jones, ABR

Lisa Donnelly, ABR

Shirley Brothwell, ALL

John Sharkey

Start:

7:07pm

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of September, 28th 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion – George Thompson
 - 2nd – Jason Despain
 - Approved

Other

- Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Processes by Irena Lazic, Nick Rogers & Walter Gonzalez (30 Mins)
 - Zoning study used to explore adding a use permit option for the county board to consider case by case modifications of Arlington zoning laws for public spaces to enable more flexibility for amenities and avoid environmentally sensitive areas, while also avoiding adding additional parking. Three studies, including 2-3 public engagements, to be completed by 2024. Proposed amendment allows for modifications for maximum height standards for athletic field lighting and athletic court lighting by the county board through the use permit approval at schools in publicly owned parks and open spaces so long as the lighting was an existing improvement as of the effective date of the zoning ordinance.
- Athletic Field Use Presentation by John Sharkey
 - Yorktown senior project “Senior Experience”. Observed 50 hours of 10 fields at 5 parks. Fields used in other ways besides athletic field use. Rules regularly ignored especially for dog use.
- APS/DPR MOA updates by Jennifer Fioretti & Greg Anselene
 - Memorandum of Agreements with three high schools being updated. Purpose is to have a written formal understanding of what is expected of each party as it relates to amenities, operations, cost sharing and field scheduling. Cost sharing now closer to 50/50 split. Additional hours for APS school activities.

New Business

Old Business

- Arlington Little League Tournament Recap – Tabled to November
- Arlington Babe Ruth Tournament Recap by Lisa Donnelly
 - SE Regional – 8 teams (VA, NC, TN and FL). Played at both Gunston and Barcroft. Tournament was a success with competitive games.
- Liaison Role Conversation
 - Tabled – Goal will be to assign commission members to partner leagues for representation.

Commission Member Reports

- Chair Updates
- PROMISE Working Group Update – Commission to review draft letter to partner leagues at November meeting
- PSMP-IAC Update – Meeting scheduled for Nov. 2
- Communications Working Group Update – No Update

End:

9:05pm

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- November 16th, 2023 (In Person)
- December 21st, 2023 (Virtual)



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



December 5, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

In October, the Sports Commission received a presentation from County staff on Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Process. We are sending this letter to show the Commission's support for this proposal.

The proposed changes would provide the County Board with the authority to approve increased height, reduced setbacks, and reduced parking amounts on a case-by-case basis using use permits. The Commission believes this is a strong and needed first step in updating zoning policies that affect public spaces.

The Commission believes that these changes will have several direct benefits:

1. **Higher Athletic and Sports Field Features:** The ability to construct taller athletic and sports field features will allow for more innovative and functional designs that can better cater to the diverse sporting needs of our residents. This will undoubtedly contribute to a more vibrant and active community, and ideally will enable Arlington County to maximize its limited space.
2. **Improved Lighting:** Allowing for higher light poles will improve the quality of lighting on existing fields while minimizing the impact on the community. While not part of this study, these changes could ease the process for adding lights to other fields in the future.
3. **Allowances for domes:** Increasing the height limit could allow for domes on existing features. This is another positive zoning change that could provide year-round accessibility to sports facilities and further enhance the usability of our existing infrastructure. The County's positive experience with the Gunston multi-sport indoor facility is proof that domes work.
4. **Enhanced Accessibility:** We also look forward to measures that will enhance accessibility to sports facilities, making them more inclusive and user-friendly for individuals of all ages and abilities.

We believe that these zoning changes will benefit our residents but also will reinforce Arlington County's reputation as a community that values and promotes an active and healthy lifestyle.

If you require any additional input from the Arlington County Sports Commission on this topic, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

John Mingus, Chair
Sports Commission

Dear DPR Partner organization,

In 2021, the Sports Commission started the Combating Hate in Sports Working Group (renamed as PROMISE in 2022) as a standing working group 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. In 2022, the group provided a framework to discuss these issues (see attached file).

The next phase in the project is to get partner leagues to participate in the implementation of the framework. To kick off this process, you are invited to send a representative to a working meeting on Thursday January 25 at 7PM in the Luber Run Community Center. Please RSVP to Tyler Remerow of DPR.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Mingus
Chair Arlington County Sports Commission

Arlington Sports Commission

2023-24 Allocation of Constituent Representation

Constituent (Sports)	Commissioner Representing
Soccer, lacrosse	John Mingus
Flag and tackle football, ultimate frisbee	
Baseball	George Thompson, Nancy Sharkey
Softball, field hockey	David Lansing
Swim/dive	
Gymnastics	
Skateboarding, fencing, riflery	
Track, x-country, trail activities (walk, bike)	
Court sports (tennis, pickleball)	Lizzie Stell
Indoor sports (basketball, volleyball, ball and ice hockey)	
Constituent (Groups)	
Joint Facilities Advisory Committee	
Park and Recreation Commission Liaison	Lizzie Stell
Aquatics Committee Liaison	
E2C2 and Urban Forestry Commission Liaison	John Mingus
Underserved youth; differently-abled; Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families; Out-of-School Time Commission	Khal Monaro
Community Drop-In and Social Leagues (softball, kickball, bocce)	
College programs (GWU, Marymount)	
Adult and senior sports	Dave Tornquist
Not otherwise assigned sports and groups	
County Processes	
Public Spaces Working Group	Nancy Sharkey, Jason Despain
Field Fund Working Group	
Career Center Redesign	
Boat House	
Sports Commission Working Groups	
Communication Working Group	George Thompson, Jason Despain
Combating Hate in Sports Working Group	

Key questions for sports

- 1) Ways Sports Commission could be helpful
- 2) Ways groups can help Sports Commission

Key Questions for groups/Processes

- 1) Nexus with Sports Commission
- 2) Major upcoming issues

Strategic plan

If orgs are growing/contracting (# of teams/players)