

Arlington County Sports Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/28/16

Time: 7:15pm

Place: Courthouse Plaza, Azalea Room

Attending:

Craig Esherick, Chair	Regina Kouba, Member
Josh Colman, DPR Liaison	Doug Ross, Member
Debbie DeFranco, APS Liaison	Steve Severn, Member
David Tornquist, Member	George C. Towner, Jr., Member
Heather Cocozza, Member	Ellen Killalea, Member
Mauricio Coreas, Member	Stephen Finn, P&R Commission Member

Agenda:

- I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes
- II. Web Update/Commission Information
- III. Discussion on Skate Park Initiative (Appendix A)
- IV. Field Allocation Update
- V. Public Space Master Plan Update
- VI. Long Bridge Park Advisory Group- Doug
- VII. Projects and Themes for 2016
- VIII. Ongoing county forums or other workgroups check-in

Agenda Item

I. Approve Past Meeting Minutes (December 2015)
7:15-7:23

Action Items

II. Web Update/Commission Information
7:23-7:27

Discussion, Consensus & Action Items

Review and motion to approve meeting minutes, seconded, approved

Josh will post December minutes to the website.

Josh updated group regarding changes to commission website. Structure has changed- past meeting notes and agendas were moved to different page.

Resources section added for current projects or items of interest.

Interested parties in joining the sports commission now have a chance to apply. Follow directions online.

III. Discussion/Vote on
Skate Park Initiative
7:28-7:34

Some of the questions raised from previous meeting regarding the Skate Park were answered. The current assessment of the skate park was that there are some major concrete failures. The skate park costs between \$18,000-\$22,000 per year to maintain/repair. This would not bring about changes to the supervision of the skate park.

Questions raised about Upton Hill batting cages in relation to this- the batting cages are maintained and operated by Upton Hill (regional park).

Discussion regarding cost recovery options or ticket charging. Without supervision there can't be enforcement of that.

George- anything we want to regulate (in regards to charging/supervising) will end up costing more than the benefit of regulating it. If we're going to consider charging, we'd need to make sure to cover the cost of regulating the facility.

Questions raised about supervision of skate parks across the country- what is the standard level of supervision? Does the county bear any liability if someone gets injured?

Stephen F (guest)- county should be very well protected from that issue.

Need additional information to vote- Josh will get answers to the outstanding questions.

Action Items

IV. Field Allocation Update
7:35-8:00pm

Discussion regarding the Field Allocation study and upcoming meetings.

Craig- There are two upcoming meetings (Feb 2nd at 6:30pm at Arlington Mill and Feb 3rd at 6:30pm at Fairlington). Two different groups of sport user groups will be at the meetings. Sports commission has been asked to serve as monitors at tables (that will be made up of sports user groups). Sports commission would help facilitate the discussion.

GreenPlay will be there to provide the results of the survey. Will also provide facts about questions regarding field priority, in season vs. out of season, and more.

Questions raised- can the commission come on both days (to both meetings)? How do we use the fields we have, who has priority, what are the seasons, how many practice hours, etc. All these issues will be discussed by GreenPlay and during the meetings.

Shirley- Discussion regarding the meetings- haven't we covered this material/data previously?

Craig- they should discuss the previously gathered data at the meeting and present that information. The project was pushed back by at least a month- the February meetings should have happened in January. These two meetings are additional data gathering, presentation of previous data, gathering opinions from users groups. Specific topics that will be covered include: length of season, length of practices, and more.

Shirley- It would be helpful if they can be prepared to discuss what was gathered and what stands out as a problem. Her group just upped the budget to get indoor space for baseball. They need space to practice- willing to partner with schools or indoor facilities. Key is adequate access to fields.

Group discussion regarding the role of the sports commission, how the meetings will work, future meetings, recommendations, and implementation of policy. Concerns raised about the county implementing a policy without the sports commission sign off. Questions raised about getting GreenPlay to come to a sports commission meeting to get sports commissions input. Members will have an opportunity to help facilitate but also give their opinion on some of the issues.

Craig- we can use these meetings as an opportunity to gather information and utilize that information in our role in advising the community, user groups, DPR, etc. We can ask GreenPlay questions- making sure any questions that need to be asked are asked.

Group discussion regarding the role during these meetings and desire for clarification on role- email from John Blevins discussed clarifying information. Final point- make sure to attend on 2nd/3rd if you want to be part of this process.

V. Public Space Master Plan
8:01-8:08

Discussion regarding the upcoming Public Space Master Plan meetings. This is a separate group of consultants from the Field Allocation study. This group will provide opportunities for public comment at the upcoming meetings.

