Field Fund Work Group Meeting

Wednesday, November 11

7:00pm

Microsoft TEAMS

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Shirley Brothwell (Chair)

Peter Lusk (Chair)

Steve Finn

Kimberly Durand

David Tornquist

Alex Cumana

DPR Staff

Peter Alchin

Greg Anselene

Guests

Adam Brick

Mark Lincoln

Review of meeting with youth partner leagues. All partner leagues were in attendance except for Arlington Babe Ruth.

Review of the notes and comments from the leagues. Notes below are comments and discussion/reactions from the meeting with the leagues.

Steve Finn brought up that it is not a net zero. ASA does use both grass and synthetic fields and they do need maintenance for grass fields and that should be kept in mind. But overall it is consistent and not wrong to with the thought that money should go to capital/synthetic.

Senior Babe Ruth

Shirley- Surprised that they don’t want to use it for field maintenance. Felt like ASBR was the only group that looked at it from a policy base

Steve Finn doesn’t believe it is financially viable to turf the 90 ft field being that it is a permit only field used by limited groups.

Little League. IF used for maintenance staff wants a service level agreement/maintenance level standards.. Also shared concerns that the County may use the field fund to offset the county general budget as a way to cut the budget.

Brought up that now that fields are permit takes priority and leagues do not have exclusive use why should leagues have to pay an additional user fee.

Discussion of the difference between fees and taxes. Amount of tax support towards fields are so miniscule compared to exclusive use that the leagues get.

Does the county have any mechanisms to borrow money and build fields now while paying off the loan through field fund fees in the future through the loan.

Recreation vs. Travel. Discussion on whether there should be a travel team fee. No comments from the committee.

Question about equity of recreation vs travel and use of fields. Why should rec players and travel players who do not have the same amount of time on the field pay the same fee?

Equity from different lense- Will additional fees for travel players continue to make it harder for lower income participants to play travel.

Question about the definition of travel. Should organizations like Arlington Field Hockey or Arlington Youth Lacrosse that don’t have their own league and play but would otherwise would be considered a house league.

Question about finances have come up suggestion has come up about capital projects and if finance staff could attend the December meeting? Pete Lusk responded that if not, DPR would be sure to have the information to be able to answer the questions.

**Benchmarking**

Number of staff per # of athletic fields

Total $ spent per field

Are fields locked. Is there a different dollar spent on premiere fields (locked fields) vs. secondary fields

Diamond fund and Rectangle funds

Steve Finn- wants to add copy of Synthetic CIP page

Discussion of Fairfax county field enhancements and scholarship program. Discussion on whether leagues should be reimbursed for their enhancements to field play/improvements.