

**Name**

Justin Wilt

**Member Report Subject**

RFUG

**Summary**

Shared with the RFUG a recent "sports community position paper" coming from John Foti and (somewhat tenuously) the Arlington Sports Foundation. Relayed concerns to John, and am now in the process of setting up a smaller meeting (5 members?) to redevelop the paper itself as well as explore the philosophy behind it. A goal is to keep the Sports Commission as a principal party in developing the "voice of the sports community," and a second goal is to ensure that the position paper truly reflects the thoughts of as many Arlington sports groups as possible.

**Name**

Justin Wilt

**Member Report Subject**

POPS

**Summary**

No meetings are scheduled for the near future. There likely will be a final round of public outreach, and this Spring we should also see the "roadshow" where the Advisory Committee presents the current state of the process to a variety of Arlington commissions (including the Sports Commission).



# AQUATICS COMMITTEE

Arlington, VA



Arlington  
Public  
Schools

Arlington Sports Commission

March 22, 2018

## AQUATICS COMMITTEE

### MEMBERS

Don Hesse, Chair  
 Cynthia Hilton, Vice Chair  
 Janet Eichers  
 Mariland Judson  
 Ron Kampeas  
 MacKenzie Kearney  
 Guy Land  
 Diane Romanek  
 Kristi Sawert

Katie Cristol, Chair  
 Arlington County Board  
 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 300  
 Arlington, VA 22201

Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
 Arlington School Board  
 1426 N Quincy Street  
 Arlington, VA 22207

RE: FY 2019 Proposed Budget

Dear Chair Cristol and Chair Kanninen,

I am writing on behalf of the Aquatics Committee<sup>1</sup> to request reconsideration of the Arlington Public Schools ("APS") Superintendent's FY 2019 budget proposal to increase fees paid by patrons and renters of APS's three indoor swimming pools. Specifically, the proposed budget calls for increasing general admission and membership ("community swim") fees by 5% and rental fees by 10%.

Among the responsibilities of the Aquatics Committee is a charge to make recommendations on fees charged for the use of the pools. In 2014, the Committee adopted criteria to assess the need for fee adjustments.<sup>2</sup> The Aquatics Committee is generally supportive of justified fee increases. However, the current proposal is not justified based on the Committee's fee assessment criteria. Also, the fee increases are estimated to generate revenue in excess of the \$55,000 APS has said it needs to close a revenue gap expected in FY 2019, and, while revenue needs for FY 2019 prompt the proposed fee increases, there is no plan to sunset the higher fees at the end of the fiscal year.

We believe there may be another, more appropriate, source of funds to provide the \$55,000 requested by the Superintendent. In 2009 the County Board and the School Board adopted a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") for operation

### STAFF LIAISONS

Helena Machado  
 Arlington Public Schools  
 703-228-6264

Jennifer Lainhart  
 Department of  
 Parks & Recreation  
 703-228-1809

<sup>1</sup> The Aquatics Committee is a joint committee of the Arlington County Sports Commission and the Arlington Public Schools. The Committee is charged with ensuring community engagement in the operation and use of the Arlington indoor swimming pools located within the three high schools (hereafter known as the "pools") and with making recommendations on behalf of users to the County Board, through the Sports Commission, and to the School Board as needed.

<sup>2</sup> The criteria are intended to be considered as a whole; no one criterion should be used to justify a fee increase. The criteria are used to trigger fee adjustment analyses, not automatic fee increases. The criteria consist of three metrics: (1) cost recovery that falls 1-5% below a 3-year rolling average; (2) comparison of similar fees assessed by other jurisdictions; and (3) consideration of inflation and cost of living rates.

and use of the pools at the three high schools. Pursuant to the MOU, the County is to annually appropriate to APS funds for operating and maintaining the pools.<sup>3</sup> The MOU directs APS and County staff to evaluate revenue and expenditures on an annual basis and recommend an increase or decrease to the annual transfer amount, if appropriate.

In the nine years since the MOU was originally signed, the transfer amount of \$286,988 has not changed. Yet, during those nine years, the number of County (Department of Parks & Recreation) revenue-generating "learn to swim", diving, water fitness, and swim team programs and their participants has increased significantly. Although the County has not increased its transfer amount since 2009, over the same time period, fees for community swim and rentals have already been increased three separate times by 15%, 10%, and 10% and by 15%, 20%, and 15%, respectively. The cumulative impact of these increases adds to more than their sum, while the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers increased only 12.7%. There is no indication that these pool users are not already paying their fair share.

In view of these facts, we strongly urge the County and APS staff to immediately evaluate current revenue and expenditures for the pools in accordance with the MOU and determine if an increase to the transfer amount is warranted for FY 2019. Furthermore, we recommend that the School and County Boards direct their respective staff, in consultation with the Aquatics Committee, to develop repeatable, transparent criteria that can be used to make the annual transfer evaluation more accountable.

In the event that the transfer fee is not increased, the Aquatics Committee sees two options: fee increases and/or decreased pool hours. We are currently surveying pool users asking if they would favor an increase in fees or a decrease in pool hours. We do not have results yet, but we will share the results when we present comments to the School Board at the April 19<sup>th</sup> public hearing on the proposed FY 2019 budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Aquatics Committee views.

Respectfully,

*Donald E. Hesse*

Donald E. Hesse  
Chair, Aquatics Committee

cc: Members of the Arlington County Board  
Members of the Arlington School Board  
Mark Schwartz, County Manager  
Dr. Patrick K. Murphy, Superintendent  
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation  
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations

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<sup>3</sup> This appropriation is in addition to all amounts budgeted for the schools and the Community Activities Fund by the County Board.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Four Mile Run Valley Working Group

FROM: Elizabeth Gearin, Chair, Jennie Dean Park Committee

DATE: March 21, 2018

SUBJECT: Jennie Dean Park Committee Report

### Summary

The Jennie Dean Park (JDP) Committee has, in accord with the County Board's direction, convened and revised concept plans for the park. Two concept plans have been created, one essentially a refinement of the earlier Staff recommendation and the second a new layout. This process and concept plans are further described below and seen in attachments. The Committee asks the 4MRVWG to review both concept plans and to consider voting (either at this meeting or a subsequent meeting in order to allow members to share this information with their constituencies) using the 4-point scale described below for each option.

- 1 – Plan is excellent (i.e., the layout and design are excellent, there is an excellent balance among competing demands, the number and mix of benefits achieved in Phase 1 are excellent)
- 2 – Plan is good (i.e., the layout and design are good, there is a good balance among competing demands, the number and mix of benefits achieved in Phase 1 are good)
- 3 – Plan is ok but not great (i.e., the layout and design are ok but not great, the balance among competing demands is ok but not great, the number and mix of benefits achieved in Phase 1 are ok but not great)
- 4 – Plan is bad (the layout and design are bad, the balance among competing demands is bad, the number and mix of benefits achieved in Phase 1 are bad)

## Jennie Dean Park Committee Background

The County Board, at their February 20, 2018 Work Session, suggested the Four Mile Run Valley Working Group (4WRVWG) create a committee for a focused, short-term evaluation of the proposed alternative designs for Jennie Dean Park (JDP). This JDP Committee was made up of five individuals who have been participating in the 4MRVWG: Elizabeth Gearin, Chair (Planning Commission Alternate); Portia Clark (Nauck); Ginny Farris (Shirlington, Alternate); Shirley Brothwell (Sports Commission); and Carrie Johnson (At Large).

## JDP Committee Charge

The Jennie Dean Park Committee, part of the Four Mile Run Valley Working Group (4MRVWG), shall consist of five members, including the Chair. All committee meetings will be public, in accordance with Arlington County and Virginia requirements.

The Committee will review and evaluate existing alternative concept plans for Jennie Dean Park, giving due consideration to issues, concerns, and recommendations that have been raised by the community. A new concept plan recommendation may be developed but must include all elements (casual use space, large and small diamond fields, tennis and basketball courts, playground, restroom, and picnic area) currently in the park.

A final report from the committee is due at the full working group meeting on 21 March 2018.

## Summary of JDP Committee Meetings

The JDP Committee held three meetings (3/1, 3/7, and 3/15.) The complete summary emails for each meeting were shared with 4MRVWG members via email.

At the **first** meeting the JDP Committee reviewed the charge, and heard staff presentations regarding: research in response to issues raised at the County Board Work Session; and the history of the existing concept

plans to date. Then the Committee members discussed the concept plans. Safety, including field location and field orientation, was agreed upon as a high priority; and the provision of open space and tree canopy along Four Mile Run Drive, connected casual use space through the site, access along the stream, the use of synthetic turf on the large diamond field, and several attractive and welcoming entrances were all highly desirable.

The Committee sought additional information from staff regarding the feasibility, cost and lifespan of courts with permeable surfaces; some sense of how to create/ where we might add inviting places to sit or explore natural areas; the feasibility, cost and possible siting options for a single larger shelter compared with a cluster of picnic tables; pros and cons of reversing the positions of the larger and smaller diamond fields; options for separating the court space into two smaller components, one with tennis courts, one with basketball court/s; pedestrian and bike access and travel patterns getting to and through the park from the various entrances; costs of structured parking; and costs of land acquisition in Arlington County.

At the **second** meeting, the Committee discussed additional safety issues: noted that that future acquisition of the two parcels along Four Mile Run Drive could facilitate a more pedestrian-friendly entrance for park users coming down the hill on Shirlington Road; raised concerns about cyclist/pedestrian connections across Shirlington Road, including safe access to the W&OD trail; and agreed that a playground sited close to Four Mile Run Drive required fencing for safety. The Committee also discussed ways to activate the space and tie it to the community including: welcoming durable/playspace public art here (similar to the play spaceship at the Arlington Arts Center); adding pathway lighting at night to the pedestrian bridge; and auto-loading for four vehicles (two teams) along Nelson Street.

Additional information was sought including: options for and placement of fencing/netting (including overlap fencing) for the playground and the diamond fields; pros and cons of angled parking along Nelson St.; and issues of remediation of the WETA site for future park usage; feasibility of courts with permeable surfaces to allow for siting within the RPA; options for using excess parking at Shirlington Gateway in the

evenings and on weekends; and the process for pursuing durable public art going forward.

At the **third** meeting, the Committee received an update from the SCA meeting, which park concerns include: bus/truck proximity to the playground if sited near Four Mile Run Drive (air pollution, noise, safety); building near the Resource Protection Area (RPA); bike and pedestrian safety; desire for more directed field lighting given impact on the condominiums and apartments in Shirlington; stroller access through the park to the playground; maximum visual access throughout the park; that early phases of park development do not preclude future amenities such as an additional pedestrian bridge; status of the day labor site; timing of WETA departure; overall security and safety in the park; and desire for multiple welcoming park entrances.

Staff and Committee members responded to these and issues raised at earlier meetings. They noted there may be transient populations using the park as informal housing, and while park redevelopment may discourage this, there is some desire for County outreach regarding relevant housing and services.

With regard to parking, staff reported that reconfiguring parking along Nelson to provide angled spaces would yield up to 9 additional spaces, but at a loss of 10,000 sf of parkland. Moving WETA parking to the Shirlington Rd parking lot, and allowing the County to convert the WETA parking lot (toward Nelson Street) as parkland requires a more prolonged negotiation process than the JDP Committee can accommodate. While a new basketball court, which is constructed of impermeable materials and cannot be built on part of the Shirlington Road parking lot in the second option because of the RPA, parking can be rebuilt in this space using permeable pavers.

Staff shared fencing options for the playground, and Committee members noted that future planning for the site consider incorporating fencing design specific to either the history of JDP/Nauck and/or the industrial uses along Four Mile Run Drive. Staff also noted where field and court fencing would be required, including areas where overlap fencing might be used to facilitate casual use of the fields when not in use. Committee members raised the idea of planting native vines along



parts of fences to further create visual green space in the park.

### IDP Committee Key Issues, Concerns and Recommendations

**Safety** of park users is a high priority. To that end the Committee considered placement options for both diamond fields, to minimize both sun in batters' eyes, especially the younger players (and therefore protect them from being hit by a pitched baseball) and the likelihood of anyone being hit by foul balls or homeruns.

Fencing along parts of the diamond fields and the courts similarly protects other park users from being hit by balls. With regard to the diamond fields and desire to access those fields for casual use, staff calculated areas where fencing was critical (including optimum height); thus fencing is partial along the diamond fields and/or includes overlap fencing. Similarly, siting the playground proximate to Four Mile Run Drive in keeping with community desires requires appropriate fencing to protect children from straying into traffic.

While outside the scope of siting amenities in the park space, safety of pedestrians and cyclists accessing the park is also a high priority. The Committee stressed the importance of improving safety at the Shirlington Road crossing immediately; and in later Phases providing a safe and welcoming entry at Four Mile Run Drive and Shirlington Road. Committee members supported the idea of pathway lighting the Shirlington Bridge into the park in the evening.

**Casual Use Space** and providing **connectivity through the site** and to the surrounding neighborhoods represents another priority. This includes providing access along the stream and protecting the RPA (which provides some of this casual use space), providing open space and tree canopy along Four Mile Run Drive, providing visual access through park, and providing stroller access through park. Casual use space has been identified through both the 4MRVWG and a parallel process to update the Arlington County Parks Master Plan (POPS) as a very high need throughout the County.

**Activate the Site and Tie to the Community** – Such safe entrances, and amenities like pathway lighting also act to welcome park visitors.

The Committee recommends all several entrances feel welcoming. One idea includes siting a small shelter (large enough for two families) at the corner of Nelson and Four Mile Run Drive. The Committee also discussed and supported the idea of durable public art that has a tie to the community, like the play spaceship at Maury Park which was provided by Arlington's sister city of Aachen, Germany; noting that perhaps such play equipment in JDP might have an industrial feel or otherwise tie to the history of the area. Similarly the Committee recommends that playground fencing design reference the community.

**Parking** for the site represented another issue. Committee members were concerned that parking near recreational park uses is limited; and noted that the Shirlington Road lot is problematic in terms of safe access (and thus asked staff to consider safety in its long-term use, perhaps requiring right-in, right-out), and its access. It is relatively far from the fields and court spaces. To that end the Committee considered converting parallel parking on Nelson to angled parking, but this yields few additional spaces (9) at the expense of parkland (10,000 sf). The Committee recommends installing 4 short-term parking spaces along Nelson to allow park users to load/unload passengers and equipment. (Four was determined to be the appropriate number for two teams for either field.) The Committee also raised the issue of acquiring the WETA lot towards Nelson and moving WETA parkers (and other current WETA parking lot uses) to the Shirlington Road lot, but this reconfiguration requires negotiation beyond the JDP Committee scope and timing. The Committee raised the issue of using excess parking at other neighborhood locations including Shirlington Gateway in the evenings and on weekends.

**Costs and Phasing** provide their own challenges. Some amenities may only be built once given their high costs. Current high demand for field and court uses in the County led the Committee to try to include as many amenities as possible in Phase One, and not take any uses offline. This discussion of demand led to the Committee's support for synthetic turf where appropriate, allowing for additional playtime. Additionally, there is concern that Phase Two funding is both uncertain, and likely to be more competitive. Relegating some amenities to Phase Two makes their ultimate construction less certain. To that end, the Committee sought to site as many recreational amenities in Phase One as possible.

## IDP Committee Recommendations

In addition to discussing these specific issues, concerns and recommendations, Committee members worked with a template of the park and the recreation elements in meetings 2 and 3 to evaluate alternate park designs. The result of these explorations is two park concept plans, with narrative below and renderings in attachments.

### Option One (Refinement of Staff Recommendation)

Option One refines the staff recommendation (Refined Staff Preferred Concept, February 2018 WG Meeting) to respond to community concerns, and does the following in Phase One:

- Flips the diamond fields so the smaller field lies closer to Four Mile Run Drive;
- Sites one tennis court and one basketball court in an area just south of the WETA parcel; and
- Sites a new, fenced playground and restrooms along Four Mile Run Drive.

In Phase Two, the first option (Option One):

- Converts the basketball court to a second tennis court; and
- Sites a new basketball court either just north of the tennis courts or adjacent to the Shirlington Road parking lot.

A larger picnic pavilion, cluster of picnic tables, and/or small shelter can be sited in either Phase One or Two.

The major concern of this option is that the 3rd base line of the small field is between 70-80' from Four Mile Run Drive. This involves a section of outfield fence and a light pole, which breaks up the sense of open space in that area; however it is possible to use a removable fence to fully render the space accessible out of season. The Committee has heard consistently from the Committee's Nauck representative that this breaking up of open space along Four Mile Run Drive is highly undesirable to the community.

See attachment for renderings for Option One, Phases One and Two.

### Option Two – New Concept Plan

In Phase One, the second option (Option Two):

- Sites the large diamond field where the small diamond field is now;
- Moves the small field temporarily to the current site of the larger field (where its boundaries will remain partially in the RPA), with minimal renovations and minimal amenities;
- Retains the tennis courts in roughly their current location;
- Sites a basketball court just north-west of the current location;
- Sites the new playground and restrooms along Four Mile Run Drive.

In Phase Two, the second option (Option Two):

- Moves and fully renovates the smaller field northward (out of the RPA) into the current location of the WETA building; and
- Sites a new large shelter south of the small diamond field near the RPA.

Concerns with this option include:

- Delaying the improved replacement of the smaller diamond field;
- Siting the smaller field in the RPA (even temporarily, given an uncertain timeline for acquisition of the WETA parcel);
- Using existing lighting for the smaller field which may not be appropriate for night play purposes;
- Existing field lighting is partially retained which delays the installation of improved lighting for (spillover effects to) the Shirlington apartments; and
- Overall design, particularly fewer opportunities for contiguous, connected casual use open space along the riparian area continuing along Four Mile Run Drive (especially in Phase One).

See attachment for renderings for Option Two, Phases One and Two.

## Comparison of Options One and Two

### Where the options are alike:

- Both options retain most of the recreational elements in Phase One (the large diamond field, the small diamond field, the basketball court, one tennis court);
- Both options site the larger diamond field in the same place along Nelson Street, with the outfield facing away from other park elements thus reducing the likelihood of harm from home runs;
- In siting the larger diamond field along Nelson Street, both options require the removal of some (7) mature trees near the RPA;
- Both options keep at least one tennis court and one basketball court in Phase One;
- Both options allow for siting a new playground and restrooms along Four Mile Run Drive in Phase One; and
- Both options allow for siting some small shelter or picnic area in Phase One or Two.

### Where the options differ:

- Option One avoids siting anything in the RPA in Phase One or Two whereas Option Two sites the small diamond field in the RPA in Phase One (and leaves the outfield fencing in place);
- Option Two thus requires siting the small diamond field twice – temporarily realigning it on the existing larger diamond field in Phase One, and rebuilding it permanently in Phase Two on the grounds of what is currently the WETA building;
- Option One provides for appropriate field lighting for both fields in Phase One whereas Option Two uses existing field lighting for a larger field for the smaller field, which may or may not be sufficient for nighttime play;
- Option One replaces all existing lighting in Phase One, while Option Two retains some existing lighting until Phase Two;
- Option One is configured so that the third-base of the small diamond field is 70-80 feet from Four Mile Run Drive;

- Option One sites one tennis court and one basketball court in Phase One whereas Option Two realizes two tennis courts and one basketball court in Phase One;
- Option One provides for a large shelter in Phase One whereas Option Two delays the inclusion of the large shelter until Phase Two; and
- Option One has more opportunities for contiguous, connected casual use open space, along the riparian area and continuing into the casual use open space along Four Mile Run Drive.

### Additional Issues Raised

Additional issues were raised as part of the JDP Committee discussions that fall outside the direct scope of the JDP Committee, but align with overall 4MRVWG discussions and may be of interest to the Working Group and the County Board for longer-term community planning. These were discussed briefly and include:

- A desire to look at other sites in the planning area, including along Shirlington Road, for community recreational uses; and
- A desire to in future, site additional court spaces on the police warehouse site and/or configure this parcel to allow multiple uses including flexible, casual use and outdoor arts.

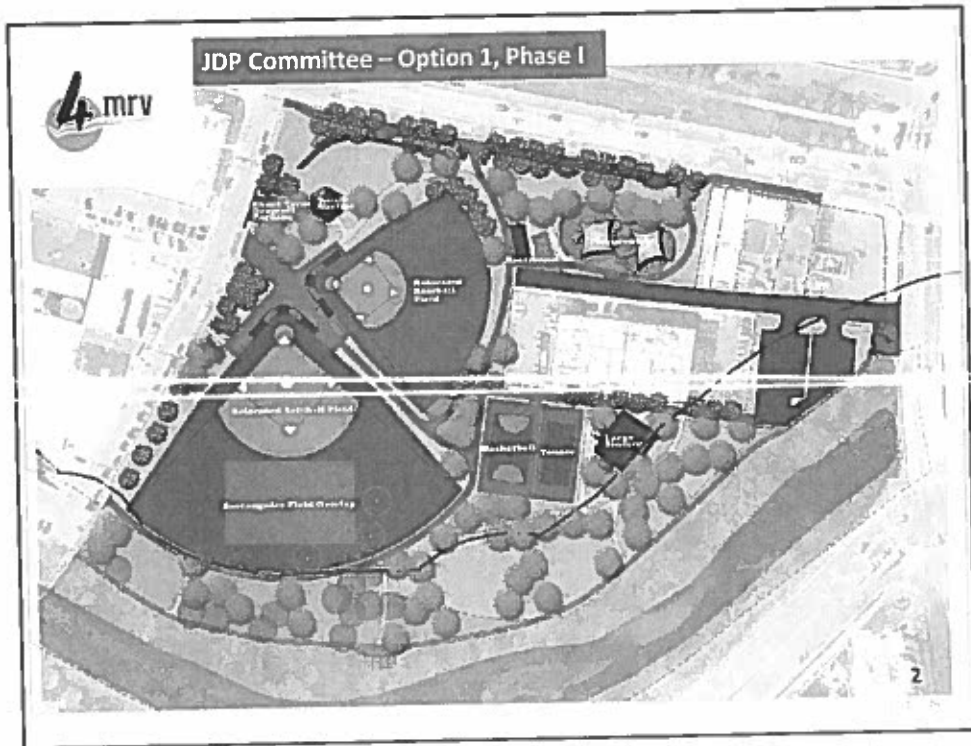
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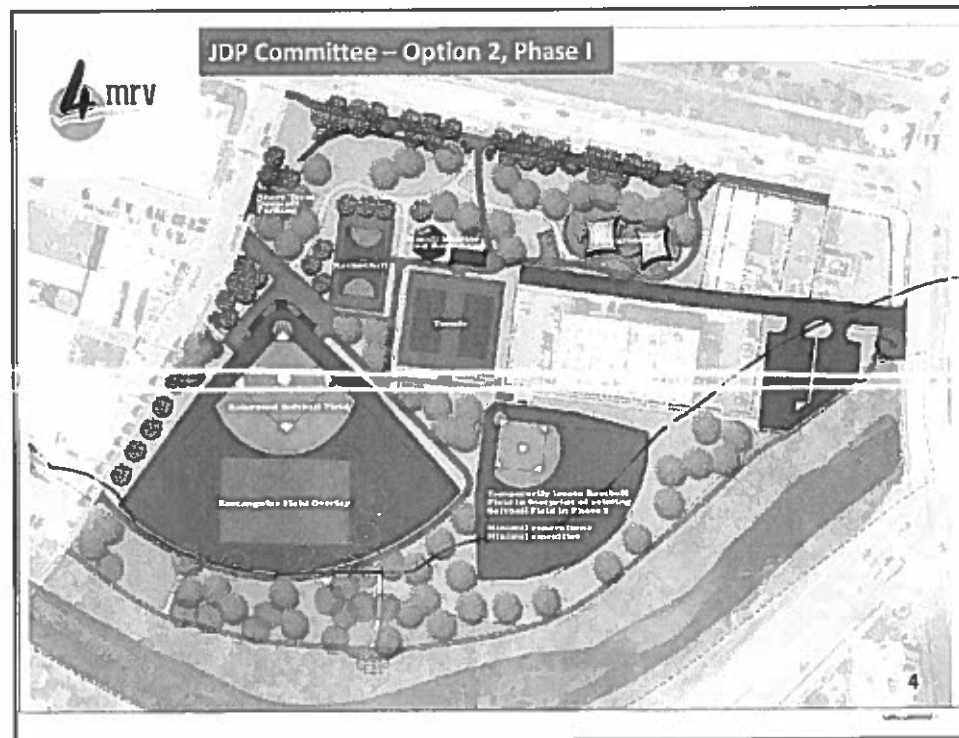
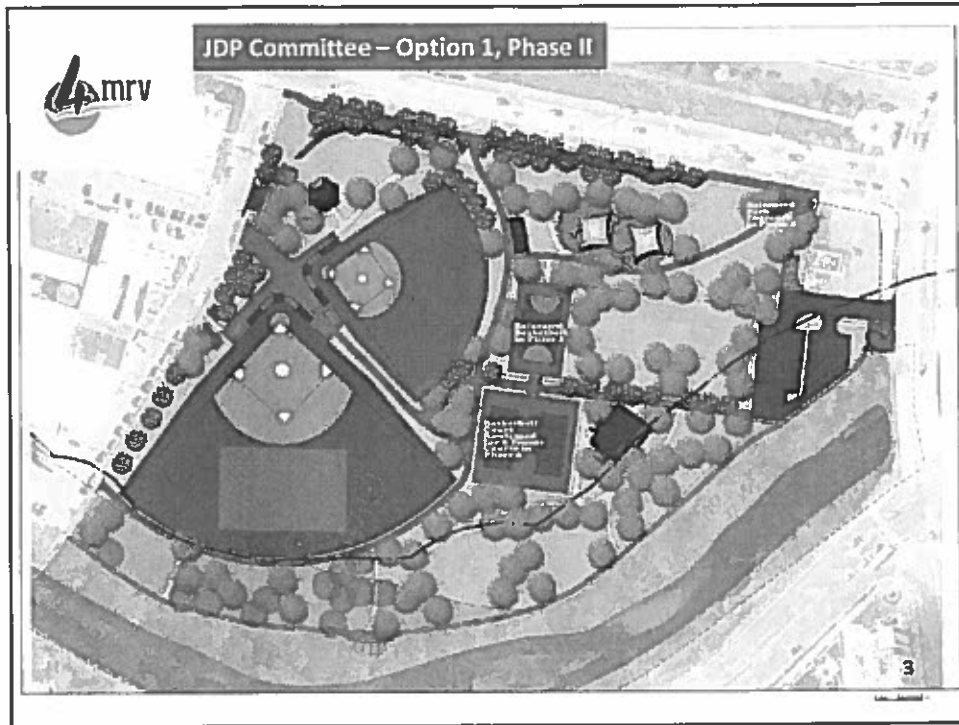
Many thanks to the JDP Committee members for their respectful, thoughtful consideration of the issues raised; and to staff for their patience and responsiveness during this accelerated planning effort. Staff are to be especially commended for their willingness to consider adjusting the fields. The mostly collaborative attitude of Committee members, staff and members of the public attending these meetings helped make the process productive.



# Jennie Dean Park Committee Concepts

March 21, 2018  
Parks and Natural  
Resources  
Operations Building







JDP Committee – Option 2, Phase II





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



March 13, 2018

**Sports Commission Comments on the FY 19 Budget**

The Sports Commission appreciates the opportunity to comment on the County Manager's proposed FY Budget. This statement also includes input from the Aquatics Committee. In this difficult budget year, the Commission appreciates the thoughtful work that staff and the County Manager have put into developing this budget proposal.

The Sports Commission and Aquatics Committee would like to emphasize that Arlingtonians appreciate having access to a wide range of sports and recreational amenities and opportunities, which are important factors in making Arlington a vibrant place to work and live. While there are many competing needs, County residents expect the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide reasonable and appropriate access to quality sports and recreational programs and facilities. We hope and trust that the Board will continue to provide adequate funding for sports and recreational activities.

**Sports Programming Adds Revenue; Private Leagues Save Taxpayers Money**

Sports and recreational programming in Arlington is handled both by DPR and by private/affiliated leagues. These activities produce revenue for the County -- total projected FY 2019 revenue from class fees, user fees, rental fees, and other sources, is about \$10 million, or almost 25% of DPR's total projected expenditures.

Moreover, a large portion of sports programming requires no County funding for personnel or overhead. Private/affiliated leagues handle their own registration and do their own scheduling, placing no demand on DPR for administration or instructors/coaches.

At the same time, the leagues are spending more time and money than ever before to meet the sports programming demands of County residents. The leagues are strong partners with DPR through the Adopt-a-Field program, using their own funds for smaller scale upgrades/improvement as well as for maintenance supplies and equipment and they donate thousands of volunteer hours to help take care of the fields. And more recently, the Arlington Sports Foundation has partnered with DPR and the leagues to help fund a large scale improvement at the Gunston softball field.

**Sports Commission Supports the County Manager's Proposed Budget**

The Sports Commission supports the County Manager's proposed FY 2019 budget as it relates to sports programming and facilities. In a tough budget year, we think DPR was asked for a reasonable but not excessive contribution to the budget shortfall. While one never likes to see cuts made that directly impact employees, we believe DPR arrived at its suggested cuts in a thoughtful manner.

In terms of non-personnel adjustments, the Sports Commission supports the proposed fee increases for short-term rentals, tournament hosting fees, aquatics and gymnastics team fees, and the realignment of other camp and class offerings. The Commission also supports the elimination of the boxing program and boxing ring at Barcroft, and we agree with DPR that this space could be put to better use.

The Aquatics Committee is generally supportive of justified fee increases, but it does not believe that sufficient analysis has been done at this time to support an increase to the aquatics fee. Specifically, it has concerns that the cost sharing agreement between DPR and APS has not been examined in quite some time, and it believes that DPR's annual transfer should be increased. The Aquatics Committee believes that further analysis of the cost sharing arrangement and an appropriate adjustment of DPR's contributions would negate the need for any fee increases.

#### Additional Opportunities Exist to Increase Revenue and Save Money

Sports participants have generally been willing to pay extra to ensure their continued access to County athletic facilities. Thus, there may be opportunities to collect additional revenue from existing users, begin revenue collection from other users, trade facilities maintenance for in-kind advertising, and further reduce personnel costs.

- Field user fees are currently earmarked for future field improvement projects. DPR could consider a modest increase in these fees. Because the budget for field maintenance has been drastically reduced since FY 2010, DPR could direct that a portion of existing fees or any fee increase would be used for field maintenance. Any user fees that are routed toward maintenance should add to rather than supplant existing maintenance dollars.
- While sports field users are charged a user fee, such fees are not assessed on users of the County's dog parks or the skate park. Skate park user fees were discontinued several years ago due to personnel costs for staffing the facility. To improve equity across users and help reduce the taxpayer's burden for supporting dog parks and the skate park or similar venues that may exist, DPR could institute membership fees for these facilities. These fees could be linked to an access card which enables user to gain entry to the facility.
- DPR could consider out-sourcing certain maintenance activities to local businesses in exchange for signage/advertising opportunities. For example, over the last 8 years, repeated cuts have been made to the field mowing budget, reducing both the months during the year when fields are mowed and the number of times they are mowed. Field maintenance and mowing could be outsourced to any of several local lawn care companies in exchange for advertising/sponsorship opportunities. Similarly, cuts have been made that have resulted in many park restrooms being closed during winter months. Our commission requested that funding be restored in FY 2018 to open the restrooms at Greenbrier Park. This was not done, and instead one of the private leagues paid to have portable toilets made available at this facility. To the extent that the closures are related to restroom upkeep, cleaning and maintenance could also be outsourced to in exchange for signage/advertising opportunities.

- Given that personnel costs consistently represent about 70% of DPR's total expenditures, DPR might want to consider turning over more sports programming to private organizations. Experience has shown that private leagues may do a somewhat better job in running sports programs since they are user driven and may therefore be more directly responsive to their customers. A change of this nature would allow DPR to focus more on classes, camps, and facilities maintenance.

#### Longer Term Issues Warrant County Board Attention

The Sports Commission is concerned about longer-term issues that have a budgetary impact and warrant County Board attention.

- Field maintenance funds are already at a bare bones level. As DPR takes steps to open up previously locked diamond fields to respond to community requests for access, the maintenance needs on these fields will be compounded. While permitted users pay a user fee, there is no mechanism to collect any user fee from a casual drop-in user. Thus, the County Board will need to give serious consideration to increasing DPR's field maintenance budget.
- The current approach for addressing any urgent maintenance or misuse issues on County fields falls to the DPR Rovers. DPR currently uses contracted personnel for these activities, but the Rovers are likely to face increasingly challenging issues as DPR turns previously locked fields into open, community assets. There is high turnover among these contractors, limiting the extent to which DPR can really "get to know" the situation on the ground. The Board should consider funding a larger and higher quality Rover program.
- There is unrelenting pressure on DPR and the County Board to open up more casual use space, including by eliminating fields or providing open access/shared use on existing fields. The Sports Commission is stringently opposed to eliminating fields. We do, however, support maximizing the effective use of existing fields and acquiring land for new fields and open spaces. However, all of these steps will require funding. The Sports Commission believes that there are additional opportunities for public-private cooperation similar to the Gunston project, but these would be greatly facilitated by loosening up some of the sponsorship/naming/signage policies that may currently restrict private donations.



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



March 20, 2018

The Honorable Katie Cristol, Chair  
Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dr. Barbara Kanninen, Chair  
Arlington County School Board  
1426 N. Quincy Street  
Arlington, VA 22207

Re: Concept Design for the Reed Site

Dear Ms. Cristol and Dr. Kanninen,

The Arlington Sports Commission would like to provide input to the County Board and the School Board as discussions continue about a concept design for the new elementary school on the Reed Site. Per our charter, the Sports Commission advises the County Board on the adequacy and utilization of sports and physical fitness facilities, including fields and courts, owned by Arlington County and/or Arlington Public Schools.

Our community faces the difficult challenge of a growing population and limited public land. We need new seats and buildings for a growing school population. As the school-age population grows, so does youth participation in a range of indoor and outdoor sports and recreational activities, according to data from the Department of Parks and Recreation and our independent sports leagues. At the same time, urgent calls to preserve unprogrammed park land are increasing. Every decision about how to use public lands is a major decision worthy of a thorough community conversation.

Fortunately for Arlington, we are really good at having thorough community conversations, and the discussions about the Reed Site are no exception. While not members of the PFRC or BLPC, members of the Sports Commission have been closely following these discussions. At no time in our collective memory have so many constituents been so united on the preferred outcome. Multiple stakeholders, including educators, neighbors, various commission representatives, and others, consistently and overwhelmingly favor the so-called "integrated design" in which new construction replaces existing construction adjacent to the library. The reason for this

overwhelming support is a building that provides a superior educational environment for 700-plus students while preserving what neighbors and the community loves most about the surrounding park/casual use space and fields.

We, like others, are bitterly disappointed that the estimated cost for the "integrated design" exceeds the available budget. We appreciate the exploratory work by staff and the designers to find ways to make this design possible. We hope that the School Board and the County Board are willing to continue exploring all avenues to achieve what so many strongly believe to be the right long-term outcome. In that regard, we concur with the advice offered by the Park and Recreation Commission in their March 12 letter -- that our school build projects do not take into account the true costs of development when they treat as "free" our scarce undeveloped open space. Whether on school land or county land, such spaces have significant value to the entire community, and their removal should be reflected in the true economic costs of any public development project.

The Sports Commission respectfully requests that the School Board and County Board revisit the minimum number of students this school must accommodate, the budget available for this project, and whether any changes can be made to the interior layout and amenities to help reduce the estimated cost for the "integrated design." We ask this equally for the preservation of open space and fields as well as what is best from an educational and safety standpoint.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important decision.

Sincerely,



Shirley Brothwell, Chair  
Sports Commission

Cc: County Board Members  
Arlington County School Board Members  
Mark Schwartz, County Manager  
Planning Commission Members  
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Dr. Pat Murphy, Superintendent, APS  
James Schroll, PFRC  
Hans Bauman, BLPC



## Indoor Space & Sports Briefing

Robin Leonard, Ryan Amato, Josh Colman



### What Will Be Discussed Today?

- Facility Information & Amenities
- Scheduling Policies/Practices
- Indoor Sports Programs
- Additional Info/Upcoming Projects



## DPR Facility Information

- Athletic and Facility Services Division (AFS) operates 16 Community Centers.
- Five facilities are Joint-Use Centers (with APS).
- Three are smaller centers that do not have regular operating hours and are not included here.
- Hours/amenities vary by location. Community Center Facilities operate for over 41,000 hours annually.
- Centralized scheduling of all facilities.

Facility
Arlington Mill Community Center+
Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center
Carver Community Center*
Charles Drew Community Center*
Fairlington Community Center
Gunston Bubble
Gunston Community Center*
Langston-Brown Community Center*+
Lee Community Center+
Lubber Run Community Center
Madison Community Center
Thomas Jefferson Community Center*
Walter Reed Community Center+

\*Joint-Use Center with APS  
+ Senior Center



## Facility Amenities

Facility	Amenities	Primary Sports Use
Arlington Mill Community Center+	Gym with Rink System, Fitness Center, Multi-Purpose Rooms	Basketball, Ball Hockey, Indoor Soccer, Pickleball
Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center	Gymnastics Center, Fitness Room, Multi-Purpose Room	Gymnastics
Carver Community Center*	Gym, Multi-Purpose Room	Basketball, Table Tennis
Charles Drew Community Center*	Gym, Multi-Purpose Room	Basketball
Fairlington Community Center	Gym, Fitness Room, Multi-Purpose Rooms	
Gunston Bubble	Synthetic and Rink System	Indoor Soccer
Gunston Community Center*	Main Gym, Aux Gym, Multi-Purpose Rooms	Badminton, Basketball, Indoor Soccer, Table Tennis
Langston-Brown Community Center+	Gym	Basketball, Pickleball, Volleyball
Lee Community Center+	Multi-Purpose Room	
Lubber Run Community Center	Multi-Purpose Room	
Madison Community Center	Multi-Purpose Room, Fitness Room	Table Tennis, Volleyball
Thomas Jefferson Community Center*	Main Gym, Aux Gym, Track, Pickleball Courts, Fitness Center	Badminton, Basketball, Pickleball, Indoor Soccer, Skating, Table Tennis, Track, Volleyball
Walter Reed Community Center+	Gym, Multi-Purpose Rooms	Basketball, Table Tennis, Volleyball

\*Joint-Use Center with APS  
+ Senior Center





### How are DPR facilities scheduled?

- Internal requests are placed first and are submitted on a school year basis. External requests are reserved on a quarterly cycle after internal requests are handled.
- We will continue to take requests up until twenty four hours prior to the reservation.

#### Internal Requests

Cycle	Due
School Year (September- May)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday in May
Summer (June-August)	Beginning of January

#### External Requests (Public Access)

3 Month Program Cycle	Public Access Opens
September-November	July 1
December-February	October 1
March-May	January 1
June-August	April 1



### How are Community Center facilities scheduled?

- Internal programs include a mix of community recreation programs, community use, drop-in sports, sports leagues/programs, and class programs.
- Public drop-in use is reviewed annually across Countywide facility palette.
- Any remaining hours can be allocated as rentals, meetings, other programs, etc.





### APS Facility Information

- DPR currently schedules 33 APS sites (23 ES, 5MS, and 5 HS)
- DPR has priority use of APS sites behind APS
- Use of APS Standalone Facilities are governed Arlington Public Schools Policy Implementation Procedures (PIP) 40-2-29-2
- Joint-Use MOA's exist for the five joint-use sites.



### How are APS facilities scheduled from DPR?

- Use agreement that DPR will have access to APS facilities when available in the evenings and on weekends as needed.
- School events/sponsored activities take precedence over DPR activities.
- Specific availability and scheduling is done on a school by school basis through APS' Event Management System.
- DPR submits requests annually to APS in June. Additional requests are submitted as needed.



## Indoor Space Challenges/Positives

- Changes at Community Centers for next year- to ensure there's a balance between drop-in and scheduled league use.
- Barcroft Sport & Fitness Center was a loss in gym space- affected ball hockey program.
- Despite a few new facilities, continued growth of sports leagues, growth exceeds available hours.
- Positive- County/Rivendell School MOA allows for the accommodation of Rivendell based teams that participate in the DPR basketball program (8-12 teams), to practice at their location.
- Positive- County/BOHS MOA provides additional indoor space for adult basketball games during the high demand winter months to open additional space for youth.



## Types of Use

- Overview of Usage Types
  - School Use/Events
  - County Use/Events
  - Community Use/Events
  - Sports Leagues/Teams
  - Drop-In Sports
  - Classes/Camps
  - Age-Based Programming (Early Childhood, Youth and Family Services, Teens, TR, and Senior Programming [55+])
  - Rentals/Birthday Parties
  - Meetings



### DPR Drop-In Sports/Activities

- Basketball
- Badminton
- Indoor Soccer
- Pickleball
- Volleyball
- Boxing
- Table Tennis

<https://parks.arlingtonva.us/community-center-drop-in-activities/>



### DPR Indoor Sports Leagues/Teams

- Basketball
- Indoor Soccer
- Ball Hockey
- Gymnastics Team
- Swim Team

<https://parks.arlingtonva.us/sports/>



## Basketball Program

- **Adult (Ages 18+)**
  - Fall, Winter, Spring
  - Team-Based Registration
- **Youth (Grades 1-12)**
  - Winter, Spring (Late Night), Summer (Contracted)
  - Individual Registration
  - 2 Activities per week
- **Play in Community Center & APS Facilities.**
- **Overview of Scheduling Practices/Games**



## Basketball Data

### Annual Participation

FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
5,046	5,276	5,500	5,805	*5,993

### # of Teams

FY16	FY17	FY18
531	556	613

### Annual Youth Participation


FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
4,663	4,927	5,103	5,450	*5,652

### Annual Adult Participation

FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
383	349	397	355	341

\*Estimated

- Overall participation increased 4.5% annually on average.
- Program has experienced 19% growth over last five years
- Strong growth in youth participation, adult participation flat or slightly down.
- Largest program is Youth Winter Basketball- approximately 4,750 participants in FY18.




## Indoor Soccer Program

- Youth (Grades 1-12)
  - Winter
- Adult (Ages 18+)
  - Fall, Winter Spring, Summer
- Games Only, No Practices
- Registration- team-based, rather than individual
- Play at Arlington Mill CC and Gunston Bubble

FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
1,712	1,864	1,748	1,686	*1,655

FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
1,851	1,896	1,669	1,503	*1,411

\*Estimated



## Ball Hockey Program

- Adult (18+)
  - Fall, Winter, Spring
- Games Only, No Practices
- Registration- team-based, rather than individual
- Participation down when program moved to Arlington Mill CC (was previously at Barcroft).

FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
1,554	1,498	1,372	1,084	952



### Data Snapshot

As basketball growth continues, school usage has increased.

Winter Gym Hours at All Facilities  
(Prime Time, '17-18, Nov-Feb)

FY16	FY17	FY18
9,310	9,498	10,139

Winter Gym Hours at APS Facilities  
(Prime Time, '17-18, Nov-Feb)

FY16	FY17	FY18
6,458	6,753	7,329

Pre-Season Basketball Hours at APS  
Facilities (Grades 3-8, '17-18 season)

Scheduled	Available	In-Use?
414	454	91%



### Indoor Space During the Summer

- APS uses some facilities for summer school while others are shut down for energy savings or construction.
- Summer Camps operate in most DPR facilities, in all high schools, in most middle schools, and in some elementary schools.
- DPR works directly with APS Central Administration for coordination and approval of all summer camp use.
- APS Custodians adjust their shift in the summer to all have custodians work the 1<sup>st</sup> shift, 6:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. which causes evening use to be charged custodial overtime.



### Outlook/Upcoming Projects of Interest

- Barcroft 6 Clubhouse Batting Tunnels (June 2018)
- Barcroft 6 Covered Batting Cages (June 2018)
- Gunston Bubble Turf and Rink Replacement (Summer 2018)
- Lubber Run Community Center (Fall 2020)
- Long Bridge Aquatic & Fitness Center (2021)
- Fleet Elementary School (Fall 2019)
- New High School on Wilson (Fall 2019)