2-3 different consultants hired for this project. Group discussion to clarify- this project is about what public spaces do we need.

Important that all user groups, families, and kids have a presence at these meetings. There could be opportunities for gymnastics, pools, and more. Should we look at buying more land?

Important to attend and make your voice heard.

VI. Long Bridge Park
Advisory Group- Doug
8:09-8:24

Doug- met on January 13 and started things off with report from DPR- analyzed operating expense and revenue from Arlington facilities. Big concern is how aggressive the recommendation wants to be in terms of revenue generation and/or cost recovery. Prices came out very different from what was proposed. There's a sense of unfairness- no other facility has been asked to justify its expense with revenue generation before (Arlington Mill, Barcroft, etc.)- There's been no previous requirement of revenue generation.

Discussion regarding the Artisphere situation. Doug indicates they did not look at the Artisphere for this presentation. There was a decision that this presentation is still considered a working paper.

Doug- update on efforts for sponsorships/partnerships. Promising that GW seems interested, but there's been no immediate follow up. GW does not have enough facility space, so they are interested in expansion. May be something that's worth exploring. The new Economic Development head- this is something he's behind- previous economic development had not been onboard, so this is a promising step forward. Georgetown is not interested.

Discussion regarding other area colleges- anyone who would be interested? Sounds like not many options- schools are either already set, too far, or too small.

Doug- moving forward, recommendation to the county manager by the end of February and then manager needs to get recommendation to the county board. Think this could be wrapped up in approval of CIP- Doug will talk to people to generate enthusiasm and advocacy over the next five months.

Discussion regarding cost recovery and if it is out of the question that a facility like that can generate some level of revenue. Fairfax County recovers 100%- group was unable to get a Fairfax representative to explain how they do that. What would Arlington do in terms of cost recovery?

Discussion regarding cost of project- not much detail on cost. One big element is the energy savings features and finding contractors familiar with the issues entailed.

Discussion about surveys and how differences between user groups played out. There were a lot of differences in what people were interested in. Olympic size pool did not make the top three or four among non-user groups (same with the dive tower). How will this information be interpreted?

	<p>Discussion regarding idea of cooperation with City of Alexandria- survey both communities and see if we can work together. Additional discussion regarding partnership and sponsorship. Tough to get into partnerships details without specific plans for project.</p> <p>Heather- questions about finding help to pay for facility. Sponsorship options available? Is that a viable way to get the facilities we want?</p>
<p>VII. Project/Themes for 2016 8:25-8:36</p>	<p>Revisited projects from 2015.</p> <p>Craig- we've done #2- Actively participate in the process for field allocation. #1- supported DPR in purchase of batting cages.</p> <p>Discussion about future projects. Questions raised about the field fund and what's going on with the new batting cages. Questions about turf fields- will money go towards that?</p> <p>Craig- recommends using partnerships. Active discussions between GW baseball and Arlington to build clubhouse at Barcroft. Indoor batting facility that we could possibly have access to. Opportunity for a lot of baseball organizations to get some time (possibly with contribution).</p> <p>George- discussion regarding the Arlington Sports Foundation- want additional assistance and participation. If anyone wants to be involved, they'd love to have more people in the group.</p> <p>Heather- just joined the Arlington Sports Hall of Fame- they look to nominate people every year. She may be reaching out looking for candidates.</p> <p>Ellen- there was a ceremony for the Washington-Lee HS Hall of Fame. Very cool event. Athletic director may have some ideas.</p>
<p>VIII. County Forums/other workgroups 8:36-8:47</p>	<p>Deb- new middle school will be named Stratford Middle- celebration on February 2nd. Still meeting on the "west wing" addition- trying to keep the initial building structure. She does believe there will be a second gym.</p> <p>David- APS staff has said they'll have difficult managing multiple projects at once. Proposed Stratford to be opened in 2019 with just 6th/7th graders. Construction of an extra wing would occur during the school year of 2019. This would allow them to finish Wilson (not have two major projects). Hasn't been voted on by the school board- not presented yet. School board did vote on a range for costs. Major issues remain on parking.</p> <p>Deb- Wilson building has gone back to the drawing board- it's over budget.</p>

Discussion regarding fields at HB Woodlawn. Discussion regarding driveway entrance to Stratford. Traffic study has been done.

Discussion regarding Wakefield diamond fields- schools approved the design to be comparable to other facilities. Dealing with some natural erosion around the warning track- gaps in between the fence and ground. Contractor will be fixing that.

Discussion regarding communication and public meetings. Utilization of WERA? Skype meetings were discussed by Libby Garvey.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm.

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison