

**Sports Commission Meeting
Thursday December 17, 2015
Langston Community Center Room 106
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM**

AGENDA

- I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes**
- II. Commission Structure, Term Limits**
- III. Vote on Skate Park Initiative (Appendix A)**
- IV. Vote on Field Proposal (Appendix B)- John Foti Letter**
- V. Decision on Support of Williamsburg Lights**
- VI. Public Space Master Plan Update- Craig**
- VII. Field Allocation Study Update- Josh**
- VIII. Long Bridge Park Advisory Group- Doug**
- IX. Projects and Themes Updates**
- X. Ongoing county forums or other workgroups check-in**

Upcoming Meetings:

January 28, 2016 at 7pm at Courthouse Plaza, Azalea Room 103

Appendix A

November 18, 2015

Craig Esherick
Arlington Sports Commission Chair
3700 Four Mile Run Dr.
Arlington, VA 22206

Dear Mr. Esherick,

Thanks you for allowing me to present information on the proposed revitalization of the Arlington County skateboard park at the Commission's October meeting. The skateboard park, located at the Powhatan Springs facility on Wilson Boulevard was one of the first skateboard parks build in the area. After 10 years, the skate park is prematurely showing its age and is need of major repairs.

The county had engineers assess the park's concrete and found that the concrete was porous and improperly mixed for skateboarding activities. This has resulted in water seepage issues that has led to cracks and other damage including damage to the pool tiles found near the top of the two skateboard bowls.

Arlington county contracted with Team Pain for a set of skate park designs. They may be viewed at this link: <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/17/2013/12/Powhatan-Design-Concepts-1.pdf>. I am advocating, on behalf of the Friends of Arlington Skate Park and other Arlington skateboarders, to adopt and implement one of the new skate park designs. The improvements in skate park design, particularly in better concrete which is suited for our climate and will withstand the elements better than the current park, would be a tremendous improvement. I am sure that this will generate even more enthusiasm and use of the facility.

I would like to ask for the Sports commission's support and endorsement of this initiative. Please let me know if there is any further information I may provide that may help your decision making. Thanks you again for allowing me to present at your meeting. It was a pleasure to meet you all and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Tyson Whitney
3111 13th Road South
Arlington, VA 22204
202.251.1154

Appendix B

PROPOSAL FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY, VA YOUTH ATHLETIC FIELDS

Date: 10/22/2015

To: Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation; Arlington County Sports Commission and Arlington County Elected Officials

From: Arlington Babe Ruth, Arlington Girls Softball Association, Arlington Little League, Arlington Soccer Association, Arlington Youth Flag Football, and Arlington Youth Lacrosse

Subject: Proposal for more multi-use, multi-sport configured synthetic fields for youth sports programs in Arlington County, VA.

Problem Statement: Arlington County is experiencing increased demand among its growing youth population for access to outdoor sports fields. Multiple youth sports compete with each other, and with adult sports leagues, for limited outdoor field space. Moreover, this limited field space is further constrained by limited maintenance resources and adverse weather conditions, two factors that uniquely affect users of outdoor fields compared to users of indoor facilities. In recent years, the number of games and practices that have been postponed, rescheduled, or cancelled **due** to weather related issues has continued to increase. We believe Arlington's youth athletes should be able to engage in practices and games without concerns related to field availability, playability or unsafe field conditions. Our youth athletes should be able to play on fields that are available throughout the year, regardless of the season or the weather.

Proposal: On behalf of the over 22,000 youth that play youth sports throughout the year, the members of the youth sports organizations named above are respectfully requesting immediate action to address the lack of adequate, safe and playable fields for our children to play on. The members of the Arlington youth sports organizations are collectively advocating for an increase in the number of multi-use synthetic turf fields as well as the preservation of natural grass fields to accommodate the burgeoning youth sports population in Arlington. We believe that adding additional synthetic fields will improve the county's ability to focus limited resources on maintaining a somewhat smaller pool of natural grass fields.

The youth sports organizations hereby request the following:

- 1) **That ANY and ALL existing/future field improvement initiatives consider synthetic field conversion as a primary option;**
- 2) **That multi-use synthetic fields be the default option for any schools that are built or renovated;**

- 3) **That the County provide multiple options to allow for comprehensive cost comparative analysis and a variety of decision making criteria:**
 - a. The County shall provide a breakdown of short- and long-term costs for natural grass and synthetic fields:
 - i. Provide the cost for a variety of “fill options” (natural filler and other alternatives to crumb rubber fillers)
 - ii. Provide “lifecycle cost comparisons” for synthetic fields vs. natural grass fields, to include:
 1. Yearly maintenance costs;
 2. Projected replacement timelines; and
 3. Projected hours of use (Is there a higher ROI for synthetic grass vs natural grass? How many more hours of play? How many more practices/games? How many more months of play?)
- 4) **That the County identify and develop a schedule for ALL fields that are appropriate candidates for synthetic turf conversion:**
 - a. Work with the users of those fields and solicit community feedback on the potential field candidates and requirements;
 - b. Design appropriate fields for multi-sport, multi-season use (similar to how Bluemont and Tuckahoe are currently configured/used);
 - c. Look at the field usage/location as the primary driver for its candidacy for synthetic turf conversion;
 - d. Remove the pre-condition that synthetic field locations must have existing lights;
- 5) **That the County pursue opportunities to allow for the co-mingling of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds along with non-County sources of funding to help pay for this proposal:**
 - a. Moving forward, it is requested that Arlington County consider adopting the formula utilized by Fairfax County as a model for leveraging both public and private funds for both field improvements and synthetic field conversions
- 6) **That the County strongly consider new land purchases for new athletic fields.**

This proposal reflects the collective voice of the sports groups listed below. These groups would like to be productive and proactive partners with Arlington County. We respectfully request that the County Board, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Sports Commission each designate points-of-contact to work together to begin identifying creative solutions to our concerns.

Signatures from Arlington County, VA Youth Sports Organization Presidents/Directors:

Association	President	Signature	Date
Arlington Babe Ruth	Phil Juliano	_____	_____
Arlington Girls Softball Association	David Lansing	_____	_____
Arlington Little League	Adam Balutis	_____	_____
Arlington Soccer Association	Justin Wilt	_____	_____
Arlington Youth Flag Football Association	Bart Gray	_____	_____
Arlington Youth Lacrosse Association	Scott Dalton	_____	_____

Please address all replies, inquiries or comments to: youthfields@gmail.com